

In closing, I will only say that I am sure no school has ever had more loyal pupils than those of the model school, and that the Normal University has to-day no truer or stauncher friends than are to be found among those whose names have been enrolled upon the registers of the primary school, the grammar school and the high school below.

NORMAL, ILLINOIS, August 27, 1882.

MY DEAR SIR:

Soon after I came to the State in 1854, a young woman timidly introduced herself to me at my school room in Peoria, as Mary Brooks, from Brimfield. She was about the usual height, of rather large frame, a little gaunt, or poor in flesh, with a head to delight an artist, and a face so sincere and winning as to greatly impress, I will not say fascinate, the beholder. She was a Vermonter by birth, but her parents had settled in Illinois some years before. She said she wanted to engage in teaching and desired to pursue preparatory studies with me. She developed rapidly, serving as a pupil-teacher and as a full teacher in Peoria for about two years. Children loved her at sight, and the love was returned. It was genuine, and I think quite involuntary on both sides. Neither could help it. She had, or seemed to have, an intuitive knowledge of a child's mind at different stages of development, and a genius for inventing methods to aid its growth. I call this power intuition, genius, but I do not mean that it came to her without effort. She was a hard student of books and of nature. When a model school was determined upon as an incident and annex to the Normal University, the Board of Education, on the advice of the principal, invited Miss Brooks to take charge of it. Her class was composed of children. It was intended at that time chiefly as a model, and not as a school of practice for pupil-teachers. I shall not soon forget how Mary and her little friends got on together in their cramped and unsuitable room under a corner of Major's Hall, nor how the most learned man of the Board, Dr. Bunsen, used to sit for hours, sometimes whole days, watching Mary's work, as pleased as any of the children, and apparently unconscious of the lapse of time. The management and methods of the model school during this period, would repay study, if available. I do not know that they were ever described in print, and I cannot undertake to describe them now. After three years of successful labor, the first teacher in the model school resigned, to become Mrs. James M. Wiley, and died January 9, 1868, leaving two children, George and Katie.

Very truly,

CHARLES E. HOVEY.

To W. L. Pillsbury, Esq.

THE CELEBRATION.

As early as May, 1881, preparations were begun for a quarter-centennial celebration in 1882.

By correspondence, it was ascertained that a much larger number could attend in August than at the time of the annual commencement, in May. Arrangements having been perfected, the exercises began on the evening of August 24. After a cornet solo, by Charles Lufkin, General Hovey, now residing in Washington, D. C., delivered the address found in the preceding pages. The weather was very unfavorable, but the speaker was greeted by a large and enthusiastic audience, many of whom had been identified with the early history of the school.

On Friday morning the assembly room was crowded to its utmost capacity by a happy throng of old students, pioneer workers in educa-

tional enterprises in the State, and prominent citizens of Normal and Bloomington. Nearly an hour was spent in having a good, old-fashioned sociable. The early classes were well represented. Harvey Dutton and Lizzie Carleton had journeyed up from Missouri. Logan Holt Roots had forgotten his banks and railroad schemes, and Mexican telephones, and was there, the happiest of the happy. Anna Grennell Hatfield paid the school her first visit since her graduation eighteen years ago. These and scores of others had returned to the familiar halls rendered sacred by hallowed associations, to greet old mates and renew their allegiance to their "cherishing mother." Charles E. Hovey was there, quiet and grave as of old, but with a twinkle of joy in his eyes that spoke more than volumes. Richard Edwards was the centre of a boisterous group of his boys and girls, and he the youngest of them all, while E. C. Hewett, the shortest in stature but the longest in service, put to shame all of his previous attempts at wit and hilarity.

Thomas Metcalf broke his vacation off at the short end to be on hand, and Albert Stetson, his co-worker for twenty years, was nowise behindhand in promoting the general fun. Hon. Newton Bateman, grown gray in the service, laid aside his cares for a day to greet old friends and join in the general rejoicing. Father Roots, Hon. Charles T. Strattan, Hon. Thomas F. Mitchell, Dr. E. R. Roe, Hon. Robert Brand, and many others whose names are familiar to Normal students, were in the audience. At ten o'clock, President Walker called the assembly to order and announced the following order of exercises:

Piano solo, Mrs. Flora M. Hunter; address, Dr. Edwards; reading of Henry Norton's paper, by John W. Cook; piano duet, Mrs. Flora M. Hunter, Miss Minnie Potter; address, W. L. Pillsbury; address, E. C. Hewett. These papers are found in the earlier part of this volume. At three o'clock, the alumni business meeting was held in the Philadelphian Hall. The chief item of interest was a subscription to provide a memorial for the lamented Howell, as suggested by Mr. Pillsbury in his address. In a few minutes a sufficient sum was collected to insure the success of the movement. A committee consisting of Silas Hays and Captain Burnham from the alumni, and Dr. Hewett from the faculty, will have the whole matter in charge.

The event of events was, of course, the banquet. Miss Flora Pennell, of the executive committee, had that part of the work under her supervision. The executive committee asked Miss Carrie Pennell, an under-graduate living in the village, to prepare the supper. She undertook the task and the successful manner in which it was accomplished was a matter of universal comment. The large hall had been elaborately decorated for the occasion. Festoons of evergreens connected the chandeliers; flowers were scattered about in profusion; a shower from a fountain, in the center of the hall, fell upon a huge circular basin filled with plants and blossoms; tablets on the walls bore

the names of, "our dead," and a fine large crayon portrait of Samuel W. Paisley occupied a place on the west side of the hall. Class pictures, crayon designs, and various other appliances completed the decorations. Humphrey's orchestra furnished delightful music for the occasion. At six o'clock the procession filed into the room, the alumni taking their places at the tables by classes. The guests were seated along the south side, facing north, and on the outside of the side tables. John W. Cook, of the class of 1865, acted as master of ceremonies. When all were seated, Dr. Edwards asked the blessing, and the assembled company, two hundred and twenty in number, entered upon the serious business of the evening—the discussion of the numerous delicacies spread before them. After this part of the business had been disposed of, the toasts were in order.

Gov. Cullom had indicated his intention to be present, but was taken sick in the train and was obliged to return to Springfield. Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton was on hand, however, and responded to the toast, "A true and tried friend of popular education." Dr. Bateman was "toasted" as "the man who first gave the schools of Illinois a national reputation," but the doctor had been obliged to return to Galesburg on the afternoon train. The sentiment, however, was greeted with loud cheers. "Our venerable friend, the president of the State Board of Education,—for a full half century the light of Egypt," brought Father Roots to his feet for a characteristic speech of ten minutes. Judge Reeves responded to the toast, "The Bar—the last resort of the school-master." The class toasts and speakers were as follows: "Our First Born—the Class of '60," E. A. Gastman; "The Class of '61," J. H. Burnham; "The Class of '62," Logan H. Roots; "The Class of '65," O. F. McKim; "The Class of '66," Sarah E. Raymond; "The Class of '68," Henry McCormick; "The Class of '70," Joseph Carter. Hon. Jesse W. Fell and Hon. A. J. Merriman were expected to tell "How McLean County got the Normal School." Mr. Fell, however, was unexpectedly called to Iowa three days before the meeting. It was a serious disappointment to him and to the company, for his activity in securing the location is generally understood. Judge Merriman was a member of the Board of County Commissioners in 1857, and with his associates, Hiram Buck and Milton Smith, made the county appropriation of \$70,000. The judge also had the distinguished honor of laying the corner stone of the building. Speech-making, however, is not in his line, and so Dr. E. R. Roe told the story in his stead, and, at its conclusion responded to the toast: "Our Early Teachers." General Hovey was called upon to let us know "how the building was erected," but instead, spoke as follows:

An intimation, more or less plainly stated, has several times been made, tending to show that the first presiding officer of this institution was substantially its founder, and that, at least, the

building could not, or would not, have been built at the time it was without him.

I am glad of an opportunity to speak of these matters, and I may claim, I suppose without challenge, that I was part of them. Right or wrong, the chief place in the beginning fell to me, and, with it, came an opportunity of influencing the trend of affairs in the institution, and, to some extent, out of it. I had done what I could to bring about the legislation which set the school in motion. Here, again, the accident of position* at the critical time enabled me to know and do what would otherwise have been impracticable. My advice as to plans for the proposed building was generally followed, and my services in and about its erection came to be in considerable demand before it was completed. But it would be a mistake to say that the Normal University owes its establishment, or conduct afterwards, to any one man or set of men. It was the outgrowth of the ideas and wishes of a majority of the people of Illinois, formulated and uttered by a large number of persons, and by at least two influential State associations. Prof. Turner and the Industrial League blazed the way, but they did not found the Normal University. The State Teachers' Association followed and secured for it a hearing, but the association did not found it. Father Roots tells you that Simeon Wright was the man who did the business, and I think myself his services were indispensable, but it would hardly be correct to say that he was the Atlas of the enterprise. The first superintendent of public instruction elected by the people, assisted in drafting the bill, but he did not enact it into law. His successor, the honored president of Knox College, stood guard over its interests at the gateway of danger for many years, and took care *ne quid detrimenti Normalis Universitas capiat*, but even he was not the sole Fidus Achates. Hon. S. W. Moulton, Hon. C. B. Denio, Dr. Calvin Goudy, and a majority of both Houses of the Legislature, voted for the Normal University Act, and Governor Bissell signed it, but they were not the founders of the institution; and yet, without each and all of these, I do not see how it could have been established at the time it was, and as it was. Each was a link in the golden chain, but only a link.

Nor do I see how it could have been located in McLean County without Jesse W. Fell; and yet Jesse Fell did not bring it here. A very modest and worthy citizen (Judge Merriman), who appears to be listening to me from a corner of the table to my right, and two other McLean County men (Messrs. Buck and Smith), were the heroes of that act. They took the responsibility and risk to themselves, politically, of involving the county in a debt of seventy thousand dollars to secure the location of the institution here. That act of

* Hovey was president of the State Teachers' Association, and editor of its "organ" at the time.

theirs required a high degree of moral courage, and entitles them to a seat on the upper bench at the head of the table, along with Jesse Fell. But even these men must consent to a division of the honors: Back of them stood the people of Bloomington with their subscription paper. Without this paper, Jesse Fell and the County Court would have had "to throw up the sponge" and yield, gracefully no doubt, to Peoria.

Nor did Asahel Gridley risk any money in loans for erecting the building, though my friend, Colonel R oe, gives him credit for making advances. True, Colonel Gridley furnished some money for that purpose, but not a dollar came over the counter of his bank until he had been amply secured by the promissory notes of citizens. Such men as S. W. Moulton, Jesse and Kersey Fell, Charles and Richard Holder, Edwin C. Hewett, Joseph A. Sewall, Charles E. Hovey, and others whom I do not at this moment recall, signed the notes. The banker risked nothing, and lost nothing, but gained interest. The men who signed the notes took the risk. But the merchants of Bloomington stand on a different footing. They did take risk. They gave the contractor for erecting the building, Mr. Soper, credit, to a large amount in the aggregate, with no other security than my promise to see them paid whenever there was anything to pay with. They trusted the enterprise, and, to that extent, risked their advances, and I take liberty to invite them to a seat on a bench a little higher up than the banker's pew.

I must not leave this subject without naming the committee of the Board under whose supervision this edifice was erected. They were Hon. S. W. Moulton, chairman; Hon. C. B. Denio, Dr. George P. Rex, Hon. N. W. Edwards, Hon. William H. Powell, Prof. Daniel Wilkins, and Charles E. Hovey.

Mr. Chairman, if you have been listening to me, I think you are beginning to see that a goodly number of people have been engaged, at one time or another, in one way or another, in founding this great school, and in building its house. Nor did one man make its course of study, nor plan and limit its scope, nor give to the work so mapped out that impulse which has thus far swept over, or brushed aside, all adverse obstacles. True, there was at first, as there has been since and must continue to be, a head. Somebody must decide and direct, and the questions at the outset of any enterprise, which clamor for settlement, are often numerous, and generally important. But the first principal was not left to solve these problems unaided. In addition to C. M. Cady, Dr. E. R. Roe, and Rev. L. P. Clover, special instructors, and Charlton T. Lewis, Samuel Willard, Chauncey Nye, and Miss B. M. Cowles, employed from time to time, any or all of whom he could call upon for information and counsel,—I say, in addition to these, the first principal had the good fortune to have associated with him, as co-laborers, Ira

Moore, Leander H. Potter, Edwin C. Hewett, and Joseph A. Sewall. A principal surrounded by such men need not set up for himself, or put on airs, or assume that he is the only considerable person on the premises. They were the peers of anybody in the profession. The principal had the benefit of their knowledge and experience, in determining the course to be pursued, and in formulating work to be done. These men made their mark on the school. I should not wonder if it could be pointed out even now. But they did not make the school what it is now. Presidents Bass and Edwards, and their associates, came later, it is true, but they served longer, and with no doubtful success. The proofs are all around me to-night. Their good deeds have been recorded, and were read to you this morning. I do not see how anybody can wipe out that record, and it is one on which they can afford to stand. But even these men and women must be content with having done a part. They did not do everything. After them came President Hewett and his associates, who are moving forward, bearing aloft the old banner, inscribed with mottoes indicating reliance upon plain, unpretentious, common-school work. I believe they are conducting this great school with judgment and efficiency. I know Edwin Hewett ranks high among the Normal-school teachers of America. But neither Hovey, nor Bass, nor Edwards, nor Hewett, nor all of them and their associates combined, have made this institution what it has grown to be. I will throw in the Board of Education, Father Roots, and all, and still I say there is an omission. The students must be added. They have carried the Normal University to a thousand school rooms all over the State, and have taught its classes there. I look upon them as non-resident professors. They have played no inconsiderable part in the work of the institution. I have not attempted to keep track of them, and what I happen to know has come to me incidentally. But right before me sits a well-known man who has been in charge of Decatur's public schools for twenty years; this morning a paper was read from a professor in California's Normal School; a moment ago a soldier, as well as teacher, addressed you; "shake," comes over the wires from the head school man in Denver; in front of me sits a citizen who, in addition to teaching, has twice represented his district in Congress; to my left sits a lady who for some years has been superintendent of public schools in Bloomington. A few years ago, at the reunion of the society of the Army of the Tennessee, in Chicago, a note was handed in to me, signed by a familiar name. I went out, and there met a remarkable woman, in looks and attainments, a physician and professor of physiology in the Woman's College.^x I must not detain you by further recitals. All these, and a thousand more, are your boys and girls. They are the links in the silver chain that binds this school to the common schools of the State. ~~But I must stop.~~ I beg pardon for detaining you so long.

x at Chicago

Dr. Edwards told "How the building was filled," and Dr. Hewett "How it is kept full." Hon. Thomas F. Mitchell, the staunch friend of the school in the Legislature, told "Where we get our munitions of war." He was followed by Hon. Charles T. Strattan, the member of the house from Mt. Vernon. "The Normal University abroad," was responded to by E. J. James, Ph. D. In the course of his remarks he read an extract from *Geschichte der Paedagogik, von Karl Schmidt*, which appears upon a later page of this volume.

Letters expressing regrets for unavoidable absence were read from Senator Logan, Senator Davis, Governor Cullom, Prof. E. W. Coy, Prof. Burrington, Miss Emaline Dryer, Dr. Sewall, Perkins Bass, Mrs. W. L. Pillsbury, George Howland, Superintendent Chicago Schools; S. H. Peabody, Regent Industrial University, and Hon. D. C. Smith, M. C. Thirteenth District. Aaron Gove, of 1861, telegraphed: "Classmates of '58, shake!" The following letters were also read:

SPRINGFIELD, August 25, 1882.

PROF. JOHN W. COOK, Normal.

Dear Sir: Your kind invitation reached me this morning. I am very sorry that I did not know of your meeting sooner; but it is impossible for me to go now. You will undoubtedly have a grand, good time, and my sincere desire is that the Normal school may prosper still more in the future than it has in the past. Its growth and success have been great so far, but it has its work still to do for the good of the schools of the State. There is no agency in existence that has done so much for the elevation of the schools as the Normal University, and my wish is that it may continue the good work for years to come. As you all know, I have been an advocate and friend from the start, and shall continue to do all I can in the future for the continuance of the school. There have been in the past many good, hard-working men and women connected with the school, as there are at present, who will never be forgotten by the people of this great State. The first president, General Hovey, deserves especial mention for the noble work he did in the start. Many of the students from the Normal have done good, noble work in various sections of our State, and we all hope to see this school not only continue, but to increase year after year. Remember me to General Hovey and others, and accept my best wishes.

Yours Truly,

S. M. ETTER.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, August 23, 1882.

JOHN W. COOK, Corresponding Secretary.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your kind invitation to attend the quarter-centennial celebration of the alumni of the State Normal University. In reply would say that family sickness prevents my being present with you. Were it possible, nothing would afford me greater

pleasure than to join in your festivities, and meet again some of the old friends and active workers who were the founders of that excellent institution,—the Illinois State Normal University. The old workers and the new workers all have my heart's good will. May God bless and prosper any agency that elevates and blesses humanity. With kind regards for yourself and all educators, I am,

Yours very sincerely, JOHN F. EBERHART.

CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS, August 22, 1882.

PROF. JOHN W. COOK, State Normal University.

Sir: Your very kind and cordial invitation to me, asking me to be present and enjoy the twenty-fifth anniversary of the State Normal University, was received a few days ago. I should have replied at once, but for the fact that I was under a promise to do a little institute work in Pope county during this week, which I was then hoping to be permitted to turn over to another. That is found impossible, and I am therefore, at this late moment, obliged to send my regrets for an enforced absence, on account of a previously-made engagement. I am not able in words to convey my feelings of disappointment, for I know how much of interest centers around your noble pioneer Normal, and how large and enthusiastic a body of graduates, students and friends of education and virtue are rejoicing at your quarter of a century of success. It would have done me good, body, soul, mind and spirit, to have been with you, if only for an hour, to drink in new life and inspiration from the rehearsal of your noble history, and from the inspiring prospects before your grand University. But it may not be. I can only add, "May the first Normal University of Illinois continue first in war against ignorance, first in the peace which intelligence brings, and first in the memories of a grateful people." But let her remember that she must "run," if she shall "obtain" so great a boon, until her second quarter-centennial, for there is another child of the State, born and growing up, to do what she can.

I am very respectfully and obediently your servant,

ROBERT ALLYN.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, August 25, 1882.

PROF. E. C. HEWETT, President State Normal University.

My Dear Sir: Deprived of the pleasure of attending your celebration to-day, I write this line to say that I am with you in spirit, and that I very much regret I cannot also be with you in person. I have watched with much interest the work of the State Normal University, from the time of its establishment twenty-five years ago until the present time. Early in its history I became satisfied that it did thoroughly and well what it attempted and professed to do; and I have long been of the opinion that the thoroughness with which work is done in the school has done much to improve the character of the instruction given in other schools; that the influence of the school,

directly through its students and graduates, and indirectly by its example, is felt throughout the whole State in the improvement of the teaching done in its schools.

The friends of education in Illinois are to be congratulated upon having succeeded in securing the maintenance, for a quarter of a century, of so good a school for the training of teachers. May its influence for good to the schools of the State be augmented and long continued. Hastily, but very truly yours,

JAMES P. SLADE.

CHICAGO, August 10, 1882.

JOHN W. COOK, Esq., Corresponding Secretary Alumni Association.

Dear Sir: Accept my thanks for your kind invitation to attend the quarter-centennial of your association. I regret to say that I find it impracticable to be present on that occasion. I should like to meet once more with those who stood "shoulder to shoulder" twenty-five years ago and struck out boldly for a higher plane of education in this State, and to enjoy with them in the retrospect what we then so much enjoyed in the prospect. Our anticipations have been fully realized; a glorious victory has been won, and Illinois to-day stands proudly among the foremost States of the Union in her system of popular education. And now, my young friends, men and women of a new generation, hold fast to the ground that has already been gained; strike out again; aim still higher; meet worthily the responsibilities that rest upon you; let the next twenty-five years witness still greater progress toward perfection, and you will have for your reward the consciousness that you are imitating the example of him who "went about doing good," and the thanks of the generations that are to follow.

Yours truly,

W. H. WELLS.

At the close of the exercises, General Hovey arose and stated that it had been his pleasure to attend a good many banquets at one time and another, but that he had never seen one in which the arrangements were more complete nor in better taste. This opinion was evidently the sentiment of all present, as it was received with loud applause. At eleven o'clock, after five hours of solid enjoyment, the formal part of the exercises closed, and the quarter-centennial celebration passed into history. Many lingered an hour longer saying good-byes. *fortune*

All agreed that the celebration was an unqualified success. The early trains on Saturday bore away most of the visitors, and the institution settled down again to the routine duties that have made it what it is. There was a general desire expressed that a similar meeting should be held at least as often as once in three or four years, and there is no doubt that at least as early as the thirtieth anniversary there will be a gathering that will surpass the meeting of 1882.