

after the exercise was performed as well as the fright of the teacher and children permitted, every pupil was expected to criticise if called upon. The small drop of self-confidence, possessed by the poor teacher, entirely evaporated when the concentrated wisdom of all the faculty was brought to bear on the work. There was no training teacher, as now, but each member of the faculty gave what time he could to visiting the pupil teachers. Occasionally one would teach a term without receiving a visit.

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### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

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• In June, 1863, I sat an intensely interested spectator at the Normal commencement. I had been a student in the institution for one year, and had regarded Section A as a superior sort of people. My interest in them was in no sense diminished by the conspicuous part they played on that occasion.

At the close of the exercises, Dr. Edwards announced that the Alumni would meet in the Wrightonian Hall, and the happy seven, who had been in the focus of the public gaze for three or four hours, filed into the society room, and the closing door shut out the inquisitive gaze of at least one "yearling." That was the first time I heard of the Normal Alumni Association.

The succeeding year the scene was reenacted, and a year later, in 1865, I, in common with my classmates, accepted the president's invitation. We found a dozen or fifteen of our forty-one predecessors. They received us with great cordiality and with many congratulations, and, after a social meeting of an hour, we adjourned to receive the compliments of our admiring friends.

It will be seen that the Alumni Association had not, as yet, a very thorough organization nor a very definite purpose. A few years later,—two or three perhaps,—the plan of a private business meeting and banquet in the afternoon, and public exercises in the evening, on the day preceding commencement, became the settled policy of the Association. Before that time, it had been customary for the literary societies to employ some lecturer of national reputation, to deliver a public address upon that evening. The new arrangement dropped into place very naturally. This plan was followed, more or less faithfully, until 1880, when the change in the school calendar, by which the annual commencement occurs in May, made it impossible to secure a full attendance. About 1870 an attempt was made to raise a permanent Alumni fund, but only two or three classes took any interest in the matter, and the scheme was abandoned.

At each session of the Legislature the institution was obliged to encounter more or less hostility to its appropriation bills. A stock

argument, employed by our enemies, was the charge that the graduates did not teach. The Association determined to settle the question. To this end the constitution was so amended as to provide for an additional officer,—a corresponding secretary,—whose duty it should be to communicate annually with the Alumni, and to keep a record of their work. I undertook the task in 1876, and the result appears in the following pages. It is needless to say that the charge that the graduates do not teach has been abandoned.

JOHN W. COOK.

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### THE NORMAL ALUMNI REGISTER.

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Those marked "H. S." have paid their tuition in full, and are under no obligation to teach.

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#### CLASS OF 1860.

1. Sarah M. (Dunn) Strickler taught in the Peoria high school one year, in the Bloomington high school one year, and in a private school in Peoria two years. She married Mr. Strickler in August, 1862. They have two children. Their present residence is Philadelphia. Mrs. Strickler can always be reached by addressing her in care of Miss Hattie Dunn, Bloomington, Illinois.

2. Elizabeth J. (Mitchell) Christian taught in the Bloomington schools two years, and in the Decatur schools two years. She was married in 1865 to M. L. Christian. They have two children, a son and a daughter. Address is Bloomington, Illinois.

3. Frances A. (Peterson) Gastman was born in Sublette, Illinois, in 1839. She entered the Normal School on the 5th day of October, 1857—the first day of the first term. She continued her studies until June, 1860, and graduated with the first class. Evincing unusual power as a teacher, she was retained as preceptress of the Institution, and remained in that position until June, 1862. On the 24th of July succeeding, she was married to E. A. Gastman, who was teaching in Decatur, and removed to that city. With the beginning of the school year of 1862–3, she took a position in the high school which had just been organized. About the twenty-second of February following, she was taken sick in the school room, and after an illness of a little less than a week, she died.

4. Mary F. (Washburn) Hull was principal of the primary department of the model school in 1860–1. Her health, always delicate, became so poor that in 1862 she was obliged to resign. In April of the same year she was married to John Hull. They have two children. Her present address is Carbondale, Illinois.