1898

The Normal College News, June 8, 1898

Eastern Michigan University

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The Normal College News.

JUNE 8, 1898.

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CAROLINE E. JENKS, S. C. A.
ORLA NORRIS, N. C. A. A.

NELLIE WESTLAND, Athenaeum.

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Local and Personal
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The N. C. A. A.

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Pres. RICHARD G. BOONE.
Ypsilanti, Mich.
Few persons perhaps know the poems of Col. Realf, finely finished and tender as many of them are, and fewer still know the author. The purpose of the present article is only incidentally biographical, but the writer hopes to arouse an interest among students in a very interesting character, and a few of his poems, by a brief recital of the more important events in his life and a reproduction of some of his lines.

Richard Realf was born in Framfield, Sussex county, England, June 14, 1834. He was one of a large family, of peasant stock, and, with less than two years in the village schools, went to work with his elders in the fields. There was little stimulus in his surroundings and little promise of improvement in his condition. But he had a fine poetic sense and the poet's impulses. At the age of fifteen he began to write verses. Some of these were read by a traveling phrenologist, and came to the attention of a patronizing public through the visits and appeals of Lady Byron and her daughter, Miss Martineau, the poet Rogers, Mrs. Jameson, Lady Jane Peel, Miss Mitford and others. As a result of their persuasions and not at all of his own choice, a number of his first poems were published under the title of 'Guesses at the Beautiful.' Prof. Chas. De La Pryme, a member of the staff at Trinity College, wrote the preface to the volume.

But the fulsom patronage, the condescension, and the artificiality of the life into which he was drawn through these associations were spoiling him. The young writer himself saw it. Through his earnest entreaty and the influence of Lady Byron, of whom he said, "With the exception of my mother, I think she was the noblest woman I ever knew," he was given an appointment in Leicestershire to study scientific agriculture. Here he spent a year with a nephew of Lady Byron, on one of her estates.

Subsequently, through his strong faith in republican principles, here moved to America. He reached New York in 1854. Here he began at once devoting himself to the poorer classes. He explored the slums about Five Points; organized courses of lectures suited to their wants and their means; provided wholesome reading through local and circulating libraries, and engaged in general missionary labors. Self-improvement associations were organized and much good accomplished.

In 1856, he accompanied a party of Free-Soil emigrants to Kansas under Senator Pomeroy. He was placed upon the staff of one or more eastern papers as their western correspondent and his name became well known among readers of the news of the stirring events in what was then the far west. Later he was attached to the forces of General Lane, and became acquainted with John Brown. He joined Brown's company and went north with him and his men on their way to Canada, in 1857. They were located at Springdale, Cedar county, Iowa, for about six months from November, 1857, whence they proceeded to Chatham, Canada, May, 1858, where was held the memorable convention of Abolitionists, black and white sharing alike, both in their deliberations and in official privileges. The scheme then proposed for setting free certain of the negroes in slavery was submitted by Brown with apparently universal approval. The opposition of Frederic Douglass who was present, in a brief speech, changed the current of feeling and evidently the judgment of the convention. It seemed that everything for which they contended was lost. It was a masterly
presentation, almost without argument, but carrying conviction. The reply to Douglass lasted but a few minutes and came from a comparatively unknown man. But it is described by an observer, himself a public orator of national reputation and acquaintance, as surpassing in power and eloquence anything of the kind before or since. The speaker was Richard Realf, a young man but 24 years of age, and the subject of this story. So great was the influence of that speech that, the vote being taken, only one hand, that of Douglass, was raised in opposition. In the organization that followed, young Realf was made secretary of state for the provisional government projected by Brown.

Subsequently Realf visited England having as one of his purposes at least to gather funds to assist in prosecuting the undertaking of Brown. He was not very successful. Returning, he lectured through the south while studying the social and political aspects of slavery in the then slave states. He was for a time a reporter on a New Orleans daily paper, and was subsequently connected with a Catholic weekly publication. In the course of his lecturing he visited Texas, where he was October 18, 1859, during the raid made upon Harper's Ferry. Realf's relation to John Brown and his projected insurrection and opposition government was revealed upon the capture of Brown and the discovery of the damaging papers in his "carpet-bag." Realf was immediately sought out in Texas. He was threatened with mob violence, and only rescued by friends with the greatest difficulty. He was arrested, being retained as a Federal prisoner in Texas until December, 1859, when he was taken in custody to Washington, D. C. On the way more than once he escaped lynching only by the shrewdness and courage of his companions. In Washington he was examined and almost immediately acquitted and released. Early in the year 1860 he went to Ohio, was in Cleveland for a time, and then became connected with the State Journal at Columbus, where he met and became acquainted with W. D. Howells. He lectured in Dayton, Springfield, Xenia, and elsewhere through the central part of the state, and spent some time with the Shakers in their settlement near Lebanon.

In 1862 he enlisted as a soldier and was assigned to an Illinois regiment. He was soon promoted to a Captaincy, served through the war; fought at Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and Franklin, and was mustered out as Colonel at the close of the war in 1865.

Soon after, Col. Realf visited Washington, re-enlisted, now in the regular army, and was given command of the 50th Colored Infantry. He served for a year or more, and was mustered out, March, 1866. He made one of the first Republican speeches of the south at Jackson, Mississippi, in the fall of 1865. Returning to the north he became Post Librarian at the station on Governor's Island, New York Harbor. From 1868 to 1870 he was assessor of Internal Revenue for the Edgefield District, S. C. Here, it is said, his leisure time was given to the instruction of the blacks, teaching the children by day and their parents by night.

Most of the year 1871 he spent in northern Indiana whence he returned to the east accepting a place on the editorial staff of the Pittsburgh Commercial, a position which he filled for more than six years, and where many of his most striking compositions first appeared. Soon after his engagement with the Commercial terminated he received an appointment by the government to a position in the mint at San Francisco. He had served here but a few months when October 28, 1878, he committed suicide. His clay ended at its noon. Sad beyond expression his life was tender beyond belief. His heart was always near to that of nature. He was a poet with prose environment. For thirty years he had been a writer, and patron of whatever was fine art. He lived on high planes but suffered unspeakable tortures.

Upon his return to the north after the war, he contracted an unfortunate marriage. The union was in every way uncongenial. A divorce followed which was recalled by a higher court. He impoverished himself for years
through paying a legally imposed alimony.

Persecutions followed him. Though he was again married, this time happily, and was predisposed to domestic life, he seems always to have struggled against "the combined forces of the adverse." His home was repeatedly invaded by affliction and persecution. Himself the victim of pecuniary and economic misfortunes, he was always bearing more than his share of others' troubles. But in the midst of them all for twenty years he wove his poetic fabrics; his works were admitted to the literary periodicals of the time not less than to the daily and weekly press, and ever a tone of sweetness, and exalted, clean, unselfish kinship with the pure and gentle pervaded his life.

Realf wrote at times for the Atlantic Monthly, where certain of his poems may be found. Some of his most stirring pieces were composed in the midst of the "free soil" strife in Kansas. He wrote constantly while in the field during the four years of service in the Union army. During the years 1871–8 a larger number appeared in the Pittsburgh Commercial than elsewhere. The majority of his poems have never been published. The Literary World, January 27, 1883, mentions that Prof. Thomas D. Suplee, of Gambier, Ohio, had then a collection of 150 poems of Realf showing real merit. In 1888, ten years after the poet's suicide, Col. Richard Hinton, appointed his literary executor, had succeeded in collecting a volume of his poems together with a biographical sketch of Realf. It has never been published. In 1895, there was issued at Indianapolis, Indiana, by G. S. Cottman an edition of a half dozen of the better known poems, for private circulation. These included "Symbolisms," "Indirection," "Yearning," "An Old Man's Idyl," "My Slain," and "Last Poem."

At the reunion of the Army of the Cumberland held in Pittsburgh in 1873, Col. Realf read a poem entitled "Salvete Miletos;" and the year following submitted another called "Today," which was read before the Army of the Potomac.

In the former one line characterizes the private soldier as,

"The scepterless king of the ranks—the vast unlaureled brave."

The writer of this has in his possession correspondence from Rev. L. M. Pease with whom Realf in 1854, did missionary work about Five Points, N. Y., and from members of the "Settlement" near Lebanon, Ohio, both showing much literary activity during those years and an ingenuous, unselfish life.

The poem which first brought Realf into notice among literary people in this country, perhaps was "Indirection" as the selection is now known. It appeared in the Atlantic Monthly in the November issue for 1878 (Vol. XLII, page 618). Twelve years before there was published in the same magazine, "The Old Man's Idyl" (Vol. XVII, page 266).

The accompanying poems are here reproduced (1) because certain of them have several times been made the subject of inquiry by students, and (2) because they show fairly both the quality and the versatility of the man's genius.

The following poem was originally published under the title "Behin d." It appears in the Atlantic Monthly, however, as noted in a previous paragraph, with "Indirection" for its name, and the somewhat hidden meanings of things behind mere appearances as its theme.

**INDIRECTION.**

Fair are the flowers and the children,
but their subtle suggestion is fairer;
Rare is the rose-burst of dawn,
but the secret that clasps it is rarer;
Sweet the exultance of song,
but the strain that preceds it is sweeter;
And never was poem yet writ,
but the meaning outmastered the meter.

Never a daisy that grows,
but a mystery guideth the growing;
Never a river that flows,
but a majesty scepters the flowing;
Never a Shakespeare that soared,
but a stronger than he did enfold him;
Nor ever a prophet foretells,
but a mightier seer hath foretold him.
Great are the symbols of being,
but that which is symboled is greater;
Vast the creation beheld,
but vaster the inward Creator;
Back of the sound broods the silence;
back of the gift stands the giving;
Back of the hand that receives
thrill the sensitive nerves of receiving.

Space is as nothing to spirit;
the deed is outdone by the doing;
The heart of the wooer is warm,
but warmer the heart of the wooing.

And up from the pits where these shiver,
and up from the heights where those shine,
Twin voices and shadows float starward;
and the essence of life is divine.

In its earlier form the next poem appears as 
"My Slain Self." The title as here given is
the more common one. The thought ex­
pressed is not less sound pedagogy than good
philosophy, and has a direct appeal to teachers.

MY SLAIN.
This sweet child hath climbed upon my knee,
This amber-haired, four-summered little maid,
With her unconscious beauty troubleth me,
With her love prattle maketh me afraid.
Ah, darling! when you cling and nestle so,
You hurt me, though you do not see me cry,
Nor hear the weariness with which I sigh
For the dear babe I killed so long ago.
I tremble at the touch of your caress;
I am not worthy of your innocent faith,
I who, with whetted knives of worldliness
Did put my own child-heartedness to death,
Beside whose grave I pace forever more,
Like desolation on a ship-wrecked shore.

There is no little child within me now,
To sing back to the thrushes, to leap up
When June winds kiss me, when an apple bough
Laughs into blossom, or a buttercup
Plays with the sunshine, or a violet
Dances in the glad dew; alas! alas!
The meaning of the daisies in the grass
I have forgotten; and if my cheeks are wet,
It is not with the bliteness of a child,
But with the bitter sorrow of sad years.
O moaning life, with life irreconciled!
O backward-looking thought! O pain! O tears!
For us there is not any silver sound
Of rhythmic wonder springing from the ground.

Woe worth the knowledge and the bookish lore
Which makes men mummies; weighs out every grain
Of that which was miraculous before,

And sneers the heart down with the scoffing brain.
Woe worth the peering, analytic days
That dry the tender juices in the breast,
And put the thumbs of the Lord to test,
So that no marvel must be, and no praise,
Nor any God except Necessity.

What can you give my poor, starved life in lien
Of this dead cherub which I slew for you?
Take back your doubtful wisdom, and renew
My early foolish freshness of the dunce,
Whose simple instincts guessed the heavens at once.

A very brief bit of verse, entitled "Inter­
pretation," is here inserted as showing admir­
ably the sense at once keen and tender of the
poet, with the finest touch:

INTERPRETATION.
A dreaming poet lay upon the ground——
He plucked the grasses with his listless hands;
No voice was near him save the wisf)ul sound
Of the sea cooing to the unbosomed sands.
He leaned his heart upon the naked sod;
He heard the audible pulse of nature beat;
He trembled greatly at the word of God,
Spoken in the rushes at his feet.

With inward vision his outward sight grew dim,
He knew the rhythmic secret of the spheres,
He caught the cadence, and a noble hymn
Swam, swan-like, in upon the gliding years.

AN OLD MAN'S IDYL.
By the waters of life we sat together,
Hand in hand in the golden days
Of the beautiful early summer weather,
When hours were anthems, and speech was praise,
When the heart kept time to the carol of birds,
And the birds kept time to the songs that ran
Through shimmer of flowers on grassy swards,
And trees with voices Helenian.

By the rivers of life we walked together,
I and my darling, unafraid;
And lighter than any linnet's feather
The burdens of being on us weighed;
And love's sweet miracles o'er us threw
Mantles of joy outlasting time,
And up from the rosy morrow grew
A sound that seemed like a marriage chime.

In the gardens of life we roamed together,
And the luscious apples were ripe and red,
And the languid lilac and honeyed heather
Swooned with the fragrance that they shed;
And under the trees the angels walked,
And up in the air a sense of wings
Awe'd us sacredly while we talked
Softly in tender communings.
In the meadows of life we strayed together,
Watching the waving harvest grow,
And under the benison of the Father
Our hearts like lambs skipped too and fro;
And the cowslips, hearing our low replies,
'Broiled fairer the emerald banks,
And glad tears shown in the daisies' eyes,
And the timid violet glistened thanks.

Who was with us, and what was round us,
Neither myself nor darling guessed;
Only we knew that something crowned us
Out of the heavens with crowns of rest.
Only we knew that something bright
Lingered lovingly where we stood,
Clothed with the incandescent light
Of something higher than humanhood.

Oh! the riches love doth inherit,
And the alchemy which doth change
Dross of body and dregs of spirit
Into sanctities rare and strange.
My flesh is feeble and dry and old,
My darling's hair is gray,
But our elixir and precious gold
Laugh at the footsteps of decay.

Harms of the world have come upon us,
Cups of sorrow we shall yet drain,
But we have a secret which doth show us
Wonderful rainbows through the rain;
And we hear the tread of the years go by,
And the sun is setting behind the hills;
But my darling does not fear to die,
And I am happy in what God wills.

So we sit by our household fires together,
Dreaming the dreams of long ago;
Then it was balmy summer weather,
And now the valleys are laid in snow;
Icicles hang from the slippery eaves,
The wind grows cold—it is growing late;
Well, well! we have garnered all our sheaves,
1 and my darling—and we wait.

SYMBOLISMS.

All round us lie the awful sacredness
Of babes and cradles, graves and hoary hairs;
Of girlish laughter and of manly cares;
Of moaning sighs and of passionate caresses;
Of infinite ascensions of the soul,
And wild hyena-hungrers of the flesh;
Of cottage virtues, and the solemn roll
Of populous cities' thunder, and the fresh
Warm faith of childhood, sweet as mignonette
Amid Doubt's bitter herbage, and the dear
Be-glimpses of the early stars which set
Down the blue skies of our lost hemisphere.
And all the consecrations and delights
Woven in the texture of the days and nights.

The daily miracle of life goes on
Within our chambers, at our household hearths,
In sober duties and in joyous mirths;
In all the unquiet hopes and fears that run
Out of hearts along the edges of
The terrible abysses; in the calms
Of friendship, in the ecstacies of love;
In burial dirges and in marriage psalms;
In all the far, wierd voices that we hear,
In all the mystic visions we behold
In our soul's summer when the days are clear,
And in our winters when the nights are cold;
And in the subtle secrets of our breath,
And that Annunciation named Death.

Oh! Earth, thou hast not any wind that blows
Which is not music; every weed of thine,
Pressed rightly flows in aromatic wine;
And every humble hedgerow flower that grows,
And every little brown bird that doth sing,
Hath something greater than itself, and bears
A living word to every living thing,
Albeit it holds the message unawares.

All shapes and sounds have something which is not
Of them; a spirit broods amid the grass;
Vague outlines of the Everlasting Thought
Lie in the melting shadows as they pass;
The touch of an Eternal Presence thrills
The fringes of the stratum and the hills.

Now, through the world's material forms,
Heaven shoots its immaterial; night and day
Apocalyptic intimations stray
Across the rifts of matter; viewless arms
Lean lovingly toward us from the air;
There is a breathing marvel in the sea;
The sponge foreheads of the mountains wear
A light within light which ensymbols the
Unutterable Beauty and Perfection
That, with immeasurable strivings, strives
Through bodied forms and sensuous indication
To hint into our dull and hardened lives
(Poors lives that cannot see or hear aright!)\n
The bodiless glories which are out of sight.

Sometimes, (we know not how nor why nor whence)
The twitter of the swallows 'neath the eaves,
The shimmer of the light among the leaves,
Will strike up through the thick roofs of our sense,
And show us things which seers and sages saw,
In the gray earth's green dawn; something doth stir
Like organ hymns within us, and doth awe
Our pulses into listening, and confer
Burdens of Receiving on us; and we ache
With weights of Revelation; and our ears
Hear voices from the Infinite, that take
The hushed soul captive, and the saddening years
Seem built on pillars of joy, and overhead
Vast dove-like wings that arch the world are spread.
THE NORMAL COLLEGE NEWS.

The Normal College News.

He, by such raptnesses and intuitions
Doth pledge his utmost immortality
Unto our moral insufficiency,
Fettered in grossness, that these sensual prisons,
Against whose bars we beat so tired wings,
Avail not to ward off the clear access
Of his high heralds and interpretations;
Wherefore, albeit we may not fully guess
The meaning of the wonder, let us keep
Clean channels for the instincts that respond
To the Unutterable Sacrifices that sweep
Down the far reaches of the strange Beyond,
Whose mystery strikes the spirit into fever,
And haunts, and hurts, and blesses us forever.

In the midst of the years that should have
been the most useful, both to him and to his
contemporaries, October 28, '78, Col. Realf,
weighed down by misfortune and saddened by
persecution, suicided. His remains lie buried
on the Pacific coast. Col. Richard Hinton was
made his literary executor. A monument was
erected over his grave a few years since; and
a volume of his writings, including also a
biographical sketch of the author, has been in
process of preparation for some years.

The following poem was written upon the
eve of his death. It is pathetically beautiful,
and represents a high order of thought not
less than poetic form:

THE LAST POEM.

"De mortuis nil nisi bonum!" When
For me the end has come and I am dead,
And little voluble, chattering claws of men
Peck at me curiously, let it then be said
By some one brave enough to speak the truth,
"Here lies a great soul killed by cruel wrong.
Down all the balmy days of his fresh youth,
To his bleak, desolate doom, with sword and song
And speech that rushed up hotly from the heart,
He wrought for Liberty; till his own wound
(He had been stabbed) concealed with painful art
Through wasting years, mastered him, and he swooned,
And sank there where you see see him lying now,
With that word 'Failure' written on his brow.''

But say that he succeeded. If he missed
World's honors and world's plaudits and the wage
Of the world's debt laecques, still his lips were kissed
Daily by those high angels who assuage
The thirstings of the poets; for he was
Born unto singing, and a burthen lay
Mightily on him, and he moaned because
He could not rightly utter to this day
What God taught in the night. Sometimes, nathless
Power fell upon him, and bright tongues of flame,
And blessings reached him from poor souls in stress;
And benedictions from black pits of shame;
And little children's love, and old men's prayers,
And a great Hand that led him unawares.

So he did rich. And if his eyes were blurred
With thick films—silence! he was in his grave.
Greatly he suffered, greatly, too, he erred;
Yet broke his heart in trying to be brave.
Nor did he wait till Freedom had become
The popular shibboleth of the courtier's lips,
But smote for her when God himself seemed dumb,
And all his arching skies were in eclipse.
He was aweary, but fought his fight,
And stood for simple manhood; and was joyed
To see the august broadening of the light,
And new earth's heaving heavenward from the void.
He loved his fellows, and their love was sweet—
Plant daisies at his head and at his feet.

The following bibliographical references to
Col. Realf and his writings are suggestive only
and no sense complete. The list includes chiefly
the references at hand, though they cannot be
entirely verified in our college library. It
is presented in the hope that it may be
helpful to our readers who may be interested
in the subject:

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1. Letters of Rev. F. W. Roberrson; 2,3 10.
2. Allibone's Dictionary of Authors; 21,7 7 5.
3. London Gentleman's Magazine; 2,3 36—4 42.
4. Little Classics, Vols. 15 and 17.
5. Redpath's Life of John Brown (very good.)
   57,769;
10. Literary World, January 27, '83; November 29,
   '84; December 13, '84.
12. Canadian Monthly; 14,753.
13. Lippincott's Magazine; 23,293.

Dr. Seven Hedin, the Swedish traveler, of
whose extended and remarkable travels in
Central Asia there has already been published
some preliminary account, has lately been to
London to receive the gold medal voted to
him by the Geographical Society, and the
fellow of which goes to Lieutenant Perry.
A LEGEND.

I have always been deeply interested in localities that are rich in tradition, especially that which portrays the life of the Indian in the misty legends so peculiar to the race. Recently an opportunity presented itself of viewing the beautiful gem of the straits called by the Indians Michella Mackinac Isle of the Great Spirit. The steamer on which I crossed the straits passed within a short distance of the island, and, as the air was very clear, I had a lovely view of this sparkling gem of the straits, with its fort, large hotel, bright cottages, wooded hills, beetling cliffs, and windswept shore. Out on the beach, at the left of the grand hotel, stretches a series of huge rocky ledges, standing like sentinels grim and hoary, against a background of woodland, where the sunlight woe the shadow slighting up the gray old trunks of the maple, and bequeathing a glossy sheen to the hemlock, whose feathery branches form a picture of airy grace. As I sat in a sequestered nook, and gazed on the enchanting scene, and thought of this wonderful isle, suddenly, I seemed entranced, a magic spell enchained me, as back to the past my fancy floated. The evidences of civilization, the fort, picturesque residences, and the grand hotel had vanished. In its place curled the smoke from many huts, and thousands of dusky forms were seen guiding their birchen canoes o'er the waters, or skulking through the forest with ear alert, and eye bright with eager anticipation of the chase. It might have been the sound of breakers that rolled and dashed themselves against the shore, or the low voices of the wind that murmured around the rocky coast, but still I thought I heard a voice, which seemed to rise and fall upon the waters, now rising to sublimest heights of joy, or sinking to deepest depths of woe as it told the legend of "Lover's Leap."

Wenona was the name of an aged chieftain's daughter; among all her tribe none were more beautiful than she. Not many moons ago, from the land of the Winnebagoes, had come a warrior bold, who wooed this dusky maiden, and had promised when he left her that when he had prepared his wigwam and the corn was ripe for husking, when the maple glowed like sunset in the new of the moon and the dusk of the evening, he'd meet her on the edge of a bold cliff that overlooked the waters. There they should be united and she would go with him to the land of his fathers. All this he told her, then sprang into his canoe and glided from sight. But ere the sun had set, dark clouds arose, fierce winds wrought the lake into a frenzy and mad waves enveloped the frail canoe, whose wild fury the brave could not withstand. When morning dawned the sunlight gleamed over a broad expanse of waters, the music of whose waves could alone reveal where slept the faithful lover. As time went on, Wenona watched and waited. At length the mellow days of autumn returned, the corn was yellow, the maples were turning to crimson, and just above the horizon's edge she could discern the silvery bow of the moon. So in the gathering dusk of the evening, with the light of love in her dark eyes, she hastened to meet her warrior. As she reached the cliff she thought she heard him calling her name. It may have been the song of the nightbird, or the wind sighing among the branches of the pinetree. But no, as her feet press the brink of the chasm and her slender form pauses an instant, she is sure she hears above the tumultuous beating of her heart, the voice of her lover crying, "Wenona, come, my spirit is lonely without thee." With implicit confidence, she obeyed the command and sprang from the ledge to join him in the happy hunting grounds. Ever after in autumn, travelers who visit this enchanted isle, and who perchance may wander there in the gloaming, fancy they see the forms, and hear the voices of the devoted lovers borne on the nightwind.

A college of forestry is to be added to Cornell University.—Ex.

Out of 451 colleges and universities in this country only 41 are closed to women, but there are 143 schools of higher learning closed to men.
EDITORIALS.

Senior, brace up; don't get careless in your work because you chance to have a position; or weary because you are yet on the anxious seat, for “there are others.”

A philosophical Junior reasons thus: “Self-denial is a rare virtue, therefore I shall deny myself $.50 a week for a boat-ride on the Huron;” and then pondering over the probable “flunks” that would result from his generous undertaking his providential mood centers his mind upon the second party necessary to his future felicity, and he syllogizes again: “There are no great gains without some risks.

* * *

What are college paper editorials? They are generally speaking, the hash of a re-hash of old, common-place subjects, perfectly familiar to all men of average intelligence. The college editor is necessarily limited. To attempt to grapple with the political problems of the day would entail no end of criticism; to discuss educational topics for the benefit of readers who are full of the latest and best in modern education is inconsistent with the editor’s position. What then remains for this unfortunate to do? He must either write on insignificant topics, knowing that he is only filling space, or he must abolish the formal editorial (especially the long one) and write on news topics of local and immediate interest, or he must do away with the editorial entirely. The latter solution, in the opinion of the writer, will bring fame to the editor who adopts it. The editor should put himself behind his paper by making other departments rich rather than spend his time on the grad grind editorial.

Members of the class of ’93, who intend to be present at the class-reunion, June 21, are requested to notify the class president, Marna Ruth Osband, Ypsilanti, Mich., at once, so that arrangements may be made for a “spread.”

LIBRARIES FOR HIGH SCHOOLS.

(Continued from Previous Issues)

GERMAN AND FRENCH.


Scherer, History of German Literature. 2 vol. Scribners.

Francke, Social Forces in German Literature. H. Holt.

Knortz, .... Representative German Poems in German and English. .... H. Holt.


Foster—Barnham. ...... The Nibelungenlied MacMillan


Lanson ... Histoire de la Litterature francaise Paris.

G. B. Adams ... Growth of the French Nation Macmillan.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Nissen ....... A-B-C of Swedish Gymnastics Lee & Shepard.

Enebuske, Progressive Gymnastic Days’ Orders Silver Burdett & Co.

Posse .... Kinesiology of Swedish Gymnastics Lee & Shepard.

Stecher ...... German American Gymnastics Lee & Shepard.

Maine Health Report, ............. 1891 State Board of Health, Augusta, Me.

Morrison, Heating and Ventilation of School Buildings. .................

MUSIC.

Howard, F. E. ............. The Child Voice

Leih, W. H. ............. The Child Voice

Curnen ............. The Teacher’s Manual

Root, Geo. F. ............. Don’t Root, Geo. F .... Normal Musical Handbook

Palmer, H. R. .... Palmer’s Manual for Teachers

Curtis, Emilie Christina .... Children’s Voices Hausers. ............. Music and Morals

Mery, Carl. ............. Music and Culture

Tapper .......... Chats with Music Students
General Educational Items.

The Wisconsin State Library Commission has issued circulars outlining a plan by which literature may be supplied to Wisconsin soldiers in camp.

The entire collection of the Cyrus W. Field papers relating to the first Atlantic cable has become the property of the National Museum, at Washington.—Exchange.

Dr. Frank McMurray, who has been for a number of years Dean of the school of Pedagogy in Buffalo, has been called to the Teachers' College of N. Y. City.

Abyssina is not reckoned among the educated countries, but efforts are certainly made there to enable the children to acquire some useful knowledge. King Menelik has taken pains to bring his country into line with the civilized world by affording educational facilities for children of both sexes. The instruction is given by the clergy, and it comprises the explanation of the holy books and the hieratic language.

At the meeting of the National Conference of Charities and Correction, on the evening of May 24, in New York, President Gilman of Johns Hopkins University made an interesting summary of the situation when he said that the four great forces with which persons who work for the betterment of society have to contend are infirmity, ignorance, appetite and sloth. Against the first two, he said, progress is being made, but his news of the struggle against appetite and sloth were less satisfactory.

Local and Personal.

CONSERVATORY NOTES.

Mr. F. L. York will spend the summer in Paris studying with M. Guilmant, the celebrated organist.

Miss Ruby Hine of Detroit visited the work in music at the Training School last week. Miss Thorburn, teacher of music at Berrien Springs, also visited.

Miss Beardsley was assisted by Miss Wiard and Miss Harlow. The stage was very prettily decorated and the numbers were listened to by a very interesting audience.

The last Wednesday recital of the season was given on May 25, by the Normal Quartette, and formed a fitting close to the series. Besides the quartette numbers a number of solos were given.

Miss Paxson gave a program that pleased a large audience and impressed them very favorably. She was assisted by Miss Laura Cruickshank, who was obliged to respond to a double encore.

Dr. E. B. Spaulding, a former Conservatory student gave the vocal numbers at Miss Sara Lodema Miller's recital. Dr. Spaulding was in fine voice. His accompaniments were played by Miss Lucinda Lee.

A recital was given for the children of the Training School, on June 27. Numbers were given by the Misses Ellis, Wiard, Haight, Barnum, and Mr. Minor E. White. The subject was "Spring," and all the songs were full of spring promises.

Mrs. Frederick H. Pease will spend the summer in Paris, and plans to pursue a course of study with Mme. Marschesi. It is considered a great privilege to secure her as a teacher. She has trained Melba, Calve, Sanderson, and many other singers who are noted for their beautiful voices and fine method.

NOTES.

Arthur Wilson, Normal graduate, will be principal at Holt next year.

Miss King inspected work at Kalamazoo College, Monday, May 30.

Prof. Barbour delivered the commencement address at Moline, Ill., June 3.
Miss Anna Schryver spent May 29 visiting the laboratories of the M. A. C. and selecting plants for the Normal botanical garden.

Mr. F. E. Ingraham delivered the commencement address for the graduating class of the Dearborn High School, June 3. Two graduates, both boys.

Mr. C. B. Upton, recently elected to the position of assistant in mathematics at the Normal, has been released to take the position of teacher of mathematics in Saginaw, West Side, High School.

Supt. W. L. Shuart and Fred Stone, of the Board of Education of Hillsdale, visited the Normal, May 27, in search of teachers, and engaged Miss Grace Rossman, '98, to teach Latin in the High school.

Work on the basin for the large fountain, to be presented by the class of '98 to the Normal, is well under way. The fountain will be in running order by commencement week. This is the first large gift ever presented to the Normal by its graduating class.

Prof. Worcester's lecture on the Philippine Islands at Normal Hall, May 25, drew a large and attentive audience. The lecture was exceedingly interesting, and threw much light on questions regarding those islands which are of particular interest to us today.

Prospects for a large attendance at the Summer School to be held at the Normal this year are excellent. Letters from several states indicate that superintendents and principals, as well as grade teachers expect to spend the vacation here, and there will be an unusually high grade of work done.

Monday, May 30, the Normals lined up against the '00 Laws of the U. of M. The result of the game at the end of the tenth inning was 6 to 5 in favor of the Normals. It was expected that the Y. M. C. A. boys from Detroit would enter into contests such as usually occur at the regular field days, but for some reason they did not appear. In the evening an indoor meet was given at the Gymnasium. Among the events was the girls' basketball game.

Married, June 4, Miss Grace Rossman to Mr. Cheshire Boone.

Miss Dana Webster, '98, takes charge of third and fourth grades at Portland next year.

Miss Bertha Ronan takes charge of the ladies' physical training at the M. A. C. next year.

Cheap rates cannot be secured on the railroad for alumni who wish to attend the Normal Commencement exercises.

Miss Estelle Downing, '98, has been elected assistant instructor in the Department of Literature of the M. S. N. C. for next year.

Mr. F. L. Ingraham acted as one of the judges on delivery in the Peninsular State Oratorical Contest at Ann Arbor, May 28.

Miss Edith Todd, '98, has been tendered the position of assistant instructor in the Department of History of the M. S. N. C. for next year.

Miss Kate R. Thompson, '98, has been elected to fill the position in the mathematical department of the M. S. N. C., made vacant by Mr. C. B. Upton.

Miss Lillian Cutler has finished her school work at Iron Mountain for this year and returned to the Normal, where she will remain until after Commencement.

The following officers of the Oratorical Association have been elected for next year: Pres. T. A. Lawler; vice-pres., Miss Alla Mason; Sec., John Mitchell; Treas., W. E. Videto.

Supt. W. R. Parmalee of the Nashville schools will be released by the school board to take the position offered him in the superintendency of the Charlotte schools. Mr. Parmalee is a former graduate of the Normal and of the U. of M.

Supt. W. D. Hill, '88, of the Jonesville schools was unanimously asked by the Board of Education to remain another year at an advance in salary of $100. Later.—Mr. Hill has accepted the superintendency of the Crystal Falls schools, at $1,200.
Miss Winifred Allen, '98, has been elected for grade work at Grand Ledge.

Prof. Hoyt will lecture on Child Study, Educational Psychology, Methods in Grammar Schools and High Schools at the summer session of the Christy School of Pedagogy, Jefferson, Ohio.

The one event of the year will occur next Saturday afternoon. A picked nine from the Faculty will play a game of baseball with a picked nine from the seniors. Proceeds to be added to the fountain fund.

A. A. Miller, '96, returns to Milnor, North Dak. at an increase of wages. He is also engaged in the Sargent County Summer School as teacher of arithmetic and geography. He pays a hasty visit to Michigan people next month.

The following brilliant lines come from the Ypsilantian, whose editor now prefers to munch on “sour grapes：“ “The dedication of the Normal ’98 Aurora calls Prof. Sill ex-President of the Michigan State Normal College,' a piece of snobbery that must be distasteful to ex-President Sill of the Michigan State Normal School.” According to such chimerical logic as the above, the Ypsilantian would evidently quibble that America was never discovered, for the name America was given to the land after its discovery.

The organizing of the Normal Military Company was noticed in our last issue. Since then another call has been made, and Monday morning, May 30, Captain Kelley offered to the Governor the services of the company as an organization. Our boys participated in the Memorial Day exercises, marching from the Gymnasium to the church, in a body. They marched to the cemetery, and were accorded the place in the parade usually given to the Light Guards, who have gone to the front. At the close of the exercises, the boys were given a repast by the Ladies of the Relief Corps in G. A. R. Hall. Our Company was complimented both by the mayor and the officers of the day, on its fine appearance.

Washington Chapman, instructor of science in the High School, has been offered a similar position in the Iron Mountain Schools. He is undecided whether to accept or not.—Adrian Press.

Next Friday evening a reception will be given Dr. and Mrs. Smith at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Boone. Certain among the citizens of Ypsilanti, Faculty, and students of the Normal will be invited.

GENERAL COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM, 1898.

The several grades in the Training School will observe “Public Day” on Thursday, June 16, and conduct special “closing exercises” on Friday forenoon from 10 to 11 o’clock. Patrons and others interested in the school, or any of the classes are cordially invited.

The Gymnasium will hold public exercises Friday evening, June 17, at 8 o’clock. These will be held in the Gymnasium, and will include both class and individual movements. Admission will be limited, for want of room, but may be had on application to Prof. Bowen.

Sunday, June 19.
Meeting of the Students’ Christian Association .................. 3:00 p. m.
Baccalaureate Address .................. 7:30 p. m.

Monday, June 20.
General Conservatory Recital ... 9:00 a. m.
Junior Conservatory Recital ... 10:30 a. m.
Junior Class Day Exercises ... 1:30 p. m.
Normal Choir Concert .................. 7:30 p. m.

Tuesday, June 21.
Conservatory Commencement ... 9:00 a. m.
Senior Class Day Exercises ... 11:00 a. m.
Reunion of Former Classes ... 2:30 p. m.
Alumni Meeting .................. 7:30 p. m.

Wednesday, June 22.
Commencement Exercises ... 9:00 a. m.
Address .................. Inspector James L. Hughes

Following the Choir Concert on Monday evening, the Conservatory Alumni will receive former Conservatory students and invited guests in the Conservatory Rooms. The
business meeting will be held Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.

The last installment of pictures, including five large architectural pieces, has arrived.

Geo. E. Ganiard, '97, will take charge of the grammar department at Parma next year.

Bertha Lewis, '97, will teach Latin and German in the Mt. Pleasant High School next year;

The pupils of the Training School furnished music for the Memorial Day exercises held at the M. E. church.

Frank Ellsworth, '97, Miss Alberta Mastin, '97, and Ben Watters, '98, visited the Normal, May 29 and 30.

Prof. E. F. Johnson, of the U. of M., is the new member of the State Board of Education. He visited the Normal, May 29.

Dr. Putnam has been obliged through failing health to give up his work at the Normal for the remainder of this semester.

Supt. J. F. Rieman is re-elected at Monroe with an increase of $100. A new primary building will be erected for next year.

Emmett Dohany, '96, principal of the River Rouge school, Detroit, has been elected principal of the Palmer school, Detroit.

H. W. Miller, formerly instructor of Reading and Orthoepy at the Normal, has been elected principal of one of the Detroit ward schools.

At the close of Commencement Exercises on Wednesday, a banquet will be served in the Gymnasium, at fifty cents a plate. Tickets may be had upon application to Mr. Fred L. Ingraham, Deau of the Graduate Club and officer of the day.

As predicted the reception at Pres. and Mrs. Boone's home was a grand success. A profusion of flowers added to the elegance of the beautiful rooms. The refreshments were of the daintiest kinds, and served in the most pleasing manner. There were about 150 present.

Regular Wednesday evening meetings will be held during the summer term of the Normal.

A complete report of the work of the association will be presented at the farewell service held Sunday, June 19.

There have been 185 students in the bible classes during the year, 130 women and 55 men. The mission class consists of 21 members.

The report of the president shows several hundred dollars worth of work secured for students during the year by the S. C. A. employment bureau.

The S. C. A. will hold open hours during commencement week at the chapel, to welcome former students and others in attendance. Ice cream and cake will be served.

At a meeting of the S. C. A. executive committee, Saturday, June 4, W. L. Lee, the newly elected president, and Guy Fleming were elected as delegates to the Y. M. C. A. summer conference, at Lake Geneva, Wis. Miss Maude Manly was chosen as delegate to the Y. W. C. A. conference at the same place.
Mr. Brown won first in the quarter-mile bicycle and Mr. Gorton third in the 440 yard run.

In the afternoon no other distinction was won except a third place by Hoxie in the high jump. But Friday evening the trend of events turned, Whitcomb won first on the bar so far distanced the other contestants that it was decided that they had entered in the wrong class. Wilson won the heavy-weight wrestle in 18 seconds and Traverse second in the light weight. Saturday morning Hoxie won the high kick, putting his heel on top of the pan at 9 ft. 4½ in. The world's record is 9 ft. 7½ in., which shows that our athlete is easily able to break that as he did the M. I. A. A. record of 9 ft. 2 in. Only one more medal came to us. Lister was second in the shot-put. But several thirds added to the total points won.

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The bloom upon the Campus
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From the home-nest soon will fly,
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For further information see T. A. CONLIN, Special Agent, Ann Arbor.

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In the first the work is all prescribed. Of the second the elective work is one-sixth of the whole; of the third 25 p. c.; of the fourth 31 p. c.; of the fifth 50 p. c.

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Board may be had for $1 75 to $3 00 per week. 
Rooms rent for 50c. to $1 00 each.

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