

THE
Alfred Student.

VOL. VI.

ALFRED CENTRE, N. Y., FEBRUARY, 1879.

No. 5.

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ALFRED UNIVERSITY.

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The University Hall contains the Boarding Department, and rooms for the accommodation of about one hundred Students, besides rooms for Professors and their families, and also Society, Music, and Paint Rooms. *Rooms for ladies are furnished and carpeted, with a sleeping room adjoining each.* The Hall is under the immediate supervision of the Faculty. There is also abundant accommodation for rooming and boarding in private families.

CALENDAR.—1878-9.

- Fall Term begins Wednesday, Sept. 4, 1878.
- Winter Term begins Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1878.
- Spring Term begins Wednesday, April 2, 1879
- Anniversary of Literary Societies, Monday and Tuesday June 30 and July 1, 1879.
- Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Trustees, Tuesday, July 1, 1879.
- Commencement, Wednesday, July 2, 1879.
- Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association, Wednesday afternoon and evening, July 2, 1879
- The Terms continue thirteen weeks.

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VOL. VI.

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No. 5.

Literary Department.

AN INTUITION.

Didst ever try to face Oblivion?
To grasp and hold the still eluding thought
That in an age to come it might be said,
By some surviving soul, of this Thyself,
Thy very self: "He was, and he is not?"
Hast ever tried? Then surely thou dost know
The task impossible—that ever still,
As the vexed mind makes pause to say "Tis done,"
And yet again, "Tis surely done," it turns
Or ere the word is said, and says it not;
For, while it strives to master the strange thought
Of one's Soul-self quite dead, and in its place
Perpetual void, that self, its own quick ghost,
In repetition infinite will rise
To view each corse made by the weird conceit,
And, mourning, still disprove the death it mourns.
—Selected.

CHRISTMAS.*

BY MRS. IDA F. KENYON.

When the Christian Church adopted this pagan festival into its cultus, it endeavored to purify the old usages by its grandly devised liturgy, besides dramatic representations of the birth of Christ and the first events of his life. Hence, sprang the so-called manger songs and a multitude of Christmas carols and dramas, which, in some places, particularly among the effervescent Gallic minds, soon ran into farces and fools-festivals. Hence, also, originated the Christmas trees, or Christ-trees, adorned with lights and gifts; the custom of reciprocal pres-

* A Lecture delivered at the Jubilee Session of the Alfredian Lyceum, Christmas eve, 1878; continued from the January number.

ents, and of special Christmas meats and dishes, such as rolls, cakes, loaves, puddings of a peculiar composition, etc. Thus Christmas became a universal social *fete* for young and old, high and low, as no other Christian festival could have become.

The Roman Catholic, the Anglican, and Lutheran churches all unite to celebrate this season with impressive services, but the Presbyterian and Dissenting churches generally reject it in its religious aspect as a human invention, savoring of papal worship. The Puritan Parliament, under Cromwell, set the example of this, abolishing Christmas by a formal decree, on Dec. 22d, 1657; even constituting holly and ivy seditious badges—a narrow-mindedness, which, like all pharisaical straining, has not been without some painful results of reaction. But we may have to say something more on this point at a later stage; for the present, let us turn from public and ecclesiastical usages toward the home circle, and note how that is affected by the coming of Christmas.

Whoever is so happy as yet to remember his childhood dreams and sensations, or at least to live them over in the rising generation, will know what a nimbus of glory, in the youthful mind, is shed around this portion of the year. Though occurring in the coldest and gloomiest time, yet it seems flooded with a roseate hue, full of light and warmth and love, a true earnest of the coming of a spiritual Spring. True it is, that the psychical differences of nationalities differently effect the degree and kind of estimation in which the subject is held, even by the little people. A wide-awake young specimen of the genus "Young America" probably entertains very different emotions and certainly very much more practical expectations concern-

ing this good time than a German child, sprung from a race whose heart has always delighted in everything romantic, mystic, and marvelous, bounding to meet the supernatural with a touching, all-embracing faith; yet probably both youngsters are thrilling with pleasure to the full extent of their capacity, though their hopes are based upon different grounds. It is a singular anomaly, by the by, that the iconoclasm of this prosaic age has not attacked yet the nomenclature of this day, condescending still to call it Christmas, *i. e.*, mass or religious service in honor of Christ's birth, when there is actually hardly any religious recognition of the event.

The German knows his blessed season as "Weihnachten," which means hallowed, or consecrated nights, putting the word as you will mark, in the plural, just as you speak of holidays, and understand by it a whole period of days. The little Frenchman looks forward to his "cadeau," or present at "Noel;" that is, the natal night; so does the Italian and Spaniard, calling it the "Nativita."

There is a general understanding that the Christ-child brings the gifts; but reverence and awe soon found it necessary to devise some intermediate agents, who were to act as the almoners of the heavenly child. The conception of these characters differs considerably among the various peoples. Americans have inherited their notions of "Santa Claus" from the Dutch settlers of the country, who so called St. Nicholas, the patron saint of boys generally, said to have been bishop at Myra, distinguished for his tenderness to children, and to have died by martyrdom in the year 326. At his canonization, his memorial day being appointed on the day before Christmas, he thus was made the purveyor of the gifts of the season to all the children of Flanders and Holland, who put out their shoes or stockings, in the confidence that Santa Klaus, or Knecht Klobes, as they call him, will put in a prize of good conduct before morning. You know all about the jolly fellow, with his shrewd twinkling eyes, his frosty beard, his ruddy face, and the bag of treasures with which he comes tumbling down the chimney, while his team of reindeer snort

and stamp on the icy roof. A grimmer personage is Knecht Ruprecht, or Rupert, the presiding genius of the festival among German little folks, not merry, round, and portly, but tall and gaunt of stern aspect; he stalks on in a ghostly robe, with immense wig and flowing beard, and is supposed to exercise a special watch over naughty children, going about from house to house, everywhere received with great pomp and welcome; calling up the children, he distributes to each a gift commensurate with the good conduct of the recipient. Woe to the trembling little wight, whose conscience accuses him of numerous misdeeds and peccadillos! There will not fail to come forth with his portion the bundle of birch switches, mockingly tied with a gay ribbon, that is henceforth to take a conspicuous position over the looking-glass (hateful ornament), to be handy for mother and father, as the painful reminder to the little sinner of Knight Rupert's imperative demand for obedience.

Among English fairy lore a domestic spirit, or fairy, Robin Goodfellow, made over by Shakespeare into "Puck," of "Midsummer Night's Dreams" renown, used to play his merry pranks during Christmas tide, chiefly as an executor of practical jokes upon the revelers of the season. But since the festivities once thought due to the period have been greatly abridged, or fallen off altogether, we hear no more of him.

The associations of Christmas in Spain are all of the gospel. There is no Northern St. Nick to stuff the stockings of good children with rewards of merit. Only when on Christmas eve the little shoes are exposed by windows and doors, it is because the wise kings of the East are imagined to be journeying by night to Bethlehem, bearing gifts and homage to the heavenly child; and, out of their abundance, when they pass by the houses where good children sleep, they will drop into their shoes some of the treasures they are bearing to the baby prince in Judea. This thought is never absent from the rejoicing of Christmas in Spain. The favorite toy of the season is called the nativity. It is sometimes very elaborate and costly, representing a landscape under a starry

sky, the shepherds watching their flocks, the Magi coming in with wonder and awe, and the child in the stable, shedding upon the darkness the living light which was to overspread the world.

In Russian and Italian homes, the children are wakened on Christmas morning by the cry of "Behold the Baboushká!" and spring up hoping to see her before she vanishes out of the window. It is she who is believed to fill the gift receptacles and dress the tree. She was once, so tradition goes, an old woman at work in her house when the wise men from the East passed on their way to find the Christ-child. Come with us, they said; we have seen his star in the East, and go to worship him. I will come by and by, she answered. I have my house to set in order; when that is done I will follow and find him. But, when her work was done, the three kings had passed on their way across the desert, and the star shone no more in the darkened heavens. She never saw the Christ-child; but she is living and searching for him still. For his sake she takes care of all little children, fancying that in each poor little one whom she warms and feeds, she may find the Christ-child whom she neglected ages ago, yet is doomed to eternal disappointment.

But time, passing rapidly, warns us that we must cut short our garland of legendary lore, though there is material enough at hand to weave it on to an indefinite length. Turning from the realm of fancy to that of reality, Christmas observances of modern times have been made so familiar that there is little need of dwelling upon them. In our own day and generation we have had a special literature of Christmas, and the names of Irving, Thackeray, and Dickens, are intimately associated with the festival. The pens of these ready writers have introduced us to its genial atmosphere, so redolent of material comforts, yet so full of higher and more blessed influences, that make it an epitome of the best possibilities of our earthly existence, and a suggestion of the better life to come. The elements of its gayety are simple, and nearly the same everywhere—a union of the scattered members of a family associated often with a generous overflow of hospitality on the lonely ones, whom Providence has failed

to set in families; a cordial and festive entertainment of these circles, at an abundant board, followed by music, games, and innocent mirth; a mutual bestowal of gifts by those who are bound together in ties of affection and interest, and through it all a deeper sense of the brotherhood of man and the dignity of human life; and hence, a more earnest reaching out to ameliorate the lot of the poor and the wretched, than the dole of common charity can give. Such with more or less prominence of the one trait or the other, everywhere form the characteristics of these gatherings. The good cheer and abundance which the season brings wherever it is known, becomes especially evident among the more frugal nations of European longitudes. Many a family of good social status, so travelers have told us repeatedly, can be supported there by less than the waste of a household of moderate means in New York. This may be true occasionally, but there is no stinting or sparing at Christmas. The season is as fatal to turkeys, fowls, and other creatures good to eat, as Thanksgiving in New England. The exhibition of the tempting stores in temporary, half-open structures, erected on the main square of the town, forms one of the delights of childhood in Germany, without which their Christmas would not be complete. This charming fair for two weeks seems like fairyland, so bewildering with its lines of glittering booths, where every imaginable Christmas ware is for sale; all soon to vanish back to Knecht Ruprecht's kingdom, to be kept safe there for another year. The custom of setting up Christmas trees in churches, we think, is peculiar to America. To one who has seen the wondrous tree only in the family circle, under the glamour that the light of intimate affection sheds upon it, its enlargement so as to take in a whole community or parish, seems to deprive it of a good share of its genuine spontaneous charm; yet if there are little eyes that would never behold its radiance except for the kind provision of the Sabbath-schools to which they are attached, far be it from us to deprive them of even the slender treat they thus individually receive in this wholesale club-system of delight!

We are grateful that Christmas has won its way with millions whose ancestors regarded it as a rag of the scarlet woman. What a huge chain of plum puddings will girdle the globe to-night; what a perfect gulf-stream of sound-waves will be set in motion by the carol-singing, going up from all the ends of the earth; from rude Scotland, where it has made its inroads in defiance of the shade of old John Knox, who in his day abolished it, down to Rome, where the Calabrian minstrels still come into the Eternal City, during the last days of Advent, most frequently stopping to sing at the shops of the carpenters; from the snow-bound hamlets of Canada to the sunny glades of the Southern States! The last mentioned locality, in addition to musical notes, sends out many other discordant noises; for our colored brethren, resident there, as well as the whites, delight in puffing out their exhilaration in military parades and cannon shooting, making the day a sort of half-way rehearsal between last Fourth of July and the coming one. But who would quarrel with what the over-precise might call superstition, or with any element of grotesqueness through which the joy of untutored hearts finds expression? It is a day to make us all catholic, in the non-confessional sense of the word. Was not Milton the Protestant of the Protestants, yet whoever wrote a finer Christmas hymn than he? Other religions have their feast days and saturnalia, but we recall in them nothing so thoroughly genial and homely and decently glad as the Christian's Christmas. There is a pretty picture by Lucas Cranach, "A Repose," which is worth a thousand ordinary Christmas illustrations. In this a group of merry children, the sweetest possible, dance about the little Master, in the arms of his mother, their chubby feet beating the ground, and their faces turned up in infant adoration. 'Tis our Christmas in little. In the sweet joys, the innocent pleasures, and the instinctive affections of our young people, their trust, their hopes, and their gratifications, we see how life may find its truest enjoyment in the things which lie close about our feet. There are severity of doctrine, precision of belief, and an inexorable fidelity to conviction in the highest religious

culture, be the creed what it may; but Christianity almost alone is careful of the affections, and makes them paramount. It is this which has colored the festival of the nativity. It is warm with the passion of mothers, the natural pride of fathers, and the all-absorbing love of children. It is brilliant with the light of great hopes, and comfortable with inexpressible consolations. All the feasting which characterizes the day has never vulgarized it; spite of the wassail it is pure and cleanly. It has no touch of bacchanalian frenzy in its music, and no coarse license in its merriment. Men may abuse its opportunities, as there is no sanctuary altogether safe from foul intrusion, but it takes no permanent stain from this, and is indomitably fresh and healthy. Its special virtues protect it from desecration; it is the Festival of Love and of Home. Can there be any need that men should be exhorted to prize and worthily employ such a day? Alas! we are too apt to think of the whole story of the star and the child as a touching legend which may have actual meaning to some of our neighbors, but which affects us chiefly through the service it has rendered to art and literature; and through certain genial popular observances, to which in our softer moments we yield a grateful emotional respect, a little deeper, probably, than we give to the creations of Shakespeare or any great master who has cheered us and helped us to an immortal thought. And what are our realities of life? The bills which are coming due, the Winter outfit for the children, the new carpet for the parlor, the money with which to pay the cook and the grocer; but that shadowy star, that benign presence, which entered the world ages and ages ago, belong to a realm of fervid fancy, in which we can not afford to indulge ourselves. Yet there is not a man or woman living to whom there has not come the cry, at least once in their lives, "The Christ is found, come with us to worship him." It did not always come in sermons or praise. Every word or circumstance which shows to us that our lives are false, mean, or paltry, is directly sent to bring us to that Savior born into the world, that we might learn from him the secret of true manliness; every tale of corruption,

fraud, or tyranny points us to the birth of that man, the influence of whose life is spreading through the world honesty, liberty, and self-devotion; whatever respect is paid anywhere to the rights of the poor, to the brotherly service due from man to man, the world owes to Jesus. It is worth while, then, for each of us to recall when the cry came to us to go out and find him, and *what* work it was that we chose for a companion instead of this Lord of Life. If we have shut ourselves all our days into our druggery, it is not too late, however, for us to leave it, and to bring our lives to higher levels of honor, friendliness, and devotion. The quickest way for us to touch his hand at this especial season is to look to the hungry, cold, and helpless babes, the poor that we shall always have with us. He has told us that we shall find Him in the least of those of his brethren. If to them we humbly and lovingly bear such ministration as we each have in our power, the season will gain for us a new significance, a blessed joy; rendered only the more endearing by the recollection that thousands of generations before us were wont to send out then their dim and groping aspirations for light, love, and truth, from a world that lay in darkness yet. We can feel still, as it were, the dumb heart-throbs of all the ages pulsating against our own; they had only the material type from which to draw inspiration for nobler lives. Thanks to God that to *us* has arisen the *true* Sun of Righteousness, with healing in his wings; yet let us remember also that according to the light that is given us, we shall be judged at last.

ASSENT AND CONVICTION.—Simple assent is weak. The man who says "Yes, yes," to the statements of truth and to good enterprises, and does nothing more, is little less than a nuisance. The world belongs to men who have convictions—deep, strong, living convictions. These are energy itself. They put life into every word and act. Such men are power personified. They act because they must. They speak because they have something to say, and therefore the world listens. Convictions and cowardice have nothing in common. Assent is

often the slave of cowardice. Convictions in favor of the right slay error and evil. Assent without convictions cultivates them.

The Alfred Student.

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MANNERS.

Said William of Wykham, "Manners makyth man," and there was more truth in the saying than we, in this age of contempt for forms and conventionalities, are willing to admit. We are apt to ignore the fact that politeness, civility, courtesy, is a powerful, almost indispensable factor in winning success in life. We are told that all depends on self-reliance, self-assertion; that hard and well directed labor will remove every barrier; that we can accomplish the highest ends and reach the most exalted eminence if we possess unflinching energy, dauntless courage, and an earnest purpose. True; but the good we hope for, the end we

labor for, can better and more easily be accomplished if we couple with those virtues politeness, refinement, and suavity of manners. The bearing of a man toward his fellows very often more than anything else promotes or obstructs his advancement in life. If courteous and civil in all those delicate attentions which we are wont to call trivial, he wins friends and attracts men to him; if bluff, uncivil, and rude, he repels them. Coarseness and gruffness lock doors and close hearts, while politeness is the key which forces back the rusty wards that lock the stoniest hearts. As the athlete needs, in addition to strength, suppleness and flexibility, so we need gentleness, refinement, politeness. Strength alone will not do. There must be those "nameless and delicate tenderesses of thought and manner that mark the true gentleman." Call it weakness and effeminacy if we will, it yet remains true that courtesy will work as a powerful agent in man's advancement among his fellow-men. "Give a boy address and accomplishments," says Emerson, "and you give him the mastery of palaces and fortunes wherever he goes; he has not the trouble of earning and owning them; they solicit him to enter and possess." Chesterfield once wrote to his son: "You had better return a dropped fan genteelly than to give a thousand pounds awkwardly. . . . Your Greek can never advance you from secretary to envoy, or from envoy to ambassador, but your address, your air, your manner, if good, may." Civility is not only a Christian duty, as it is the embodiment of that divinest of commandments, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," but is the best worldly policy. History and daily experience prove that politeness is one of the essentials of success; it is indeed almost a fortune in itself. The Duke of Marlborough, one of the most courteous of gentlemen and the most courageous of soldiers, owed his fame and fortune more to his pleasing address and suavity of manners than to his genius. According to Chesterfield, "he wrote bad English and spelt it worse," but his charming manners often changed an enemy to a friend, and, equally with his sharp sword, swayed the destinies of empires. It was by this, more than by any subtleness of diploma-

cy, that he was able so long to keep together the members of the Grand Alliance, despite their clashing interests and jealousies. The gracious manners of Charles Fox preserved him from personal dislike when he had gambled away his last dollar. The demagogue Wilkes, physically and morally deformed though he was, rendered even this ugliness agreeable, and boasted to Lord Townsend, the handsomest man in Great Britain, that he could get ahead of his lordship in the affections of any woman in the kingdom. The Thunderer of the Tribune, Marabeau, the homeliest Frenchman that ever lived, by the witchery of his manners, could make himself the most agreeable and companionable of men. Raleigh won a proud queen's favor by throwing down his laced coat for Elizabeth to walk on. "Thank you, my dear," said Lundy Foote to the little beggar girl who bought a pennyworth of snuff; and it was his courtesy that made Lundy Foote a millionaire. Late in life the Duke of Wellington said: "I never had a quarrel with any man in my life." The "Iron Duke," the foremost general of his time, had learned, before commanding others, to command himself, governing his own feelings with the same self-possession and coolness with which he handled his army on the battle-field. Washington, when once walking out with an English nobleman, promptly returned the salute of a colored man, much to the surprise of his companion—he would not be outdone in courtesy. Every one is familiar with the incident in the life of Sir Philip Sidney, the pattern of a perfect gentleman as well as of a brave soldier, who, on the field of Zutphen, pushed away the cup of cold water from his own fevered and parched lips, and held it out to the dying soldier at his side. All the world cherishes his memory, not less for his courtesy and gentleness than for his courage and bravery. History is crowded with examples showing that very often the "manner of the man" has decided his fate and the fate of those who came within the scope of his influence. The every-day experiences of our lives teach us the same truth. We conclude, then, that politeness is essential—not superficial, skin-deep politeness, a "honey'd deal of

courtesy," or the indiscriminate "fawning of a spaniel;" but a hearty and manly deference to others. Such courtesy is the simple application of the golden rule to all our social conduct. It is not weakness or effeminacy; nor is it the result of the study of books of "Etiquette," or of following the Chesterfieldian method. Dr. Witherspoon has truly defined it as "real kindness, kindly expressed." In a letter to young men, an eminent divine says: "True courtesy implies self-sacrifice, and it has reached maturity after many struggles and conflicts. It is the last touch, the crowning perfection of a noble character; it has been truly described as the gold on the spire, the sunlight on the corn-field, the smile on the lip of the noble knight lowering his sword-point to his lady-love."

THE London *Saturday Review* says: "Few of the American colleges or universities attain an English or German standard. The education they give is ambitious, superficial, and therefore unsound. The most highly-boasted American institutions turn out very few scholars, though, perhaps, in porportion to their whole number of pupils, fewer dunces, than their English rivals. In like manner, the professorate, though it includes men who would do honor to any English or German university, is, on the whole, decidedly inferior in depth and thoroughness of acquirement to the teaching bodies of France, Germany, and Great Britain. But in pure science and in science applied to practical purposes the United States hold their own with any rivals. The Geological Survey of the Territories is worthy of comparison with any achievement of European engineers and geographers. The range of botany and of zoology has been not a little extended by American discoveries and investigations; and not the least important of those records of geological inquiry which have brought out new evidence in favor of the evolutionary theory came from beyond the Atlantic. American astronomers, in particular, rank with the first in the world." When we note the fact that the world most needs men whose education can be put to a practical use, we may comfort ourselves that the above is a compliment rather than otherwise.

Though it may perhaps be true that our colleges produce fewer great scholars than the universities of the Old World, they do produce more practical men.

PRINCETON seems to have a hard time of it taking care of her boys, and we begin to think that some of them are occasionally vicious. We read in the New York *Herald* of the recent arrest of a party of eight Princeton college boys, in Trenton, N. J., charged with being "drunk and disorderly." It appears that on Saturday, Jan. 20th, a large party of students entered Trenton in a four-horse sleigh, made a raid on the hotels and saloons, insulted ladies on the streets, used abusive language to the police, and, finally, got themselves into the "cooler." The boys were fined in the sum of \$100 in the aggregate, and discharged. The affair made no little stir in Trenton, where most of the boys reside. What the faculty of the college will do about it, we have not yet learned; but it would seem that the dignity and discipline of the school would demand some punishment for such disgraceful conduct. It is well enough for boys to have sport, and college boys are pardonable for being noisy; but, if the *Herald* report of the affair is not overdrawn, they ought to be asked to take a vacation in addition to the fine.

THE *Allegheny County Reporter* has just issued a neat almanac for 1879, which is presented, with the compliments of the editor, to all the patrons of the *Reporter*. For enterprise, and effort to please its readers, the *Reporter* "takes the cake."

University and Town.

MR. O. D. WILLIAMS preached before the students on Sunday, Feb. 2d.

WE suggest that the societies appoint their anniversary lecture committees at once, so that a lecturer may be secured before the most desirable speakers are employed elsewhere.

MISS PAULINE STILLMAN recently returned from a week's visit at her sister's, in Dunkirk.

It may very appropriately be said that there has been a "great run" on chapel speeches for some time past.

PROF. A. H. LEWIS recently delivered the last of a course of six lectures which he has been giving at Almond.

MR. D. H. CHAMPLIN slipped on the ice some time since, and sprained his ankle so seriously that he now wears a crutch.

PROF. SCOTT occupied the pulpit of Rev. D. K. Steele, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Almond, on Sunday, Jan. 19th.

HEREAFTER rhetorical exercises will occur on Friday afternoons, instead of Wednesday, as has for years previous been the custom.

THE plaintive notes of a phoebe bird heard on the campus a few mornings ago, assures us that "gentle Spring" is not far in the future.

THE Senior Class has adopted a constitution, and is now a permanent organization. A commendable example for the classes that succeed them.

PROF. PALMER recently left Alfred to take charge of a musical convention in the eastern part of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Palmer still remains at Alfred.

THROUGH the kindness of Prof. Coon, the Astronomy class, and quite a number of other students, were very agreeably entertained at the Observatory.

MRS. S. E. LARKIN and Miss Corinne Stillman attended the convention of the Cattaraugus County Musical Association, recently held at Alleghany, under the charge of Prof. H. R. Palmer. The convention is pronounced by Mrs. Larkin as a most gratifying success, and Prof. Palmer's ability as a musical director fully equal to his popularity as an author.

WE insert the following quotation for the benefit of delinquent subscribers to the STUDENT: To owe, is human; to pay up, divine.

A DIME CONCERT was given in the church Wednesday evening, Feb. 5th, for the benefit of the Pipe Organ fund. An excellent programme of choruses, quartettes, duetts, and solos was given, and the entertainment proved a gratifying success.

PROF. COON was confined to his house over a week, the fore part of January, with a huge carbuncle on his leg. As is usually the case with such afflictions, he undoubtedly wished it had come somewhere else, which place, had he been required to name a definite location, would probably have been on some other person.

THE following officers now preside over the Lyceums of the University: Alleghanian, Mr. F. S. Place, President, Mr. O. E. Burdick, Secretary; Alfriedian, Miss Mary L. Green, President, Miss Ollie Collins, Secretary; Orophilian; Mr. C. D. McDowell, President, Mr. W. H. Ingham, Secretary; Athenæan, Miss Nettie Sisson, President, Miss Ella White, Secretary.

PROF. SCOTT gave the first of his course of lectures on the "Comparative Statement of Hisiodic and Homeric Mythology," beginning at one o'clock Tuesday, Feb. 4th. The course is to comprise a thorough review of classical Mythology, and promises to be very instructive. Prof. Scott's attainments in Greek and Latin Classics is a sufficient guarantee that these lectures will be well worth listening to.

ONE of the many excellent weekly papers that regularly finds its way into the University Reading Room is the Sandy Creek *News*, a bright and newsy sheet, edited by Mr. Frank E. Mungor, an alumnus of the University, at Sandy Creek, Oswego Co., N. Y. Mr. Mungor graduated with the class of '75, and during the last year of his course was local editor of the STUDENT. His paper evinces a decided journalistic ability, and we predict for it continued and abundant success.

THE reading-room of the University has now a most excellent list of periodicals, carefully selected from the best papers and magazines published; and, although a ticket for the term costs only twenty-five cents, the enterprise is but sparingly patronized, compared with what it should be. In our opinion, an hour each day could not be more profitably spent than in acquiring a stock of general information, that a careful reading of these periodicals affords.

MR. T. W. WILLIAMS has removed his stock of goods from the store on the corner of Main and University streets into the new brick building below the postoffice, which has recently come into his possession. The much more ample room and excellent accommodations of his new quarters will enable him to keep a more complete stock of gents' furnishing goods, and we bespeak for him the patronage and success to which merit and business enterprise justly entitle him.

THE road from the Observatory down the hill to Main street, has, for several weeks, afforded an abundance of sport to the many students and others who are fond of "ridin' down hill." Boys and girls of the Graded school, and the older students of the University, not excepting those of the Senior Class, have entered into the sport evidently with equal spirit and enthusiasm. Those skeptically inclined have been assured that, what it lacks in dignity, it makes up in genuine fun and merriment.

THE following from the *Elmira Advertiser* is a proof of the large-hearted generosity of Prof. D. R. Ford, an honored alumnus and teacher of Alfred: "Prof. Ford, of the Elmira Female College, has for several years acceptably filled the position of pastor of the Pine City Baptist church. The salary allowed is \$700, which, for the last year's services, he voluntarily reduced to \$600. Not satisfied with that, the Professor has recently announced a further reduction of \$100 for the coming year, thereby whittling the amount down to \$500 per annum."

MR. O. D. SHERMAN, a member of the class of '75, spent over a week in and about Alfred the fore part of the past month. He has for several months been pastor of the Seventh-day Baptist church in New York City, and reports himself well pleased with his people and work. He was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry on Thursday, the 23d ult., at the church in this place, and returned to his charge the following day. That his success in the ministry may be commensurate with his genuine worth and merit, is the wish of his many friends in Alfred and elsewhere.

THE contractors of the Kenyon Memorial Hall, in their anxiety to complete the building, built some six or eight feet of the tower, together with the peaks of the gables, at so late a day that the recent thaw damaged the work so that it will be necessary to take down and rebuild several feet of the tower and the peaks of two or three of the gables. While we regret any loss of labor that has thus befallen the contractors, it is but justice to add that this misfortune will not in any way affect the solidity of the structure, nor delay the completion of the building. Neither will it add a dollar of cost to the Memorial Hall fund. The work will be postponed until the weather becomes sufficiently warm as to not affect the walls by frost.

AT the session of the Science and Art Club, held Tuesday evening, Feb. 4th, Prof. E. P. Larkin gave an interesting biographical sketch of Fielding B. Meek, the great Paleontologist.

In a paper written by Miss A. E. Stillman was given a brief history and description of the Corcoran Art Gallery at Washington. The statuary in one of the departments was described as only a patient student and genuine artist can describe such artistic treasures. It will be remembered that Miss Stillman spent a Winter studying at Washington, two or three years ago, and her paper showed that she had given the statuary described the most careful study. By a unanimous vote of the Club, she was requested to continue the subject at the next session.

At a meeting of the Regents of the University held on the 10th day of January, 1879, the annual distribution was made of \$40,000 of the income of the literature fund, among the several academies and academical departments entitled to participate therein. The following is a partial list:

Alfred University.....	\$581 75
Canisteo Academy.....	51 94
Cook Academy, Havana.....	394 76
Corning Free Academy.....	176 60
Elmira Free Academy.....	602 58
Franklin Academy, Prattsburgh.....	129 86
Friendship Academy.....	166 21
Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, Lima.....	483 06
Haverling School, Bath.....	420 73
Hornell Free Academy.....	166 21

The Alleghanians were entertained by the Orophilians on Saturday evening, Jan. 26th. Mr. F. C. Davie delivered an oration containing some excellent ideas on the preparation necessary for professional study.

Mr. S. L. Maxson read a well-written essay, entitled, "Purpose," which was followed by one of Longfellow's poems, read by E. A. Higgins.

The Lyceum paper was read by Mr. W. H. Ingham.

Prof. George Scott delivered an instructive lecture on "Homeric Ethics," which was unquestionably the principal feature of the session.

The session closed with an excellent oration by Mr. L. E. Dunn, in which were ably discussed some of the most important political issues of the day.

PROF. H. R. PALMER has our thanks for a copy of his new book, entitled, "Palmer's Book of Anthems," recently published by the well known firm of Biglow & Main, New York. The book contains a choice collection of anthems, especially adapted to church and other religious services, and is regarded by competent judges as the best book of the kind published. The large sale and exceeding popularity of Prof. Palmer's previous works is a sufficient guarantee that this one will be as favorably received by all lovers of music. To those in and about Alfred the book will be of special interest, from the fact that a large number of the

pieces which it contains were composed while Mr. Palmer has been here. It is a neatly bound book, containing two hundred pages, and will be sold at one dollar per copy. We confidently predict for it an extensive sale.

The fifty-sixth birthday of President Allen occurred on Sunday, the 26th ult., and the Senior class conceived the idea of making him a present that would be a pleasant and substantial memento of the event. Contributions were accordingly solicited, and teachers, students, and citizens generously responded. At the close of chapel exercises on the Monday morning following his birthday, Mr. F. C. Davie, President of the Senior Class, took the stage, and in a brief and appropriate speech presented him with fifty-six silver dollars, neatly arranged on a silver cake basket. President Allen, although taken entirely by surprise, accepted the present, but postponed his speech of acceptance and thanks until the formal opening of his new study and cabinet, to which all who had contributed to the amount presented were cordially invited.

The following complimentary notice of an old Alfred student, a member of the Class of '58, we clip from the *Cattaraugus Republican*: "Prof. Weston Flint, Librarian of the United States Patent Office, has just completed the complete catalogue of the Scientific Library, which is said to contain one of the most complete scientific and technological collections in this country. This great work has just been issued from the government printing office, and makes a royal catalogue volume of over seven hundred pages. It has been nearly two years in passing through the press, and the perfect plan of the work, the arrangement as to classification, so as to be readily accessible, and the vast amount of labor and ripe scholarship bestowed justly entitles this librarian to all the praise given him upon the completion of this catalogue, by literary and scientific men. This is only one of the many plans devised and carried out in the Patent Office by him. He has collected and divided the English patents among the different examiners, thus making ex-

inations for patents much more speedy, and has had a complete subject motor index of all French patents compiled, besides having nearly ready an index of Dinglor's Polytechnisches Journal, the great scientific periodical of Germany. Col. Flint is a native of this county and State, has his home here, and his many friends will be glad to learn of his success in the world of scholarship."

THE Alleghanians visited the Alfridians at their session room, Saturday evening, Feb. 1st, and were entertained with an excellent programme of exercises. After devotional exercises and music, Miss Alta Burrell read a well-written essay, which was followed by a recitation, commendably rendered by Miss Leona Burdick.

The beautiful poem, entitled, "Jairus's daughter," was nicely rendered by Miss Corinne Stillman.

The Lyceum paper, "Leaves of the Nineteenth Century," containing an excellent variety of articles, was admirably read by Miss Jennie Green.

A humorous dialogue was acted by Miss Ada Lewis, Miss Susie Burdick, and Miss Corabelle Crandall, in a manner to produce much laughter and merriment.

The valedictory, by Miss Zina Saunders, was an admirably-written production, giving a graphic and interesting sketch of a trip up the Hudson.

The exercises were interspersed with some excellent selections of vocal and instrumental music, by members of the Society, which added much to the enjoyment of the session.

THE Teachers' Association of the Second Commissioner District of Allegany County held a two-days' session in the University chapel, beginning on Thursday, Jan. 23d. We can give but a brief outline of the exercises. "School Discipline" was discussed at considerable length by various members of the Association. Miss Garette Boyce, of Whitesville, spoke for some time on "How to Increase Attendance." "Class Examinations" were discussed in a paper by Prof. A. H. Lewis, of Alma.

On Thursday evening, Prof. A. H. Lewis, of the University, delivered an able and interesting lecture, his theme being "A Plea for Permanency in the Teacher's Profession." He believes that teaching ought not to be used as a stepping-stone to some other profession, but should only be engaged in after careful, thorough preparation, and with the intention of making it a permanent business. Only those should undertake teaching who go into the work thoroughly imbued with a love for teaching, and a preparation commensurate with its importance and responsibility.

Friday's session opened with an exercise on "Primary Reading," by Mrs. Bingham, of Wellsville. Prof. Coon, who had been assigned the subject of Physiology on the programme, read an instructive paper on "The Nervous System." Prof. C. B. Macken, of Wellsville, gave an exercise on the subject of teaching Primary Grammar, using the blackboard to demonstrate his method. In an exercise on "Free-Hand Drawing," Mrs. A. A. Allen urged the importance of teachers becoming proficient in the art, and making it one of the branches taught in each school. "Object Lessons" was the subject of an instructive exercise by Mr. F. C. Davis, a Senior of the University. The recitation, "The Last Hymn," was admirably rendered by Miss Eva Allen. Prof. Larkin discussed, in a brief and pointed speech, the qualifications necessary to insure a teacher the highest success. The work of the Association closed with an excellent speech by President Allen.

The excellent music which agreeably varied the exercises was gotten up under the charge of Mrs. S. E. Larkin, and was one of the most entertaining features of the session.

Alumni Notes.

ALUMNI.

'54. Hon. John N. Davidson is farming at Wiscoy, Allegany Co., N. Y.

'61. Miss M. Grace Stillman is traveling in Europe.

'81. Hon. W. W. Brown and his family are spending the Winter at Bradford, Pa.

'83. Horace D. Baldwin is practicing law at Addison, N. Y.

'86. Rev. L. E. Livermore, and ('78) Rev. O. D. Sherman are taking lectures at the Union Theological Seminary, New York, the latter being the only post graduate.

FORMER STUDENTS.

Peter McLennan is practicing law in Syracuse.

A. N. Bullock is practicing medicine at Allegany, N. Y.

F. M. Cronkrite is postmaster at Hornellsville, N. Y.

Rev. S. M. Dayton is pastor of the M. E. Church at Wayland, N. Y.

MARRIED,

COLLINS—TEFFT—In Little Genesee, N. Y., Dec. 25th, 1878, by H. Collins, Esq., Mr. Fremont N. Collins and Miss Villa D. Tefft, both of Ward.

DIED,

HALBERT—In Bolivar, N. Y., Nov. 16th, 1878, Mrs. Maria Crandall Halbert, aged 51 years, 9 months, and 2 days.

The College World.

ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY.

Because of the storms blockading all the lines of travel, the term opened with only thirty students.

Dr. Anderson occupied the first Saturday with a lecture on "Railroad Transportation."

Prof. H. A. Ward has gone to Europe for the purpose of collecting specimens for his geological cabinet, and expects to visit South America and Algeria before his return.

The *Campus* is asking for a "Glee Club or musical association of some kind."

The question of uniting the *Interpres* and *Campus* in one publication is being discussed, and of changing the present form to that of the magazine.

The *Campus* for January is a little late. The editor was snow-bound, and so had a holiday.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

The Regents of the University, at the beginning of the year, added to the usual five days of recitation, Saturday recitations, which having been tried for a term, and nothing gained but grumbling and complaining from Professor down to Freshman, the *Æstrus* very earnestly asks that the question be reconsidered, and a return to the old order of five days for recitations be allowed.

Mr. Huffman having resigned his position as Industrial Drawing, it is hoped that the Regents will appoint Mr. J. Ross Brown, Jr., in his stead.

The *Æstrus* for Jan. 13th is issued under the direction of a new board of editors. The present board have decided not to adhere strictly to the plan of departments, but issue the paper conjointly.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY.

The University has just lost one of its old landmarks in the burning of Dempster Hall. Over thirty years ago, within its walls, began the life of the University.

The directors of the Base Ball Association have placed twenty men in training in the Gymnasium, from which to select a college nine who will go out and win laurels for the University.

On account of the seemingly approaching dissolution of the I. C. L. A., there is a proposition to form an association between Chicago University, Racine College, and Northwestern University, for the purpose of oratorical contests. It is thought that the nearness of the schools will render their meetings more successful, and lessen the expenses.

School World is a new exchange that came to us the past month from St. Louis, edited by C. H. Evans. The paper is devoted to the interests of schools in general, teachers, and scholars. The different departments are finely arranged. The Musical Department is in charge of Prof. Malmene, a graduate from Cambridge University, an instructor and composer of long experience. The Art Department is under Mr. Scuyler, a student of art, and an accomplished journalist. The present number contains the very able address of Dr. Winchell, of Syracuse, on Culture and Knowledge.

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Rev. A. A. WILLITS, D. D., Lecture, Jan. 30th.

Miss NELLA F. BROWN, of Boston, Readings,
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