1889

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Bridgewater State Normal School

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NORMAL OFFERING.

1889.
THE BRIDGEWATER NORMAL SCHOOL OF 1840.

The school was opened September 9, 1840, in the Old Town Hall, with a class of twenty-eight pupils, twenty-one of whom were ladies, under the tuition of Nicholas Tillinghast, as Principal. The next day a convention was held in Bridgewater, at which addresses were delivered by Governor Morton, Horace Mann, and others, and then the school started upon its career.

The Town Hall, pleasantly situated at the corner of Bedford and School streets, was a one-story wooden building, forty feet by fifty, standing upon a brick basement which was occupied as a dwelling. The lot and basement were owned by a citizen, and the Hall by the town. The town granted the free use of the Hall to the Normal School, for a term not exceeding three years. At the expiration of this time the Hall was sold to the owner of the lot, so that for the next three years the school lived in a hired house at a rental of fifty dollars a year.

The interior of the Hall was a large room divided by a matched board partition, without paint, extending through the middle lengthwise, and so constructed that the lower half could be raised and the whole be in one room, or this half be lowered, thus leaving the entering class with the Assistant in one room, and the second-term pupils with the Principal in the other. A small room for apparatus, and a dressing room for the ladies, completed the suite of rooms occupied by the School. The school room was furnished with the primitive style of furniture, a pine board seat with a straight back attached to the desk behind. A high platform on three sides of the room brought the teachers prominently into view before the pupils. Here, in this simple laboratory, by the sheer skill and genius of its Principal, the "experiment" of a State Normal School in the Old Colony was successfully performed. "The truth is," said Horace Mann, in 1846, "though it may seem a
paradox to say so, the Normal schools had to come to prepare a way for themselves, and to show by practical demonstration what they were able to accomplish. Like Christianity itself, had they waited till the world at large called for them, or was ready to receive them, they would never have come.”

History and Alumni Record.

GRADUATION EXERCISES.

GRADUATION day dawned bright and beautiful, bringing many visitors, including of course, friends and relatives of the graduates. The Legislative Committee on Education did not honor us with their presence, but among the visitors were Mr. Horace E. Scudder, Mr. Geo. H. Martin, Mr. A. E. Winship, Rev. J. J. Cressey, and others. The exercises were opened by brief devotional services after which the members of the graduating class illustrated the methods and principles of teaching, first; an object, illustrated by a Lesson on the Study of a Bird, by Messrs. Leonard and Abele, Misses Crandell, Gibbs, C. W. Eaton and Ellis. Second: teaching a subject, illustrated by a Lesson on Numbers, by Misses Leonard, Lantz, C. E. Colton, Harrub and C. A. Colton. Brief presentation exercises on the principles of teaching were then given by Misses Lillis, Delano, Worster, Hood, McLoud, Mr. Wilbar, Misses N. M. Thompson, Macomber, K. H. Thompson, Adams and DeNornandie. This part of the program proved of very great interest to the audience. The “Song of the Vikings” E. Fanning, was then rendered by the school under the direction of Miss Prince, followed by gymnastic exercises conducted by members of the school, under the supervision of Mr. Jackson.

After a brief recess, Principal Boyden, addressing Chairman Scudder, referred to the good health of the school during the past term, the faithful work of his associate teachers and the good results accomplished. “We have had two hundred and twenty-nine members in attendance, and of this number seventy are on the four years’ course. Our numbers are so large that we have not room for the scholars. I am happy to say however that we have plans of enlargement ready to show you, that will make ample room for the work of the school. Remember that our school has grown during the past five or six years from one hundred and seventy to the present number, which gives us fifty-nine more in regular attendance than we had. Our boarding hall has been more than full; twenty or thirty who desire to come in have to find places outside the hall.

To the graduating class:

“I welcome you today as you assemble to receive your diplomas from the Commonwealth. It brings you into a different relation than you have before occupied. Now you go out as teachers to take your place, and you will personally stand as a centre of influence and power for good or evil, and I hope it will be for good. I welcome you to the teachers’ fraternity of this state. Do all that you can for others, remembering that by so doing you are helping yourself. I ask you as you go forth into these ranks to remember your Alma Mater. Our ranks are constantly being broken. Some are going into different professions. The boys and girls you are to deal with are soon to be men and women, and it depends upon your influence and proper training of their minds what kind of a community we shall have. It is your duty to seek to improve the quality of the character of the child. Now I give you these words in closing: make the most and best of yourselves, by doing the most and best you can for others, especially the children.”

Chairman Scudder then presented diplomas to the following members of the graduating class: Marguerite Louise Lillis, Clara Emveste Colton, Nellie Maude Thompson, Helen Jackson Gibbs, Emily Drew Delano, Merton Channing Leonard, Anna Ingalls Crandell, Julia Anna Ellis, Annie Augusta Macomber, Mary Adelaide Worster, Mary Louise Harrub, Francis Abele, Jr., Carrie Alma Colton, Lottie Augusta Hood, Kate Hamilton Thompson, Clara Williams Eaton, Bertha Christena Leonard, Annie Isabel Lantz, Chester Howard Wilbar, Abby Winslow McLoud, Susan Yardley DeNornandie, Alice Pettee Adams.

Mr. Scudder then said: “I feel a strong interest in the Normal School of Bridgewater, and also in those who are associated with it. If there was anything the matter with the school I should be the first to mention it. I think that you ought to have the limits of your building extended. No
teacher or pupil can work well in a tight place. If you do not obtain the needed improvements it certainly will not be for want of an exact statement of what you need. I hope we shall get the necessary appropriation.

This graduating class, which is now a unit in purpose, is soon to be broken up. Whatever you may have as your individual plans in life, there is no doubt but what you are all looking forward to teaching. You have not been learning things here day by day for your own good merely, but that others may receive them in turn from you. You have got rid of the idea that education is merely ornamental. To those about to enter the actual work of teaching, I would especially recommend the subject of reading in the public schools. I would ask you to try the experiment in your own schools. I think that no person who has learned to read will ever forget how to do it. If one reads well, it gives pleasure both to himself and to his hearers. This power can only be acquired by long and arduous labor, and you certainly will not waste the time of your pupils if you give a fair proportion of it to reading.” Mr. Scudder here called upon Mr. Leonard, a pupil of the school nearly fifty years ago, to say a few words.

Mr. Leonard spoke warmly of the scenes and recollections of half a century ago. He was a member of the first graduating class, which consisted of eight or ten students. In addressing these Horace Mann said, “Upon you depends the success or failure of the Normal School method.” “We resolved to succeed or die in the attempt” said Mr. Leonard, “and I think every one of us did his best, although in many places at that time Normal teachers were looked upon as little better than maniacs.” Mr. White followed Mr. Leonard with a few appropriate remarks.

Mr. A. E. Winship said: “I want to say a few words for the encouragement of these pupils. I remember when our class had been here one year we began to look forward to graduation. One of the ambitious boys said that he would not stop teaching until he received six hundred dollars a year. We all laughed at him, but I guess none of us stopped until we had received that. * * The work in all our schools should be to stand pupils upon their feet; to blend the activities of the pupil into the forces surrounding him so that he shall work in harmony with them; to make the pupil loyal to destiny.” Mr. Winship spoke feelingly of the good influences exerted by his early teachers in the Normal School, especially by Miss Woodward. In closing Mr. Winship referred to the success of Supt. Howland of Chicago, in reading standard selections to the pupils of the public schools.

Mr. Geo. H. Martin made as usual, a brief but felicitous speech, and Rev. J. J. Cressey spoke a few words of encouragement to the graduates.

The valedictory of the two years’ course, was delivered by Miss Kate Hamilton Thompson of Exeter, N. H., who read an essay entitled, “How Shall we Teach.” Miss Susan Yardley DeNormandie of Kingston, valedictorian of the four years’ course, read an essay on “Arabian Influence on European Civilization.” The exercises of the day were closed by singing.

THE usual social reception was held in the evening from seven to ten o’clock.

THE graduating class has presented the school with twenty-five dollars for the use of the library. It is probable that within a year the school will have a library worthy of any Normal School, plans having been made for a two-story building, to be devoted to library uses.

SENIOR RECEPTION.

THE usual Senior Reception was held by Mr. and Mrs. Boyden in their parlors, Friday evening, Jan. 18th. The guests from outside the school were Miss Keith and Miss Holden from the School of Observation, and Mr. Geo. H. Martin and wife.

After supper in the dining hall, short addresses were made by Mr. A. C. Boyden, Mr. Murdock, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Martin. Of the graduates, Messrs. Abele, Wilbar and Leonard, and Misses K. H. Thompson, N. M. Thompson and DeNormandie spoke a few appropriate words. The reception closed with mutual good wishes from teachers and pupils.

We regret that we are unable to fill the numerous orders for the January number of the Offering.
The Normal Offering.

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The Offering is strictly a school paper, and all members of the school are requested to contribute.

Ex-members and graduates of the school are requested to keep us informed of their whereabouts, and of any other items of interest.

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The Editors reserve the privilege of rejecting any articles which are not deemed satisfactory.

HENRY T. PRATT, Printer, Bridgewater, Mass.

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With the present number the Offering passes under the management of a new Board of Editors, the members of the old Board having retired from their position, with the exception of Miss Bosworth, whose aid has already proved invaluable to the new Board. So striking has been the success of the Offering under the retiring management that it would be superfluous for us to mention it, but we cannot forbear to call attention to the quiet but effective labors of Editor Gurney. Always courteous and obliging, never in a hurry, yet always finishing his work on time, the method and quality of his work may well be imitated by his successors. Mr. Gurney found in his assistants and in the Faculty most efficient co-workers in devising valuable features for the Offering. We are sure our readers will unite with us in saying to each member of the retiring Board, "well done good and faithful servant." It only remains for the new Board to hope for the same hearty support and generous aid from the teachers, students and graduates of the school, which the Offering has received in the past.

The admirable series of articles, contributed by the Faculty, entitled "Valuable Reference Books for a Teachers' Library" will confer little benefit on those who merely glance over them but do not use them. We need to do more collateral reading on nearly all the subjects in the curriculum and we are here given an excellent opportunity to read the best books on each subject, selected by those who have the ability to judge of their merits. Of course the hackneyed excuse of "no time" will be given, but certainly the student has as much time, as the teacher in active service. Perhaps a plan now in operation in some High schools and colleges would be useful. Reading societies are formed, and a certain definite amount of extra reading is required, if possible, in a given time. After the reading is completed a few well chosen questions are put, which serve to test the fidelity and intelligence with which the students have pursued their reading. Such a plan often succeeds in keeping those up to good work, who if reading individually and without the inspiration afforded by cooperation, would soon tire of it and perhaps give it up altogether.

To the members of the entering class the Offering extends its heartiest greeting, confident that they will appreciate the exceptional advantages now at their disposal, and that falling into the spirit of Normal work, they will make the few short years of their stay here, a period of growth and preparation in all that shall make them useful members of the large body of public
THE NORMAL OFFERING.

school teachers, upon whose efforts the future well-being of our nation so largely depends.

THE Offering asks the cooperation of all the members of the entering class in keeping our school paper a success. Contribute something, if only a question for the Students' Column. Putting your thoughts on paper cultivates the power of close, connected thought and definite expression, and is a direct aid in preparation for class work.

FOLLOWING an intention of Editor Gurney we have instituted a students' column, in which all questions concerning the best methods of work and related subjects will be considered. We ask the cooperation of teachers and students in making this feature a valuable one.

WE have received, too late for publication in this number interesting articles from the wild West and the wooly South, and one from Northeastern Aroostook. They will appear in future numbers of the OFFERING.

WHAT TEACHERS TALK ABOUT.

Editor Normal Offering:

The inquiry in your paper some time ago, as to the best way to prevent truancy, seems to require an answer from one who has suffered from its effects. I am aware that my method is not found in the Teachers' Manual but it has proved very effective in a country school.

Every three months a reception is given to all those pupils who have not been absent without a written excuse during that period. These receptions are held Saturday afternoons and always some simple amusement is planned.

If there is anything in this method contrary to right principles of teaching, I should wish to be told so. It certainly makes a great difference in attendance.

What standard works can be read by children from eight to twelve years old?

Is suspension the best means of punishment for a Grammar school boy?

STUDENTS' COLUMN.

A student has mathematics and two or more languages to study the same evening, is it best to study the languages in succession, or to alternate with mathematics?

Are long, early morning walks to be recommended?

Should hard study be indulged in before breakfast?

We would suggest that in each of the above instances, the questioner should try the experiment and give the readers of the OFFERING his (or her) inferences.

CURRENT ARTICLES ON EDUCATION.


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ART HANDBOOKS.

THE NORMAL OFFERING.

Is stenography a required study in any of the Normal or High schools of the state, and if so, in what schools is it required?

A. N.

ENTERING CLASS, FEB. 1889.


DEPARTMENTS.

ZOOLOGY.

The members of the class continuing the advanced study through the term were Mr. Farnham, Miss Dean, Miss Bosworth, and Miss McLoud. The dissecting work which formed the last part of the half term's study, was carried on according to the general plan of work outlined in Brooks' Invertebrate Zoology. The digestive, circulatory, respiratory, and nervous systems of the snail, squid, star-fish, earthworm and seaworm were thoroughly studied, after which the study of Microscopy was taken up.

The first work was upon microscopic slides and consisted of cleansing slides and glasses, making cells in cement and mounting sections of specimens in glycerine jelly. A similar plan was followed with dry mounts of butterfly wings, one specimen of each genus being mounted. An aquarium was kept by each pupil, who supplied it with specimens from neighboring rivers and ponds. Observations on the habits of each specimen were carefully made and noted, with drawings. The microscopic specimens will be mounted for the use of the school. The class will continue its work this term, under the direction of Mr. A. C. Boyden.

PERSONALS.

—Miss Mary Worster teaches at Hanson.
—Miss Bertha Leonard has a situation at Westport.
—Miss Isabelle Winslow (June '88) is teaching the Richmond school, Taunton.
—Miss Annie Macomber is an assistant in the Winthrop St. primary department, Taunton.
—Our list of visitors this month includes the following teachers from New York state: Dr. Palmer, Principal Normal School, Fredonia, Dr. Milne and Prof. Schmidt from the State Normal School at Genesee, and Mr. Cook, Principal of Normal School at Potsdam.

The number of familiar faces at the graduation exercises was less than usual. Among the former members of the school we noticed Miss Alice Nelson, Miss Martha Rich, Miss Martha Alden, Miss Maude Field, Miss Nellie Bennett, Miss Alice Hammond, Mr. John Lillis, Mr. Wetherbee and Mr. Speare.

LOCALS.

—Born to rule—a bookkeeper.
—Old moons die of moonlight.
—Grammar students advance by declining.
—Great Caesar! was that Hopkins?—Shakespeare.

—It was stated recently in a class that Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston when quite young.

—for the Civil Government class. Is it the duty of Justice of the Peace to preserve the remains of a broken peace?

—Soon will the sound of the pitch pipe be heard in the land, and A will follow C in defiance of all natural and logical order.

—Professor,—“What is Geography?” Observant student,—“Geography is the knowledge which has for its object the earth.”

—Teacher (in grammar class), “Express the idea, contained in the following sentence in other words. ‘Necessity is the mother of invention.’” Student,—“Invention is the daughter of necessity.”
THE NORMAL OFFERING.

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THE noon hour seems to be the favored time for theological and philosophical discussion among a certain section of the train students. It is said that the matters discussed are not more weighty than the judgements passed thereon.

The regular Lyceum meeting occurred Jan. 11. The usual debate was omitted, and a musical and literary entertainment was given. The selections were all from Tennyson and rendered in a pleasing manner. Several responded to encores.

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