

The M. A. C. Record.

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A Day at the Botanical Department.

At 8 o'clock in the morning we find Prof. Beal and Mr. Longyear preparing sections for the use of the class of sophomores in plant anatomy, which comes from 9 until 11 a. m.

For a portion of the next hour Mr. Longyear is preparing work for another section of students, which meets at 1 o'clock and works two hours. At the same time Prof. Beal is preparing work for the special-course-students in horticulture, who also come at 1 o'clock for a lecture or for laboratory work.

Prof. Wheeler, on alternate days at 1 p. m., has the special-course students in dairying and live-stock husbandry, and is giving them many valuable hints in regard to botany.

We find five seniors, more or less, about the laboratory during the afternoon, working on their theses.

McLouth, '97, is counting, weighing and sorting out the weed seeds from samples of clover seed obtained from dealers in different parts of the State. He is in the laboratory at various times during the day working along this line.

For two hours or more in the afternoon, Butterfield, '97, is making comparisons of the grains of the cereals as his thesis work.

Shaw, '97, is growing seeds and making drawings and notes of seeds and seedlings of the weeds of two families, Cruciferae or Mustard family and Compositae.

Green, '97, is working on the various fungi that attack the stone fruits. He has worked steadily two hours a day for the past three weeks thus far on one fungus, drawing and taking notes and experimenting by growing the spores in different substances, and has not finished with it yet.

Cartland's subject is the distribution of the fruit of the basswood in the fall and winter by the aid of wind, snow and the like. He calls from time to time to report his progress.

In this department we find each day 36 agricultural sophomores, who come in three divisions for laboratory work. Each student requires prepared specimens for his study, which require much patient work on the part of the instructor. Of the special-course students, we find 55 assembled each day, which includes four of five special-students who are making up the subject.

These, with the students who are working at thesis work, make in all about 95 assembled each day for instruction in this department, and this isn't much of a term for botany, either.

We are agreeably surprised with the interest and attention shown by the special-course students in their work. Every one seems ready and even more than ready to do his level best.

Prof. Beal is trying to find a little extra time to help look after the drafting of a bill for the purpose of printing the proceedings of the State Academy of Science and another in the interest of Michigan forestry.

Prof. Wheeler has spent much of his time lately in the sorting and placing of several thousand sheets of herbarium specimens that Mr. Skeels, '98, mounted during the last vacation.

With what spare time they can find, Prof. Wheeler and Mr. Longyear are cornered in one room of the laboratory

trying to bring order out of chaos by sorting, naming and arranging the seemingly numberless specimens of mushrooms and toadstools strewn about the room. They no sooner seem to have made a fair start then either the one or the other will go and get as many more from some place. These two gentlemen have such a strong bent that soon all the new books to be purchased by this department will be chosen pertaining to this subject.

Owing to the work being done by Prof. Wheeler and Mr. Longyear along this line, almost every week adds a new fiend or crank, as they are called by some, to the list of those who are enthused with the work. The latest convert is none other than the well-known student of Greenville, Mr. Barlow, '99. He is not only collecting all the specimens that he can find here at the College, but has sent home asking friends to send him all specimens that they may chance to find.

Mr. Pettitt calls in every day or two to bring some new and interesting specimen or to suggest some new method of putting up and preserving specimens that he may have found. Messrs. Gunson and Durkin do the same quite frequently.

HART.

Institutes.

STOCKBRIDGE.

The opening session was very slimly attended and late in calling to order. This was doubtless due to the sudden change of weather and very rough condition of the roads. The interest taken in the papers and discussions was not lacking even in the forenoon sessions. The afternoon and evening sessions were well attended. Of the Monday evening session, Mrs. Mayo said it was the best meeting she had attended in her twenty years of institute experience: that agriculture cannot be raised higher than the agriculturist, and it was such meetings as this which are going to raise the standard of farming. The papers which prompted this remark were "Character Building," by Mrs. B. E. Thompson of Stockbridge, and "Choosing a Profession," by J. T. Campbell of Mason. The discussion was led by Rev. J. H. McIntosh and Prof. J. Cook, Mrs. Mayo and H. E. Van Norman.

The talks by R. M. Kellogg of Three Rivers and J. L. Shawver of Ohio were particularly well received.

The claims made for Stockbridge hospitality by Rev. J. H. McIntosh in his address of welcome seemed a little extravagant, but they were fully justified. The ladies served an excellent dinner in the basement of the town hall. It was exceptionally neat and tastily arranged and served for a dinner of the kind and place.

There were several invitations for the location of next year's institute. The preference for Mason was expressed by vote of the society.

ADRIAN.

On Wednesday afternoon the good-roads question came in for a considerable discussion. The general opinion seemed to be that no change in existing laws is necessary, but that more care in choosing pathmasters should be exercised. In the evening President Thomas of Adrian College, who took such an active part in the institute

last year, was again present and participated in the exercises. The principal addresses of the evening were "Business Sense in Farming," by Hon. Wm. Ball, and "My Experience in Farming," by E. J. Smith.

A large crowd attended the Thursday sessions. Resolutions looking to the reduction of county expenses were adopted, as also were resolutions favoring the enactment of an anti-oleo-color law, and the passage of the Jibb bill now pending. A third "resolve" favored the Grout bill now before congress. The merits of alfalfa as a forage plant were discussed at the afternoon session. Dr. Grange's talk on "The Structure of the Milk Glands of the Cow, and Diseases Peculiar to Them" was well received and thoroughly discussed. "Farm Fences," by M. W. Fulton, also came in for a generous discussion.

Notwithstanding the intense cold weather, there was a fair attendance at the institute at Hillsdale. Institutes were also held at Ionia and Wayne during a part of last week.

The Day of Prayer for Colleges.

The observance of this day, so widely recognized by the colleges throughout the land, was appropriately conducted at the M. A. C. Notwithstanding the inclement weather which prevailed last Thursday, the chapel was well filled with students and other College residents interested in the exercises of the day. The sermon was preached by Dr. Dan. F. Bradley of the First Congregational church of Grand Rapids, and was followed by a brief address from Rev. A. S. Zimmerman of Lansing.

Dr. Bradley's discourse was well adapted to the day and the occasion. "The chief need of the times," he emphasized, "is more broadly educated men. Men who can touch society in many places and be useful to it in many ways." The Christian ideal of manhood and womanhood was presented as the ideal which will lead to this much desired broadness of character.

The speaker congratulated the audience upon its "good fortune in living in a Christian land—a land not dominated by Buddhist or materialistic belief, but one in which Christian influences prevailed."

Besides this principal service commemorative of the day, the society of King's Daughters held a prayer service during the afternoon, while the day was fittingly closed by a special prayer meeting at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Acetylene Gas.

A great deal of interest is now being taken in acetylene gas as an illuminating gas, and several companies have been experimenting with the object of reducing the cost of manufacturing calcium carbide, from which the gas is liberated by applying water, so as to bring it into competition with other illuminating gases. M. F. Loomis, '94, is traveling for one of these companies, the Chicago Acetylene and Carbide Co. Last week he exhibited this company's generator at the chemical laboratory and gave us some interesting facts regarding his work.

The company proposes to put the gas

on the market by organizing state stock companies to handle it exclusively. Mr. Loomis is at present engaged in traveling from city to city in Michigan for the purpose of advertising the gas. He sets up his generator and starts it going for the purpose of showing the illuminating power of the gas. It is certainly very brilliant, having about 15 times the candle power of ordinary gas. Machines can be placed in any house and the ordinary gas piping used, but special burners are necessary.

As to the cost, Mr. Loomis claims that the gas can be put on the market at one-fourth the cost per candle power of ordinary gas or electric light. He showed a copy of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* for April which contained a record of tests made by J. T. Morehead and G. De Chalmont, at Spray, N. C., showing that the carbide could be produced at a cost of less than \$25 per ton. His company controls patents on a constant feed furnace, by the use of which they hope to reduce the cost still lower. The company has also an excellent water power at Chippewa Falls, Wis. It is now producing 1,000 horse power at a cost of \$4 per horse power, and has an option on several thousand horse power at \$1 per horse power. Mr. Loomis is firm in his belief that acetylene gas is to "light the world."

The Chicago M. A. C. Association.

The Chicago M. A. C. association will hold its second annual reunion and dinner on Saturday evening, Feb. 27, 1897. All former students at M. A. C., whether residents of Chicago or not, are invited to attend. In addition to the dinner there will be a reception for friendly greetings and the renewal of old acquaintanceships.

Nearly forty M. A. C. men, representing fifteen different classes, now reside in Chicago. Of course every one of these will be in attendance. Assurances have also been received that several of the oldest graduates of the College, living outside of Chicago, and two or more members of the faculty, will come. The date of the reunion is fixed for Saturday evening in the hope and expectation that many of those who are teaching or who live at a distance from Chicago may attend without loss of time. Genial fellowship, the renewal of college ties and a good dinner are promised, and it is hoped that the success and enthusiasm of the first reunion held last winter may be repeated this year.

The secretary, Ray S. Baker, room 17, *The Record*, Chicago, Ill., is desirous of hearing at once from every former student of the College who can come.

The Alumni Library.

A few months ago Mrs. Landon began to collect the works that have been published by our graduates, with the object in view of building up an alumni library, separate from the general library. Many works from the hands of our graduates are already in the general library, but when one happens to run across them he does not know they are the work of graduates of M. A. C. unless he happens to be acquainted with the writers. So it is desired that all who have written a book or pamphlet of any kind will con-

tribute a copy of the same for this special library. Several have already generously responded, but there are many more to hear from. We want our collection to be complete before the Triennial Reunion. Send us your book; we shall be proud of it and grateful for it, and you will have sent back to old M. A. C. the sequel to your College record.

At the College.

E. A. Calkins, '98, is able to be about the grounds again.

Mrs. M. L. Dean is spending two weeks with her mother in Grand Rapids.

Miss Lillian Wheeler returned, Friday, from a visit of two weeks in Chicago.

A sleighing party of about twenty-five Lansing pupils visited the College Friday last.

Miss Bixby of Springport was the guest of D. E. Hoag, '99m, last Friday and Saturday.

G. A. Bunting, '00, left for Buffalo last Friday, where he will take studies in the Hamburg Academy.

The Agricultural College committee in the house has reported favorably on the College appropriation bill.

The recent cold snap kept the firemen at the boiler house so busy that they have had to neglect the electric lights.

The College has purchased a dynamo of 110 light capacity to take the place of the one now used to light the library.

J. H. Brown, editor of the *Michigan Farmer*, gave a lecture to the special students Thursday on the care of the dairy herd.

The Columbian society gave a hop in their club rooms in Wells hall Saturday evening and entertained the co-eds of the College.

The Y. W. C. A. of the College united with the Y. W. C. A. of Lansing in the Sunday afternoon service of the latter association.

The botanical department expects to make a large display of drawings and specimens at the round-up institute at St. Louis in March.

The pump used to supply the College with water has recently undergone repairs. New piston rods, plungers, and plunger casings were added.

Miss Lou Kellum of Lansing has been engaged as private clerk and stenographer to the secretary, in place of Mrs. Bernice Polhemus, resigned.

The King's Daughters will meet with Miss Baldwin tomorrow afternoon. It is "pound week." Lesson, Psalms XV. Text, "Endurance." Leader, Mrs. Elderkin.

Lieut. H. H. Bandholtz, accompanied by his wife, left Thursday for Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to take an examination for promotion from second to first lieutenant.

In our last issue there was an error in the date given for the debate between the Natural History Society and the Lansing Science Club. The debate will be held Feb. 12, instead of Feb. 2, as announced.

E. D. Brown, '00, wishes to undeceive those who have got the impression that he is the nephew of the renowned John Brown. He says that his "only 'uncle' in the Brown line happens to be an aunt."

The second of a series of informal hops was given in the armory last Friday evening from 8 p. m. to 11:30 p. m. Good sleighing and delightful

winter weather lent to the success of the affair. About fifty couples were in attendance. Bristol's orchestra furnished music.

Hon. Mortimer Levering, secretary of the National Shropshire Breeders Association of the United States gave two lectures to the special students and juniors in the agricultural laboratory Friday. One was on Shropshire sheep and the other on the selection of a dairy bull.

Prin. Quackenbush and about forty of his high school pupils—his class in physics and a few others—in response to an invitation from Prof. Woodworth, visited the College last Friday evening. They were shown the physical apparatus and X ray, after which President Snyder took them through the women's department.

The horticultural department is sending out a large number of circulars of inquiry regarding the San José scale to the various fruit growers throughout the state. The circulars both ask information regarding the extent to which the San José scale has spread and its depredations, and also give information regarding its appearance and its prevention and extermination.

Married, Thursday evening, January 28, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Driggs, Lansing, Mrs. Bernice Driggs Polhemus to Prof. Dean Bliss. Mr. and Mrs. Bliss will go at once on a concert tour for eight weeks, after which they will take up their residence in Detroit. Mrs. Polhemus has been for nearly two years stenographer in the secretary's office at the College and has made many friends among College people.

The mechanical department have recently added to their valuable equipment a model which embodies all the kinematic features of the engine, showing clearly the actions of the plain slide valve, the slide valve with riding cut-off, the double ported valve, and the Corliss valve gear. The angular advance and throw are adjustable, and the student is able to acquire valuable knowledge of the principles governing the setting of valves.

Last Thursday was Dr. Kedzie's 74th birthday anniversary and also the 34th anniversary of his appointment as professor of chemistry at M. A. C. In the evening his daughter, Mrs. Ella Kedzie, surprised him by giving an informal reception in honor of the occasion, which was attended by nearly all members of the faculty and their families and the sub faculty. The doctor was at his best and entertained the company with many reminiscences of "ye olden times."

Hon. C. J. Monroe visited the College last Thursday and gave us a very pleasant chapel talk. He spoke of his trip to eastern experiment stations and of the pleasure he had in meeting M. A. C. graduates in many places. At Geneva, N. Y., there were five, all enthusiastic workers. In New Jersey and Delaware he found the experiment station workers very much wrought up over the ravages of the San José scale. Referring briefly to Michigan's vast resources, he spoke encouragingly of the prospects for broad and useful work for our young men and women, but warned them, also, to husband life's forces so as to attain a ripe old age of usefulness.

After the football is over,
After the field is clear,
Straighten my nose and shoulder;
Help me to find my ear.

—Spare Moments.

Twenty-one Years of Institute Work.

ALLEGAN.

From the *Allegan Democrat* of January 13 we clip the following report of the celebration of the twenty-first anniversary of Farmers' Institutes in Michigan, including an abstract from Dr. Kedzie's address:

Perhaps the most interesting session during the two days of the institute was that held Monday evening; this being the twenty-first anniversary of the starting of the farmers' institute in this state. There were nine gentlemen present who had participated in the first institute, Jan. 11, 1876. These were R. C. Kedzie of the College, General B. D. Pritchard, chairman of the evening, N. W. Lewis of Gobleville, J. B. Buck of Monterey, E. W. Robinson of Fennville; G. W. Grigsby, L. A. Lilly, O. L. Holton and Ezra Brackett, all of Allegan. Gen. Pritchard was also chairman of the first institute held in Allegan.

The session was opened by music by the Allegan Grange choir and a recitation by Miss Ethel Mickok. General Pritchard then gave a few brief remarks in reference to the holding of the first institute, after which he introduced Dr. Kedzie, who was to deliver an address on the "Starting of the Institute."

We are unable to give at this time the entire address, but the substance of it is as follows:

"Twenty-one years ago today, the first farmers' institute was held at this place, a corresponding institute being held at the same time at Armada. These institutes were the inauguration of a class of farmers' meetings that have been held every winter in Michigan since that date, and have spread into nearly every state of our Union, and in some foreign countries. They have continually increased in popular favor and no state has abandoned them after giving them fair trial. The good that has been accomplished through the farmers' institutes cannot be told by words or measured by figures; they have come to stay and they will shed the dew of their blessing upon our people when the place of their origin shall be forgotten."

"It is fitting, therefore, on this twenty-first anniversary of the institutes at this place, where they were first placed on trial, to look back upon their starting and trace some of the influences that brought the farmers' institutes into being as a force in the agriculture, the horticulture, as well as the social life of Michigan."

Dr. Kedzie then reviewed at length the incidents leading up to the establishing of the Agricultural College at Lansing. The act appropriating money for the establishing of the College was passed in 1855. At that time Ingham county was nearly an unbroken wilderness. The southern counties were seriously offended by the locating of a college and experimental farm in the woods and were hostile to the scheme. Their opposition was a heavy load for the College and hampered its usefulness for many years. How to remove this unfriendly feeling was a matter for earnest discussion in the faculty. It was not until 1875 that a line of action was decided upon. After considerable work the Board of Agriculture was prevailed upon to take charge of a series of farmers' institutes to be held in different parts of the state with a view to bringing the College into closer touch with the farmers. It was with some misgivings the state board adopted the plan and a committee was appointed to arrange for six farmers' institutes. The public took

up the place for these meetings in a generous spirit. Applications came in large numbers for the institutes and before the final arrangements were made more than thirty applications were on file. The public was ready for the new departure, and looking back twenty-one years it is hard to believe that serious doubts were entertained about their success.

"The College team sent to the Allegan institute consisted of Profs. Fairchild, Cook and Kedzie and R. C. Carpenter. The president of the institute was Gen. Pritchard and the secretary, E. C. Reid."

"The first meeting was January 11, 1876, twenty-one years ago this evening. Rev. J. Sailor conducted the opening exercises, after which Prof. Fairchild delivered a lecture on 'Education, who need it and who can afford it,' following which an essay by Henry I. Clubb, on 'Fruit Growing in Michigan,' was read by Secretary Reid."

"The next morning Dr. Kedzie gave a talk on 'Lightning Rods,' and a lecture on 'Muck,' and Mr. Julius Tomlinson read an essay on 'Shall Farmers Keep Bees' which was full of sharp points and sweetness. Mr. William Cummings followed with an essay on 'Long Woolled Sheep.'"

"In the afternoon Prof. Cook gave a lecture on 'Fruit or Insects—Which?' J. A. Anderson followed with a paper on 'Breeding and Feeding Swine.' Mr. Henry Schultes then read a paper on 'Raising Hay and Fattening Cattle,' which closed the exercises for the afternoon."

"The closing session of the institute was Wednesday evening when R. C. Carpenter gave a lecture on 'Road Making.' Richard Ferris then read a paper on 'Cutting and Curing Hay.' The closing exercise was an essay by Hon. A. S. Dyckman, member of the board, on 'Thinning Fruit.'"

"The essays and papers contributed by the farmers of Allegan and vicinity were valuable and timely and elicited valuable discussion in every instance. The meetings were crowded and the interest unabated from first to last. The institute was a success."

"The president of the institute, Gen. Pritchard, closed the meeting with a few appropriate remarks, pronouncing a kind of benediction over the pleasant and most profitable meeting ever held by Allegan county farmers."

"Such in brief is the rise of the Farmers' Institute. It has survived all the doubts and fears of its infancy, and has grown to lusty manhood, for it is 'of age' tonight, twenty-one years old. No one challenges its right to be, and it is more strongly entrenched in the hearts of the people than ever before. Long may it live and prosper!"

ARMADA.

Abstract of an Address by
DR. W. J. BEAL.

Of the four speakers who were first assigned to attend this institute as representatives of the College, three have gone to their long home, viz., President Abbot, Professor A. B. Gulley and Mr. C. L. Ingersoll. I alone am left. One of the substitutes for that occasion, Secretary Baird, and Mrs. Alice Garfield, the young bride of the other substitute, have also crossed the river.

Although an institute was held at Allegan at the same time one was held at Armada, yet Armada may be counted as first, owing to the fact of making the earliest application.

The idea of holding farmers' institutes did not originate at the Agricul-

tural College, but was borrowed from the state of Illinois, which had held them with success for four years, beginning in 1872. Hon. J. M. Gregory, President of Illinois University, at one time Superintendent of Public Instruction in this State, was the man to execute the scheme of holding farmers' institutes in the State of Illinois.

Let us glance at a catalog of the Agricultural College for the year 1876.

Among the names of the members of the State Board of Agriculture was that of Hon. George W. Phillips of Romoe, and chairman of one of the first farmers' institutes of Michigan. He served from 1871 to 1883, a period of twelve years, and performed his duties with earnestness and eminent success, well nigh to devotion. At that time there were ten professors and assistants on the faculty roll and 164 students. Of those ten persons, only two are left, Dr. R. C. Kedzie and the person who addresses you; four of the remaining eight have died, three resigned to accept positions commanding better salaries.

At that time there was only one course of study, and that was known as the agricultural course.

Since then the interest from the national land grant has increased from \$16,000 per year to \$30,000; besides the United States government gives money for the support of the College amounting this year to \$22,000, and \$15,000 annually for the support of an experiment station.

In 1876, and for many years after, only six institutes a year were held, with a very small fund for defraying some of the expenses, but for last year and the present year \$5,000 per year have been placed in the hands of the State Board of Agriculture for conducting seventy or more institutes annually.

The last catalog contains the names of 28 professors and assistants and 393 students, with an attendance considerably larger during the present college year. There have been added a department of mechanical engineering and a course for women of equal rank with the agricultural course, and four special courses in as many special lines of agriculture and horticulture.

The strengthening and extension of the farmers' institutes has been referred to, and the addition of the experiment station, which sends gratis to 20,000 farmers a dozen or more bulletins each year. The farm home reading circle has been in successful operation for several years.

The teaching of agriculture after many changes and tribulations has been much strengthened in many respects; among them an extension of the time devoted to agriculture, horticulture and allied sciences. Instruction in the dairy is now excellent; veterinary science extends daily through the year; bacteriology is well equipped; the grass garden and weed garden, as departments of a botanic garden, have been enlarged and perfected; the horticultural department has more than doubled its area in cultivation, has erected three more greenhouses, installed a plant for experiments in irrigation; instruction in political economy and civil government has been perfected; systematic instruction in military tactics is regularly given by an officer detailed by the government; the College farm and the campus have been much improved; a weekly journal, known as THE M. A. C. RECORD, is edited by the faculty and students.

Another improvement at the College is worthy of especial mention. The numerous institutes cannot be entirely

supplied with speakers from the College faculty, as they must teach their classes at the College. To supply this deficiency, if we may be warranted in calling it a deficiency, a goodly number of bright and successful men and women from various portions of the state are employed to present topics with which they are most familiar, not only at numerous institutes, but some of them to the agricultural classes at the College. The institute work, like the Farm Home Reading Circle, must be considered in the line of College extension work—legitimate work carried to the neighborhoods where farmers live.

In 1876 the mail was carried once a day to and from Lansing by a student on foot, but for several years past there has been a postoffice at the College, with mails each way twice a day, and a very large amount of mail matter is handled at the College, making it only second to that of Lansing in Ingham county.

In 1876 students and visitors passed over the long three miles of poor road from Lansing to the College either on foot, by stage, or perhaps they were fortunate enough to get a lift from some passing farmer's team.

For some years past all this has been changed. For five cents there is an opportunity three times an hour each way to go from the College to Lansing or return. A trip occupies about fifteen minutes.

The visitor who has been absent for twenty-one years will be bewildered and astonished at the changes that have taken place at the College. He is often somewhat puzzled to find landmarks enough to really get his bearings. Some buildings have been moved, others enlarged or otherwise improved, and a good many have been erected since 1876.

In 1876 Dr. T. C. Abbot was president of the College, and in the prime of a busy and useful life. The College was most fortunate in retaining his services for a period of nearly thirty years—in fact his name appeared as a member of the faculty for thirty-one years. He served as president for twenty-two years, while for the other eighteen years six different persons have served as president.

Alfred B. Gulley, another member of the faculty delegated to speak at the first institute at Armada, was professor of agriculture for nearly two years and resigned at his own suggestion to resume work on his farm. He was a most genial man, who rarely, if ever, made an enemy, while his warm friends were numerous.

He was succeeded by C. L. Ingersoll, who served as foreman and professor of agriculture for a period of four years. There have been seven professors of agriculture during the past thirty-one years, and four others acted as superintendent of the farm during the other nine years, making eleven persons at the head of the farm department for a period of forty years, an average of about three and two-thirds years for each person.

In glancing at the topics which were placed on the program of the first farmers' institute, we find them much the same as topics discussed today. There has been some progress, but young people are all the time taking the places of those who have retired from active life, and the old, old stories must be repeated at institutes.

The method of conducting institutes has been considerably improved, and the expenses for securing the same amount of good work have been diminished. This has been accomplished by employing a superintendent who attends to many details heretofore del-

egated to a number of other people who did not always act on the same plan. The railroads of the state grant half fare; one crew or company of persons passes from place to place in a certain section of the state and save expense of time and money and worry. More attention has been given to illustrations and exhibits at institutes; the cooking school as a section for instructing the women has been found successful,—also the section for women, in which they discuss topics of especial value to themselves and their children.

Although institutes have now been held for 21 years, Michigan has been rather conservative when compared with some of the neighboring states. Our institutes are run on the cheap or economical plan, not costing half as much for each as is expended in Wisconsin and Minnesota. They indulge in some luxuries, such as the employment from other states of prominent farmers who have been eminently successful in certain specialties. For example, John Gould of Ohio was the means of putting 500 silos into Wisconsin in one year, while two years ago there were over 600 silos in Jefferson county alone.

In my own work at institutes, I have been diligently scattering grass seed all over the southern peninsula for 25 years. Much of the seed must have possessed low vitality, or it must have fallen on poor soil,—at least the good results that I anticipated have been slow in arriving. In a few places enough have grown to produce fine mixed meadows and pastures.

For the encouragement of the farmers, I quote a few sentences from William Kent, an educated engineer who gave the address at last commencement of the Agricultural College:

"The College is here, and it is here to stay; but although it is nearly 40 years old, has, as far as I can judge, a good location, ample endowment, splendid equipment, well qualified teachers, an admirable system of instruction, free tuition, it is still so far in advance of the times and of the popular sentiment that it is not appreciated as it should be by the citizens of the state in general, and by the farming community in particular. That the farmers' sons do not come here is not the fault of this particular college, of its methods or its teachers.

"Let not the advocates of the Agricultural College be discouraged. Its day is coming just as the day of the

technical engineering college has already come. Twenty years ago, when I graduated from a mechanical engineering college, such graduates were a drug in the market. Now the conditions are entirely different, and there is a steady demand for them. Such, I predict, will be the course of the Agricultural College. The farmer must learn how to do more things and better things than ever his father and grandfather did. His education must be of a broader and more varied kind than theirs was. The successful farmer of the future will not spend his life in manual drudgery, working with his hands from sun to sun, as his ancestors did, while his wife drudges from sunrise till dark at night to do her share of the work and at the same time board the farm laborers. He will work less with his hands and more with his brains. Much of the old time drudgery will be done away with by the use of machinery. Above all, the farmer of the future must be an educated man. He must have a cultured brain and know how to use it in his business."

During these 21 years the farmers of Michigan have been gaining, and this gain can be attributed to many causes. They have had the benefits accruing from farmers' institutes, numerous prosperous granges, and more recently from numerous farmers' clubs. A few self-sacrificing members of the State Horticultural Society, including several professors of the Agricultural College, have gone from county to county holding excellent meetings in which fruits and flowers were topics in the programs. The reports have been ably edited for the benefit of all horticulturists in the state. No state has ever been more fortunate than our own in having such able and public-spirited men as Hon. T. T. Lyon and Hon. C. W. Garfield, not to mention a good number of others who have been doing and are still doing noble work of this kind.

With courses at the Agricultural College, with institutes, granges and clubs and State Horticultural Society and State Dairymen's association, with experiments and bulletins, reading circle, agricultural fairs and the improved agricultural press—unless there are some gross blunders and calamities unforeseen, the studying farmer must rise and soon enter a new era full of promise.

THE MAPES CLOTHING CO.

207 and 209 WASHINGTON AVE., SOUTH.

Our \$5.00 Suit and Overcoat Sale was a big bid for business and last week's business demonstrated the fact that LOW PRICES and GOOD VALUES are great trade winners. We have sold more goods in the past 10 days, than, (considering the conditions of the times) we could expect to have sold in a month.

We cannot stop this sale in the midst of a whirlwind of business, so will let the good work go on and continue this great profit crushing but business producing FIVE DOLLAR SUIT AND OVERCOAT SALE. We've got the goods and must have the money.

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For various reasons THE M. A. C. RECORD is occasionally sent to those who have not subscribed for the paper. Such persons need have no hesitation about taking the paper from the postoffice, for no charge will be made for it. The only way, however, to secure the RECORD regularly is to subscribe.

Changes in Faculty Meetings.

While reorganizations of the College faculty meetings are of little interest, doubtless, except to those directly concerned, yet changes from the old routine have recently been made of importance to all. A plan has been arranged by which all the teachers of the College, whether instructor or professor, come together at least once each month to discuss the class work, especially of their students. In order to make this plan more effective, certain days of the month have been assigned to the College classes—freshmen, sophomores, etc.—at which time the teachers having any members of the class under discussion in charge will compose the meeting, and this class will receive consideration. The object of these changes is to permit more attention to be given to the class work of students and to the teaching part of a teacher's work than before was obtainable. The regular faculty meeting will convene once each month.

The Relation of Farmers' Institutes to the Agricultural College.

K. L. BUTTERFIELD.

In principle, farmers' institutes are neither more nor less than college extension in mild form. Their existence can be defended by the same arguments that may have been used to defend the existence of an Agricultural College. The fact that other than college men aid in thus extending the college work and influence does not make these institutes the less college extension work. The relation, therefore, of farmers' institutes to the College is very close and very important. Perhaps we can best discuss this relation by noting what the institutes seem to be actually accomplishing for the College.

Farmers' institutes diffuse agricultural information. Since this is a part of the business of the College, and the especial mission of the Experiment Station, its extension through the medium of institutes certainly is an end desirable and consistent. It may be argued that this information is already largely distributed in the Experiment Station bulletins and the agricultural press. But do not forget the personal element that prevails at an institute. To say nothing of the people who do not read agricultural papers nor bulletins, the fact that the speaker can infuse into an address an energy and earnestness that may be wholly lacking in a pamphlet serves to impress his thoughts more vividly. Discussion,

too, brings out many phases of a subject, with local adaptations largely lacking in any form of printed presentation. We are here led to a second result of an institute. The auditors are inspired. The earnest presentation of a topic, the sharp discussion following, the hopeful view that usually comes from a mingling of friends, all these tend to set the mind into new channels, to give fresh vigor, and in short to inspire. This is perhaps the chief good of an institute. The information diffused is a considerable gain; a greater is the renewed hope and energy.

Farmers' institutes promote a better understanding of the College, on the part of the farmers. The word "professor" is as badly maltreated in idea as it is in speech. "Book-farming" is a word at one time thoroughly imbedded in the popular mind. But when farmers observe that "the professor" is human, has common sense, simply tells what he knows and testifies of what he has seen, confidence is born, and not only do future words of that professor, whether "spoken in meeting" or written in bulletins, come with force, but the confidence in the man is transferred to the institution. Our older professors have watched and have been a part of this process.

This confidence and understanding pave the way for future students. Directly, other means may seem to draw more students, but the institutes, though that is a minor object of them, make straight the way of many a young man on the farm, and the way leads M. A. C.-ward.

Farmers' institutes are a most valuable education for the professors who participate. This is a delicate matter for me to discuss, but there can be no question about the truth of it, in the mind of any college man who will be frank with himself after having attended a series of institutes. In information, in sympathy, in the broadened view, the man will be strengthened, if he have any spark of interest in the class of people whom this College was designed to benefit.

To conclude. If this work is college extension, what are its limits? To my mind we are but on the verge of the possibilities of this form of popular education. The College must always remain the center of a deep and broad culture. But these institutes, coupled with courses of lectures and courses of reading, are the best means of diffusing information and culture among our farming people. The College will of necessity reach the few and reach the young, directly. What of the multitude—the old, the middle aged, or those less ambitious, less able, less fortunate? The College will reach the few, and those vitally. The institutes must be for the many. And perhaps we may thus reach the many more vitally than we are disposed to think. At any rate, my own thought is that during the next quarter of a century this problem of building wisely and firmly a thorough system of Agricultural College extension is more important than any other in the field of agricultural extension.

Barbarisms in Modern Life.

LEWIS S. MUNSON, '97.

(Read before the Union Literary Society,
January 23.)

The evening of the 19th century is already upon us, and soon another era will have begun. As we stand upon almost the dividing line between the old and the new centuries, it seems

highly desirable that we should take a backward glance over the history of the last hundred years, note wherein our efforts towards the betterment of mankind have not been entirely successful, and determine in what direction our energies in the future may be best exerted. The closing century has, indeed, been one of marked social, intellectual and religious development; but have we reached our zenith of perfection, or have we not, even in the midst of our development, created a tendency to revert to practices inconsistent with our present age and civilization? For the answer to this question let us look to the tendencies of modern life as we see them on every hand. The spirit manifested by the nation, by the community, and by the individual, serves well as an indicator of the state of perfection that the present age has reached.

In political affairs, the attempt to establish international arbitration has not been unsuccessful, yet while a few nations are agreed as to their relations to each other, the remaining ones seem to be as far away from such a condition as ever. Today, under the very eyes of the civilized and Christianized world, the Turk ruthlessly murders the Christian Armenian; while Spain and Cuba are employed in a brutal warfare, the one that she may retain her supremacy over her subjects, the other to free herself from the exactions of a tyrannical mother country. If in either case precepts of civilized warfare were observed, then the existence of these wars might be tolerable; but where, in the civilized world, is there a nation that has not recognized the injustice and inhumanity practiced, and yet where among those nations is there one that has taken a decisive stand in defense of the suffering powers? Whom are we to blame for the continuance of these conditions? Certainly the Turk cannot be entirely blamed for back of his motives lie the exactions of the religion he worships. With Spain—well the question arises whether that day is not passed when the Spaniards are entitled to the name of a civilized people.

Some may ask why England, Germany, France, Austria and the United States do not interfere. Concerning the injustice of the Armenian butcheries, or of the war now existing in Cuba, the civilized world can have but one opinion. But the very motives that prompted the aggressive nations in beginning these warfares have also been instrumental in keeping surrounding nations from interfering. These motives are the almost insatiable desire for power, and a corresponding greed for gain. Had the Armenian affair not involved the questions of dollars and cents, and of the relative power the various European would or would not get by interference, the situation never would have been so alarming as it is today. With the Cubans it matters little whether or not we recognize them as an organized people, and give to them the privileges of an organized government. Such action could not alter the fact that the practices of the Spaniards, and perhaps of the Cubans as well, have been but little better than the grossest of barbarism. Why in this case has there not been neutral intervention? Well, there are political laws that must be respected. But must butchery be tolerated, and all moral laws be trampled under foot, that some foreign power or that we ourselves be not financial losers by such an humane action? What are our international laws if they be not the laws of nature, and

what nature's laws if they do not involve the laws of justice?

We need not, however, go beyond the boundaries of our own nation to search for material for our subject. Indeed, it is hardly necessary that we go beyond our own state, or our own immediate vicinity. Everywhere we find that the love of power and distinction, and the desire for gain, are powerful forces, working with a powerful influence. A century ago the foundation was laid for a republic under circumstances most conducive to the upbuilding of an ideal nation. Since that day we have undergone a marvelous transformation. Our territory has been extended in almost every direction; our resources are practically unexhaustible; and our national wealth compares favorably with that of any of the older nations of Europe. Despite these facts, there exist evils that at times seem to shake the very foundations of our political institutions. No other phase of modern life offers greater opportunities for reform than does our politics. It has been subject to most shameful practices during the past years. I need but mention the Tammany ring of New York city or the Gas ring of Philadelphia, to call to the minds of all the nefarious encroachments upon personal liberty. What is true in these two cities is also true to a certain extent in nearly every city and community that we may choose to investigate. It is not an unrecognized fact that many governmental positions, both state and national, are filled by men of unscrupulous character. We may legitimately ask an explanation of these conditions. Certainly it is not because the American people are unable to discriminate between such persons and more conscientious ones, nor that there is not a desire on the part of a majority, at least, for a pure and healthy government. These desirable factors are ever existing in American society, but their influence is so often overshadowed by various means of political chicanery that we are wont, in many instances, to think them entirely wanting.

But let us turn our attention to modern social life. Here, also, we are struck with amazement as almost an infinitude of unhealthy phases present themselves. Of these only the more important ones need be mentioned, as the lesser ones will then suggest themselves to the minds of all.

American society can no longer be called a homogeneous quantity. As in England and France, it has its divisions, perhaps not so distinctly marked, but certainly not in an embryonic state. And what is the principle of this division? Religion? No. Education? No. Social rank, that unstable quantity which wealth and wealth alone can afford. Religion and education may be desirable, and in a high degree in some instances, but they are not absolutely essential. He who has the title to wealth holds the key that admits him to the aristocracy, but on the other hand he with a spotless character and a good education, but without wealth, knocks at the door but receives no recognition.

Capital and labor afford a striking example of the effect of this division. Here the one lives by the use of an accumulated wealth, the other by the toil of his own hands. Despite the fact that economists recognize a mutual dependence between the two, there frequently arise conflicts very deteriorating in their nature. The frequent complaint of abridgment of individual rights, unnecessary reduction of wages, and labor strikes with their wanton

destruction of property and of human lives, are the signs of the constant strife existing between these two classes.

Social customs, what a change they have undergone! Fashion speaks, and all society conforms to her bidding. Even the church, the most exalted and yet the very foundation of social institutions, frequently loses its virtues and becomes a tool in the hands of society. Religious, intellectual and even physical training, are so frequently relegated to the background that we come to recognize that position as their accustomed place. Note the difference between the society of the Puritan forefathers and the society of today. Although deprived of many advantages that we today enjoy, they improved theirs all alike; they obtained thereby a strict religious and moral training, a fair practical education, and a healthy home, a strong body, in which the spirit of God might reside. In many respects their position is an enviable one.

But, enough! Despite the advancement of the 19th century, the 20th century will present its share of problems. Some will be solved, others will remain perplexing. The work of the philanthropist is not at an end. His field is as broad as ever. His advantages, too, are unsurpassed. If his labors be faithful and earnest, they will be accompanied with reward; but so long as society exists, it will be infested with its barbarisms, and at best we can only hope for, not realize, an absolute state of perfection.

Who Wrote Shakespeare?

C. B. LAITNER, '97, of the Hesperian Society.

What a question! A veritable paradox! And yet this same question has been agitating the world more or less ever since those marvelous productions were placed before it. Even at the time they were written, it seemed a marvel that a man of Shakespeare's antecedents should have produced such wonderful creations; and the world still wonders. There are many reasons and, to some minds, conclusive proofs that Shakespeare never did write the works credited to him. Whether he did or no, is not the province of this paper, but merely to present the reasons those doubting his authorship have for so doing. Let us then take up the works, and see what they indicate of the author.

The writer of the Shakesperian plays was undoubtedly one of the greatest, if not the greatest, student the world ever knew. Not only does this refer to a marvelous power of observation of man and nature, the ability to read human nature as an open book, and a keen insight into the political and religious institutions and methods of his time; but he must have been the deepest delver in book lore that ever breathed. All knowledge was alike to this wonderful man. He must have been thoroughly conversant with the German, Danish, French, Italian, Greek, Latin and Spanish languages, besides his native tongue, for the plots and motives of many of his plays were taken, some bodily, from works in those languages, which had not as yet been translated. For instance, the plot of Hamlet is taken from Saxo-Grammaticus, a Dane, of whose works Whately says in 1748, "No translation hath yet been made." Richard Grant White has proved conclusively that the writer of Othello must have read Orlando Furioso in the original Italian. Again, the passage,

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"Who steals my purse steals trash," was borrowed from Berni, another Italian, of whom there is no translation today. Cymbeline is taken from Boccaccio. And so we may prove the same for the other languages. In a like manner, it could be proven that the writer of Shakespeare had an extended knowledge of law, while all readers of the works in question will not challenge the statement that the author was a profound philosopher. So much for the author as betrayed by his works. Let us now look at Shakespeare and his home.

Knight says, "The people of Stratford were densely ignorant. Out of nineteen aldermen, but six could write their names, and John Shakespeare (William Shakespeare's father) was not of that number." Halliwell Phillips adds, "The whole family was illiterate, and in signing their names had to make their X marks. Even Shakespeare's daughter Judith could not read or write." Then Richard Grant White, a rabid Shakespearian, chimes in, saying, "For book instruction, there was a free grammar school at Stratford where Shakespeare may have learned some Latin and Greek. *Some English, too*, but not much, for English was held in scorn by scholars of that day."

We are sure his school days ended when he was sixteen years of age, though we have no proof that he ever attended school for an hour. At this age, he was apprenticed to a butcher. Another authority, Betterton, says he worked at the trade of his father. But be he either butcher or wool dealer, neither is likely to make much of a student of a man in a town where you cannot scrape together three dozen books. The next we hear of him he is in a beer drinking contest. At nineteen he marries a woman eight years his senior, and finally we hear of his being whipped for deer stealing. His exploits in the latter line make the neighborhood too warm for him, so he goes to London. At this stage, his great admirer, R. G. White, says: "Up to this time he (Shakespeare) had not seen half a dozen books other than his horn book, the Bible, and his Latin grammar." At London, according to tradition, he held horses before the theater. Then we hear of him as the prompter's "supe" at the theater, and finally he is given small parts on the stage. So far we find nothing in his career, at home or in London, likely to have made Shakespeare a student of the Greek, Latin, French, Italian, Danish and Spanish languages; neither was there anything apparent to have inspired him with a love for legal, medicinal, musical, or philosophical research.

Upon such a foundation as is described above, we find him shortly afterwards issuing plays which have

been the wonder of the world. Was there ever a greater incongruity between the man and his works? While we may ascribe a great part of the plays to natural genius, still natural genius does not explain away the vast amount of exact knowledge that is betrayed in the preparation of these plays, his knowledge of natural law, and his familiarity with the civil code, both of England and of other countries. Genius may sparkle in a beautiful style, fine language, and elevated thought, but when a bookless man pretends to speak six languages besides his own, we are at least surprised.

Up to Shakespeare's death, we have no hint even of his possessing any books. To have written such a succession of masterpieces means, from their very nature, the author must have had access to an extensive library. Though the lesser lights of his as well as of other ages have considered their libraries as their most important bequests, yet Shakespeare's will does not give any indication of his ever owning a book. He carefully bequeaths away his second best bed and his best boots, but his books, if he had any, are not mentioned. We may also pertinently enquire, What has become of the great mass of manuscript which the author must necessarily have possessed? There can not be found the slightest trace of any manuscript which has not been proven a forgery. Though we have manuscripts of the lesser lights of his time, these, the most valuable of all, have never been unearthed. Why should Shakespeare destroy them?

Again, if we take up the geography of the plays, the location of plots and scenes, we do not find any laid about Avon, or in fact in the whole county of Warwickshire, let alone Stratford. All other writers unconsciously betray their homes by the scenes described. Can you imagine Burns without his Bonny Doon, Scott without his Scottish scenes as Melrose Abbey, or Cooper without his sea and wood lands? Yet here is the greatest poet of the world, for whom Kent county and Yorkshire, particularly St. Albans, have great attractions, while the beau-

(Continued on page seven)

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News from Graduates and Students.

R. B. A. Buck, '96, is at his home, Brighton, Mich.

C. H. Palmer, with '99, is working in a land office at Yale, Mich.

W. L. Cummings, '93, is taking post graduate work at the U. of M.

J. L. Sutherland, with 98sp, is enjoying his law studies at Ann Arbor.

President Oscar Clute's house and contents burned to the ground last Friday evening.

M. S. Gregory, with '92, is in the field for commissioner of Benzie county schools.

Emerson E. Vance, '84, Matherton, Ionia county, has been appointed assistant secretary of the board of auditors.

E. D. Partridge, 96m, Provo City, Utah, in renewing his subscription to the RECORD, says "we could not keep house without it."

Frank T. Beaver, with '94, is assistant editor of the *Morning Record*, South Bend, Ind., "is as full of life as ever and hopes to attend the reunion next fall."

Frank J. Free, '88, who has been with Bement & Sons, Lansing, since graduating, has accepted a position with the Gale Manufacturing Co. of Albion.

N. U. Miller, with '85, who is now pastor of a Charlotte church, was a caller in Lansing one day last week and was inquiring after the welfare of M. A. C.

Dr. E. D. Millis, '82, of Webberville, called at the College last Saturday with a nephew who expects to enter the mechanical course. His son was also with him.

F. W. Kramer, with 97m, attended the military hop Friday evening. He goes to Detroit next Monday to attend the meeting of the Michigan Photographers Association.

Fitz Roy Osborn, who was a special student here in '82 and '83, died at Spokane, Washington, January 12, 1897. Further particulars we have been unable to learn.

Will B. Kirby, with '84, of the firm of Gillet & Kirby, Lansing, has blood-clot formation on the spinal cord that paralyzes his lower limbs. He is at present undergoing treatment at Ann Arbor.

To make room for political friends of the "powers that be," both W. L. Rossman, '89, and R. E. Doolittle, '96, have stepped down and out of the laboratory of the Dairy and Food Commissioner.

J. H. Brown, Climax, once a student here, now assistant editor of the *Michigan Farmer*, was at M. A. C. the other day, accompanied by his son Paul, a bright little fellow whom he hopes to send to M. A. C. in a few years.

John W. Rittinger, '94, is the happy father of a girl. He writes, "Katherina Marie is five weeks old and bids fair to become a student in the women's course at M. A. C. some fifteen years from now. I hope to be able to attend the triennial reunion next fall and visit again those old familiar spots which are so sacred in my memory."

Clarence E. Smith, '84, of Waukegan, Ill., was at the College Friday to awaken the interest in the president and some members of the faculty in the approaching banquet of the alumni of Chicago and vicinity. He wishes a good representation from here. He and W. R. Rummel, '86, have bachelor quarters in Waukegan and are in the law and real estate business.

Official Directory.

Sunday Chapel Service—Preaching at 2:30 p. m.

Y. M. C. A.—Holds regular meetings every Thursday evening at 6:30 and Sunday evenings at 7:30. S. H. Fulton, President. C. W. Loomis, Cor. Secretary.

Y. W. C. A. regular weekly meetings for all ladies on the campus Tuesday evenings at 8 o'clock, in the ladies' parlors. Meetings on Sunday evenings with the Y. M. C. A.; Miss Edith F. McDermott, President; Miss Alice Georgia, Cor. Secretary.

M. A. C. Grange—Meets every three weeks on Tuesday evening in the Columbian Society rooms. Prof. C. D. Smith, Master. H. W. Hart, Secretary.

Natural History Society—Regular meeting second Friday evening of each month in the chapel at 7:00. H. C. Skeels, President. W. R. Kedzie, Secretary.

Botanical Club—Meets first and third Friday of each month in the Botanical Laboratory at 6:30. T. Gunson, President. W. R. Kedzie, Secretary.

Shakespeare Club—Meets every Wednesday evening. Dr. Howard Edwards, President.

M. A. C. Athletic Association—C. B. Laitner, President. G. B. Wells, Secretary.

Columbian Literary Society—Regular meeting every Saturday evening in their rooms in the middle ward of Wells Hall, at 7:00. T. A. Chittenden, President. A. J. Weeks, Secretary.

Eclectic Society—Meets on fourth floor of Williams Hall every Saturday at 7:30 p. m. D. M. McElroy, President; T. H. Libbey, Secretary.

Feronian Society—Meets every Friday afternoon at 1:00 in Hesperian rooms. Miss Pearl Kedzie, President. Miss Hattie Chase, Secretary.

Hesperian Society—Meetings held every Saturday evening in the society rooms in the west ward of Wells Hall at 7:00. A. T. Cartland, President. D. E. Hoag, Secretary.

Olympic Society—Meets on fourth floor of Williams Hall every Saturday evening at 7:00. W. R. Goodwin, President. E. R. Russell, Secretary.

Phi Delta Theta Fraternity—Meets

on Friday evening in chapter rooms in Wells Hall, at 7:00. H. A. Hagadorn, President. C. M. Krentel, Secretary.

Union Literary Society—Meetings held in their hall every Saturday evening at 7:00. G. A. Parker, President. A. E. Wallace, Secretary.

Tau Beta Pi Fraternity—Meets every two weeks on Thursday evening in the tower room of Mechanical Laboratory. G. A. Parker, President. E. H. Sedgwick, Secretary.

Club Boarding Association—I. L. Simmons, President. H. A. Dibble, Secretary.

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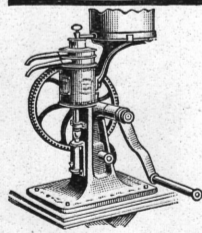
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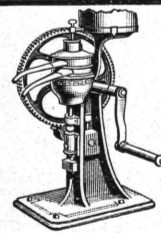
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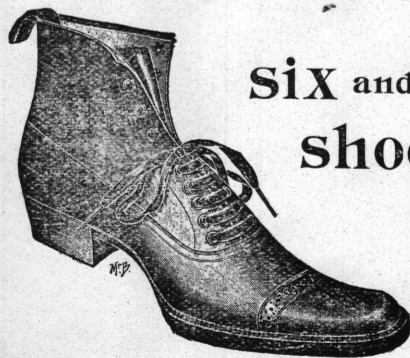


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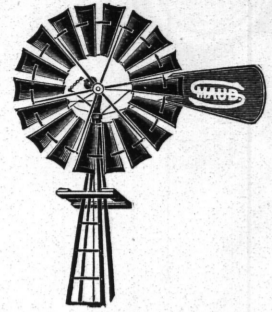
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THE OUTFITTER.

Who Wrote Shakespeare?

(Continued from page five.)

tiful Avon, along which he must have played during all his boyhood, is not even mentioned.

Another suspicious circumstance is that though Shakespeare was known to have been a very thrifty man, too thrifty to leave his name as untarnished as might be wished, still the author of these plays never took the trouble to copyright them. Though they were pirated right and left during his life, still he never tried to interfere, at least no court records give any indication of this, as they do of his prosecuting men for such small debts as two shillings. All the adduced facts give strength to the idea that instead of writing the works accredited to him, he was probably a mere figure-head, a mask to disguise the real author.

But you may ask, why should the author of such great creations try to disguise himself? The logical answer is that these productions, great as they are, are but cloaks to screen that which is still greater and more important. Those denying Shakespeare's authorship are looking for writings in cipher, greater than the plays and treasonable in character. Treason in those days consisted in doing or telling anything which might displease Queen Elizabeth. If that be the case, it would have been dangerous to the author, and as dangerous to his works, to publish all his writings under his own name, for if the cipher were discovered at that time, his writings would have been suppressed and all his work gone for naught. This complicates the cipher somewhat, but renders premature discovery impossible.

Ever since the time of Shakespeare, men have been wondering, more or less, that a man in his circumstances could do such work, and up to the present time several ciphers or keys to hidden writings within the plays have been offered for our inspection. Another fact re-enforcing the idea that cipher stories may exist lies in the fact that Shakespeare's was an age of ciphers. Much correspondence was then carried on by means of ciphers, though often so artfully concealed as to give no hint as to the presence of the cipher. Therefore if one does exist in Shakespeare, it is but the ordinary work of the time on a more extensive scale.

As to the ciphers presented for our inspection, that of Ignatius Donnelly has served at least to arouse interest in the matter, though his has by no means been accepted. He claims to have discovered a history of Bacon's times concealed in the plays. However, his cipher is not as complete as might be wished, and though he has not convinced the world, he has set it thinking. One significant fact about the work of Donnelly is that he goes farther than the works of Shakespeare in saying that he who wrote these plays wrote those of Marlow as well. The latest decipherer, Dr. Melville Owen, goes farther than Donnelly in declaring that Bacon, the real Shakespeare, wrote, besides his acknowledged works, the complete works of Shakespeare, the plays of Marlow, all the works of Edmund Spenser, in fact was the whole Elizabethan Age in literature excepting Milton. If the mind which produced Shakespeare was great, that capable of producing all these combined must have been colossal. From the whole, Dr. Owen has deciphered some six volumes of poetry in blank verse, which give a history of England as seen from the inside,

depicting the character of Queen Elizabeth as it has never been described before,—not the firm but gracious ruler, but rather as a fiend incarnate at times; showing us the inside of court life; telling us that Bacon himself was not the son of Nicholas Bacon as supposed, but the child of Queen Elizabeth and Lord Leicester; in fact, giving us an insight into the history of that time such as no historian would dare write openly.

As to whether or not Bacon actually wrote those plays and Shakespeare is an imposter, that is a matter of little moment so long as we have the works, unless there is more yet to be gained through the discovery of the real author. We do not care especially where the apples grew as long as we have the fruit. If, however, Dr. Owen's or any other decipherer's work is what it is claimed to be, and can be established as such, then is our knowledge and literature increased by just so much, and these old works will become a gold mine to both the student of history and the student of literature.

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