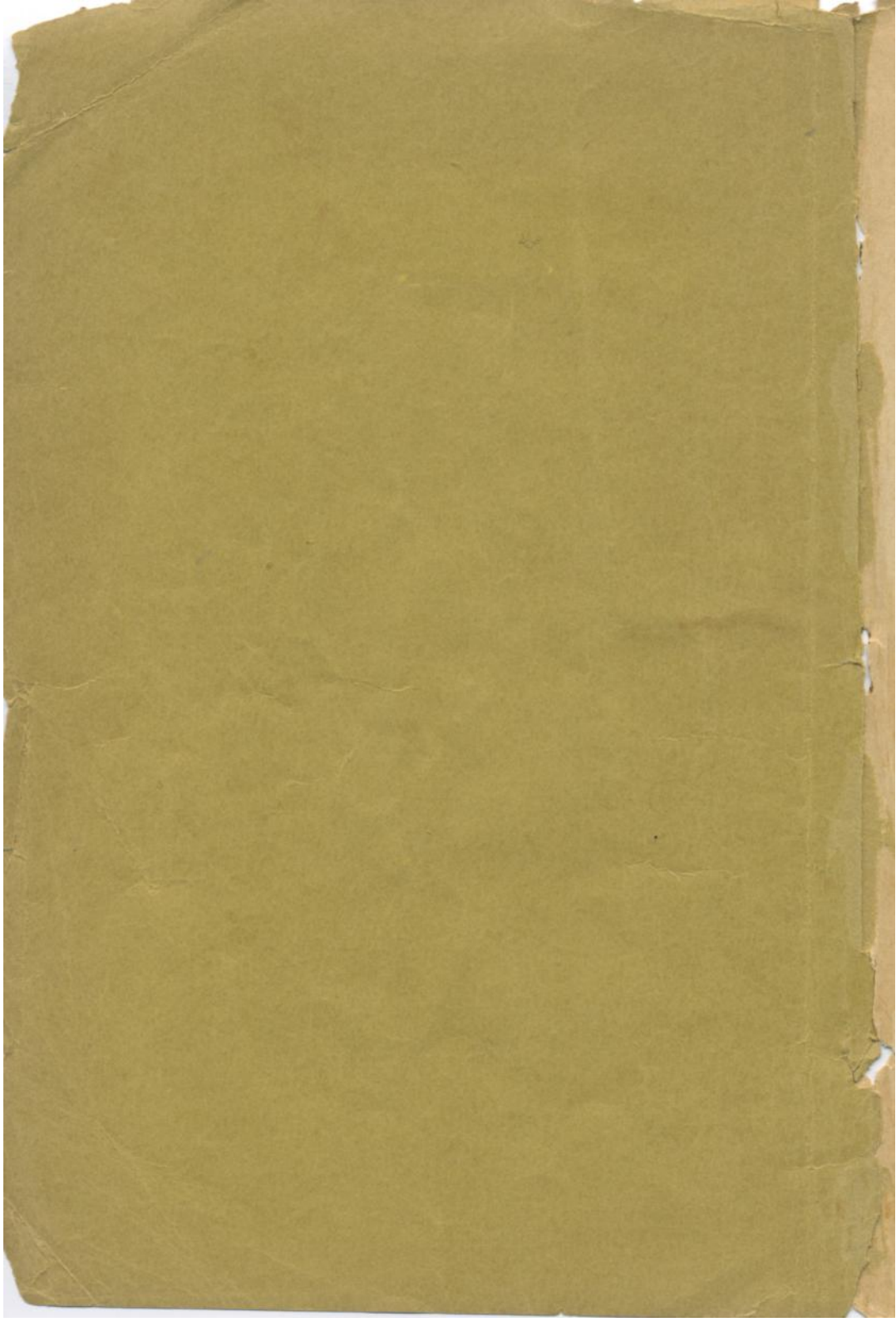


SENIOR  
ANNUAL  
CLASS '96

*THE VILLISCA HIGH SCHOOL*

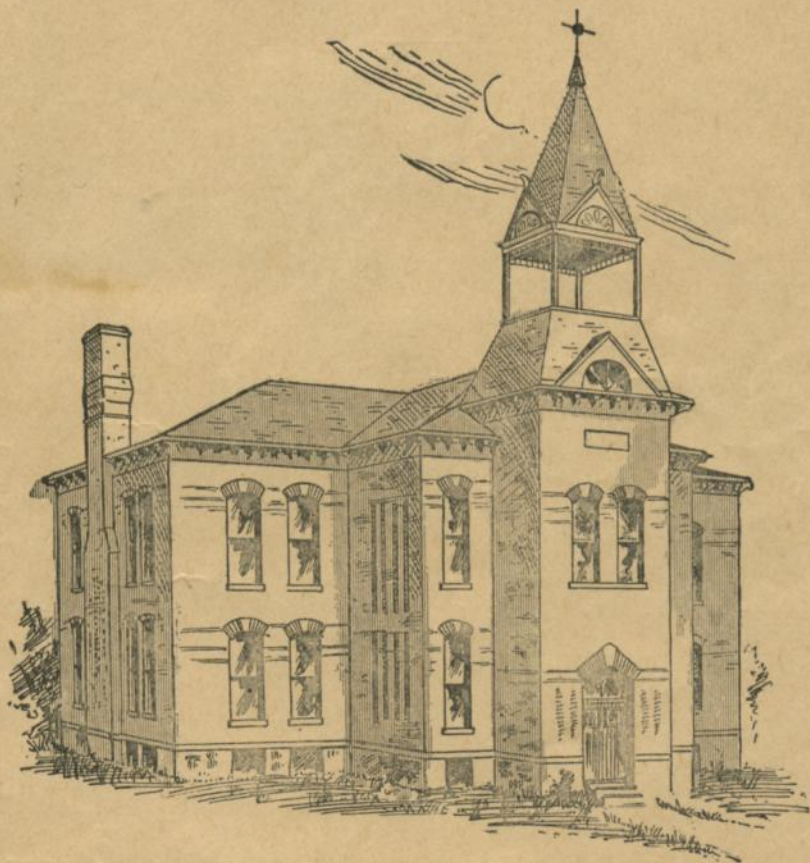
VILLISCA, IOWA.



# SENIOR ANNUAL

ISSUED BY THE

CLASS OF '96.



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

(OPPOSITE THE PARK.)



## CLASS OF '96.

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The Class of '96, numbering twenty-six, is the largest ever graduated from the Villisca High School, and increases the Alumni to 126.

Not only is the class one of more than ordinary scholarship, but their record contains many other commendable facts. None have been tardy since entering the high school, nine have never had a tardy mark in the Villisca Schools. One, Linnie Moore, has not been absent since entering the High School, while Esther Holm, May McAdoo, Leona Wallace and Clarice Oyster have absent marks in one year only.

Ten have received all their schooling in our schools, and ten entered the High School from other schools. Seven entered the Primary room (Mrs. Dolson, teacher) in 1884. The average age is 18 years 8 months.

While 29½ credits (half year's work in one study) were required of this class for graduation, seven have 32½ to their credit (and of these, Bessie Reeves, Linnie Moore, Myra Reeves, Leona Wallace and Eva Richey have no marks below 85 per cent).

The Villisca High School is now on the official list of schools whose work and course of study are accepted in full for entrance to the State University of Iowa.

B.



## The Horizon Line.

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CLARA COWGILL.

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It is a law that holds true in the physical world, that we cannot reach the horizon; although we may be able to reach what at another time was our horizon, yet the line that is ever before us we cannot attain.

So it is in life—our horizon of ideals we are never able to reach. It may be that, as the years pass, we shall reach our youthful horizon of ideals, yet now we look beyond to other ideals; we look forward to wider fields lying before us and to new worlds to be conquered: for as our ideal is elevated to a higher point in the zenith of our ambition, the circumference of its horizon is larger; our world is so much the broader.

As to Columbus there arose vast continents out of the sea, so to us there rise vast continents of opportunity, new lands of privilege and greater expanses upon which the higher forces shall work out.

While we stand longing for a goal beyond us perhaps some one stands on some far distant line calling our height his horizon. He perceiving that others have reached his goal and so fired by the hope of his also gaining it he pushes forward. As onward he treads, the school of life opens to him, teaching him the glorious fact that every found truth is the suggestion of some large undiscovered truth. Just as the discovery of electricity serves to show man the great possibilities which may follow. He learns new relationships of energies and perceives new values of the old powers.

As we advance in the school of life it is ours to bid every unknown force tell us its name. It is ours to take every energy which before has seemed worthless and require its aid in reaching our ideal. We have the power if we but apply it in the right direction. These latent energies are only waiting for their Newtons, their Franklins and Edisons in order that they may be made useful to yet more wonderful mechanism.

He who is able to take up these forces and by their aid make greater advancement is a true idealist, even though he may not be able to reach the horizon line. He is the idealist who throws out hope and encouragement to the one in the distance. That one is a true philosopher and an inspiration to make our lives worthy of the time in which we live. The demand of the time in which we live is for that spirit

which never stops satisfied with the height attained but by its own energy and perservance overcomes all obstacles. Whenever this spirit ceases to be restless and becomes thoroughly self-satisfied, then we find the sluggish mind which is inaccessible to all new ideas. This is the mind which retards rather than assists in the progress of the age.

Every person who has touched hand to the canvas or to marble with a purpose has placed himself equal to the soldier that fought at Thermopylae, for he has not only advanced toward the distant horizon line of ideals but has led on those who have become disheartened.

"Enthusiasm is born of looking beyond the narrow horizon of today." We find it necessary to have high ideals, for just as the height of our ambitions differ, so will our lives differ. If we lift ourselves higher toward loftier ideals, the horizon line become greater and we ourselves become broader, while if we choose ideals that are lower, we tend to approach them and our horizon line becomes smaller, our mind narrower. "It is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving." We can not help showing in our lives the altitude of our ideals. Some one has said, "We never reach our ideals but it is necessary to have high ideals, for by them we are raised to higher ideals."

Then let us ever strive with a lofty purpose. With one of which we need never be ashamed, but with one from which we may realize the truth of the quotation,

"No star goes down but climbs another sky;  
No sun sets here except to rise on high."

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Clara Cowgill entered the primary room at the age of 6 years, and the High School in 1892, completing the Latin course.



## Motives to Study.

ORA CRISWELL.

"What is not worth striving for is not worth having."

We do not enjoy receiving something for nothing, because one does not feel that he deserves that success. If we succeed in an undertaking we get no enjoyment from that success unless we have really labored to be successful.

We are looking forward to the accomplishment of some object whether great or small. We picture to ourselves the plans for reaching this goal; we see some of the difficult places, yet we see in the distance, as it were, a beautiful picture, that of success.

"As at dawn,

The shepherd from his mountain lodge describes  
A far, bright city, smitten by the sun  
Through many rolling clouds."

We enjoy looking at this picture and it should give us a new zeal and energy to reach this coveted position.

Can we succeed if we sit idle? Can the shepherd reach the city by simply looking at it? We must put forth our energies and powers and concentrate them upon our object to win the prize.

Have any of the great men of the past and present reached their high pinnacle of fame except by labor, by helping themselves? Some of them have come from the lowest walks of life to the highest by simple industry and an earnest desire to be successful. The one who succeeds is he who has that desire.

The greatest poets, orators, statesmen and historians, men of brilliant intellect, have actually labored hard. Newton, when asked by what means he had worked out his wonderful discoveries, replied, "By always thinking upon them."

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,  
Which, taken at the flood leads on to fortune;  
Omitted, all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries."

The "graveyard of failure" is full of monuments erected over the blasted hopes of men who had good intentions in life and would have put them into practice and been successful had they taken "the tide at the flood."

As you look back over the past many things are recalled that have been failures. Why? Not for want of effort on your part but simply because your efforts were directed in a wrong direction.

We should so strive that we may deserve success, as a laborer deserves his pay; then we will have real enjoyment and when life is at its close we can look back over our past life and feel that it has been a successful one.

When we are striving to succeed in an undertaking and things do not just come our way we become discouraged and say, "I'm of no importance." Yet a certain amount of opposition is a great help to one. "Kites rise against and not with the wind."

We may think ourselves of small importance, that is of little account whether we are good or bad and what our example is to others; but as a mere particle of dust or a grain of sand is an active agent in the whole universe, so are we active agents for good or bad.

A few particles of dust in a watch stops its motion, small barnacles on a ship's bottom retards its progress, a little shifting sand in the great river changes its current, and so a particle of bad motive in the heart retards its progress or may change the whole current of our lives.

Without application and perseverance, if we rise at all, we shall, to use a common expression, "Go up like a rocket and come down like a stone."

The greatest results in life are usually attained by the simplest means and the exercise of ordinary qualities. The common life of every day, with its cares, necessities and duties, gives ample opportunity for acquiring experience of the best kind.



They who are the most persistent and work in the truest spirit, will invariably be the most successful, and it can be said of him as Shakespeare makes Antony say of Caesar:

"His life was gentle and the elements  
So mixed in him that nature might stand up  
And say to all the world, 'This was a man.'"

Ora Criswell entered the High School from Corning Academy in September, 1893, completing the English course.



## X. Y. and Z.

EDITH B. ERVIN.

Given X, Y and Z to produce a man. What sort of a man shall we make? One with "The elements so mixed in him that all Nature might stand up and say to the world, 'This is a man.'" The causes evolving this character are indeterminate, but the fact that they are indeterminate does not alter their value. X plus Y plus Z equal a mind, though we know not how much is due to X, or to Y, or to Z.

"There is nothing great on earth but man and there is nothing great in man but mind." To what then is the character of this mind due? The first and perhaps most important unknown quantity influencing or determining a man's character is Heredity. Holmes says, "The training of a child should begin two hundred years before he is born." He may have the best possible advantages during his life-time, but if he has inherited bad tendencies from his parents those advantages are as naught; for the man would be incomplete without the inheritance of some good and noble characteristics. Our equation would be Y plus Z, but would not produce a man.

The next important unknown quantity influencing the character of man is Environment. Although a man cannot choose his parents, he may to some extent choose his environment. His relation to it is largely due to heredity, but is always open to alteration. The influence of his environment over him is so radical and his control over it so great that he can so direct it as either to undo, modify, perpetuate or intensify the earlier hereditary influences within certain limits. The great function of environment is not to modify, but to sustain. In sustaining, it is true, it modifies; the latter influence is incidental, the former essential. Our environment is that in which we live, move and have our being. In the organism lies the principle of life, in the environment are the conditions of life. Without the fulfillment of these conditions, which are wholly supplied by environment, there can be no

life. Without the environment then we have no man. Our equation now is  $X + Y$  but is still incomplete.

What would man be without Education? He may have inherited many noble characteristics and his environment may have had a good influence over him, but without education he would not be able to take his place in the battle of life. Then the third unknown quantity of the equation should be represented by education. "Man cannot become man save through education. He is only what education makes him. He, who has not been disciplined is a savage." By the word education is meant far more than the ability to read and write and keep common accounts. Under this noble word may be classed such a training of the body and intellect as shall build it up with robustness and vigor and in conformity with all the laws of Nature in all the created universe, whether material or spiritual. If man is so trained he will be aided by Nature; but if otherwise it is just as certain that she will baffle him and overwhelm him with ruin, as it is that God is stronger than man. Then let us give this man an education in conformity with all the laws of Nature.

Although the unknown quantities, X, Y and Z are the quantities influencing human character, they are dependent on each other in so much that they modify each other. They are independent of each other in so much that if the value of one is given, the others cannot be determined. If such were not the case a man might have any one of these quantities influencing his character and yet be of little value in the world without the combination of the three unknown quantities which form our equation. X, Y and Z will not always be of the same value, nor in the same ratio; they vary as much as individuals vary. For instance the man we have just produced had the highest values of X, Y and Z, but such is not always the case.

We cannot control X, but let us see to it that we make our Y and Z of the very best, hoping that we will be able to combine our equation in such a way that we may become perfect men and women.

Edith B. Ervin entered the 8th grade in the spring of '92, from District No. 9, Valley twp., Page county, and entering the High School in September, completed the regular Latin course.

## Artificial Flowers.

CELIA GILLMORE.

Of all the many languages in which Nature speaks to man, there is none simpler than the beautiful language of flowers. From the Bowery boot-black in the parks of New York, to the Vanderbilts in their tropical green-house; from the cow-boy amid the sun-flowers and thistles of the prairie to the poet dreaming among wood-land solitudes; all feel the divine influence of God's love as revealed by these sweet messengers of his.

Man loves the beautiful; 'tis the God-like in him that makes him sensitive to it; 'tis no wonder, then, that he has ever tried to imitate, in color or in marble, the beautiful things in the universe. The story is told that the Greek artist, Zeuxis, succeeded so well in imitating on canvas, a bunch of grapes that even the birds came and pecked at them. The wily Queen of Sheba, to test the sagacity of the wisest monarch the world has ever known, placed before him two wreaths, one of natural and one of artificial flowers and so skilfully had man wrought the imitation that the king had to call to his aid nature's honey seekers to tell the real from the artificial. Yet so wide was the difference between them that the bees might have clung to the artificial till they starved before they could have extracted one atom of honey. These flowers might have adorned an orchard tree till the tree decayed to its roots before there should appear one sign of fruit of which every tree flower is the prophet. The unerring instinct of the wise little honey makers led them unhesitatingly to the genuine flowers; not an instant did they turn to the showy lifeless imitation.

Ages have passed since then, yet the busy brain and skillful fingers of man have never ceased to fashion imitations of God's creations, till the age in which we live glistens with stiff life-less shams and, alas for the world, poor human beings, unlike the little bees of Solomon's time, are bewildered and confused and spend their lives endeavoring to extract honey from these painted imitations.

Let us look at some of the flowers that God intended should bloom in the hearts of men and compare them with the skillfully wrought counterparts with which we are surrounded.

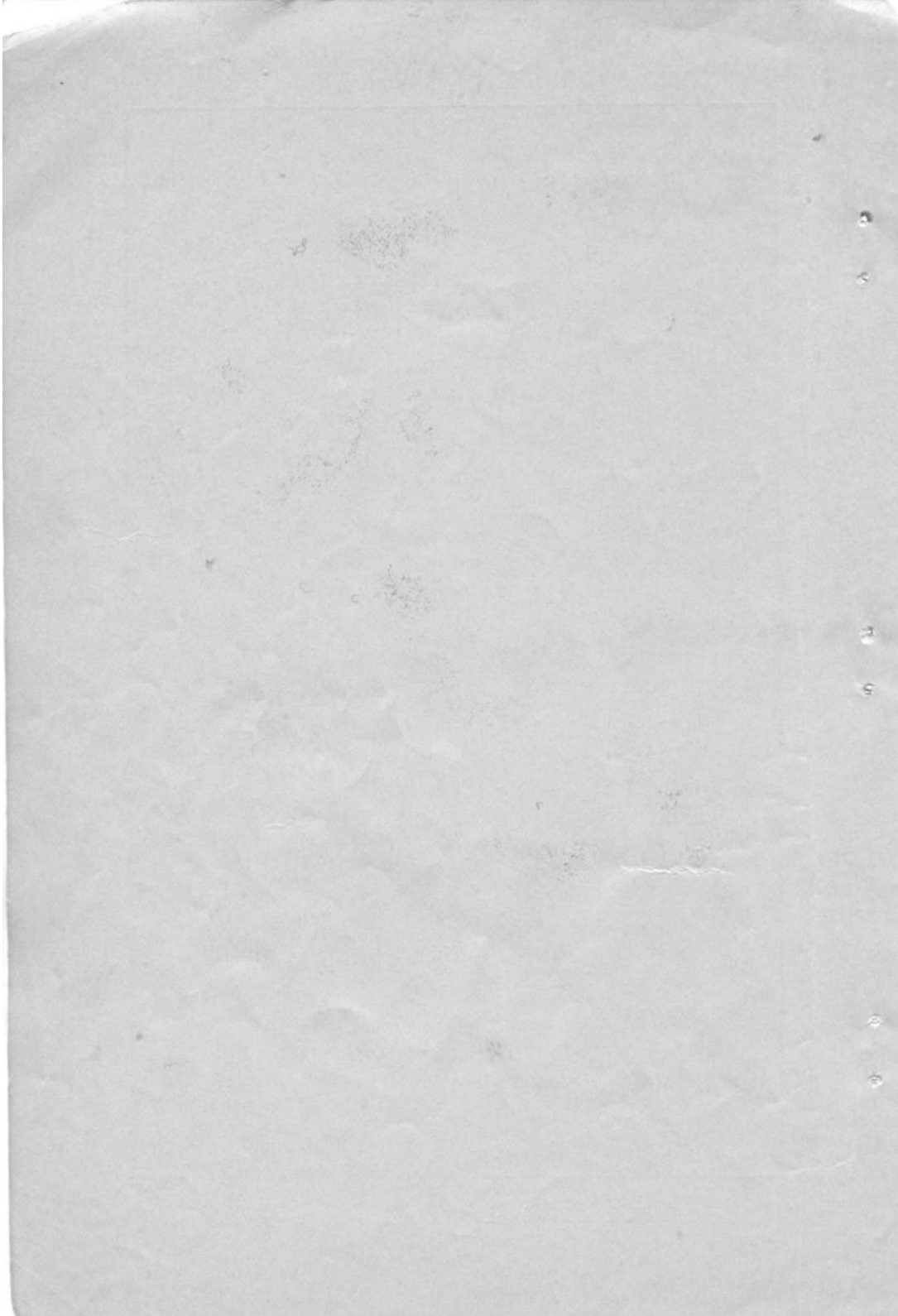
There is Courtesy, a stately graceful flower that was brought to perfection in the old days of chivalry and has adorned every truly noble





Miss Elizabeth Victor, Asst.  
Mrs J. B. Hayes, Asst.

A. F. Burton, Supt.  
Miss Lena A. Hussey, Prin.



life since. This is the crest that distinguished every one of nature's noble men, regardless of the outward trappings: For "There is nothing so kingly as kindness. There is nothing so royal as truth." Yet how often mere politeness is mistaken for this flower. There is no true courtesy in the heart of the young man, who makes a great display of his gentility in society yet is rude and boorish in his home, who in a crowded street car would rise that a richly dressed lady might have his place but thinks that a poor old woman loaded with bundles can stand.

There is the sweet, old fashioned flower of hospitality whose subtle fragrance has sweetened life in all ages, surely no heart garden is complete without it. Yet a stiff, lifeless sham too often stands in its stead. In place of the honest desire to have those we love share the delights of our home, how much oftener are visits received that, in our turn, we may visit. How far from manifesting real hospitality are those receptions and parties given rather to gain popularity or to pay debts than to given pleasure. Some are even given for no other purpose than to make a display of elegance that others may be made envious. Is it the genuine flower that blooms in the heart of the woman who hears a caller's ring with a frown of impatience and a sigh of dread yet who greets that same caller with a smile of welcome?

Even that common wayside blossom, generosity, that grows as naturally in the heart of man as the dandelion in our lawns has its imitation. Thus we find that the bestowing of gifts not always manifests the love of the giver, but these gifts are a sort of currency given for value received.

I need not speak of the prevalence of this artificial flower; it is more common at Christmas time than the holly; it is far more conspicuous at weddings than the orange blossoms.

The flower of education, the God inspired love of learning, is imitated by those who regard study as a polishing process whereby they may be made to shine, rather than a means of growth whereby they may become strong.

A striking illustration came to my notice a few weeks ago. Two girls were planning about going away to school. One of them remarked that she had about made up her mind to attend the Nebraska University. The other protested saying "Oh undoubtedly the instruction is good enough, but you find such an inferior class of students; nearly all of them are young people who expect to teach or work for a living in some way. A ladies' seminary is so superior."

In old fashioned gardens used always to be found the bleeding heart. It blossoms still in our own heart gardens, but it too is found in the artificial wreath; even the sacredness of sorrow is assumed in these days of snobbery.

Thus we might go on through the whole floral of Christian Graces; by the side of every one, we would find a skillfully wrought imitation. Our life is too short to waste our time on shams. How then are we to



distinguish? Let us learn from Nature. Every true virtue will exhale the fragrance of true kindness; and if, like King Solomon's honey bees, we probe deep into the heart we shall find the honey of unselfishness.

Celia Gillmore received all her schooling in the Villisca schools, entering the High School in September 1892, and by agreement with the Board, has done her last half year's work in the Red Oak High School, Latin Course.



## Advantages of American Citizenship.

JOHN GILLMORE.

During the days of the Roman ascendancy it was the proud boast of her citizens that it was better to be a Roman than to be a king. That was two thousand years ago. Time has wrought her changes until now, as we stand here in the light of the sacred memories of the first century of the American Republic, in the dawn of the second, and see the advantages of the American people; see the farmer tilling his own field; see the improvements for lightening labor; see the public schools, which some of our noted men have called, "the fortresses of America; see the increasing per cent of happy people because they know that what they have is for them and their posterity; we can as American citizens say it is better to be an American than to be a king.

For what were we fighting during those seven long years of war? For the principle that all men are created equal,—a truth that nobody ever disputed except a scoundrel; nobody in the entire history of this world. What else were we fighting for? Simply that in America every man should have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Nobody ever denied that except a villain. It has been denied by kings—they were thieves. It has been denied by statesmen,—they were liars. It has been denied by priests, by clergymen, by cardinals, by bishops, and by popes—they were hypocrites. What else were we fighting for? For the idea that all political power is vested in the great body of the people. They make all the money; do all the work. They plow the land; cut down the forests; they produce every thing that is produced. Then who shall say what shall be done with what is produced, except the producer? Is it the non producing thief, sitting on a throne, surrounded by vermin?

The history of civilization is the history of the slow and painful enfranchisement of the human race. In the olden times the family was a monarchy, the father being the monarch. The mother and children were the different slaves. The will of the father was the supreme law. He had the power of life and death. It took thousands of years to civilize this father, thousands of years to make the condition of wife and

mother and children even bearable. A few families constituted a tribe, the tribe had a chief, the chief was a tyrant, a few tribes formed a nation, the nation was governed by a king, who was also a tyrant.

Such was the life of the people of the past. But time has wrought great changes. Civilization, after keeping up a constant warfare for centuries, has triumphed. The Revolutionary and Civil wars of the United States, made one part of this earth—America—a place where people are free; a place for women and children as well as men, and made people who are independent and who have the power of making their own laws. They have made citizenship a reality for everybody without regard to race or color. The black man or the foreigner may, as long as he obeys the laws, have equal rights with the natural born citizen. The Revolutionary war made a country where everybody with the ability may become a leader, and a noted one, ranked with the people who come from wealthy homes. Lincoln never had a training as a leader, yet he had the ability and is now ranked with Washington, the founder of this country. Grant was a poor boy, yet he became a noted leader. Those men show how true is the old, but beautiful sayings of Longfellow—

“The lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.  
Footprints that perhaps another,  
Sailing o’er life’s solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.”

John Gillmore attended school a short time in the country before entering the Villisca schools. Entered the High School in 1892 and completed his last half year's work in the Red Oak High School, by agreement with the Board here. English Course.



## I'm Tired of Rowing, Let Me Drift.

GRACE GREENLEE.

As our barks sail out on the sea from land,  
There are smiles and tears in the gathering band.  
What trying thoughts in the bosom swell,  
When we bid our friends and home farewell.  
As the cold waves dash our frail barks on  
The night grows dark and we see no dawn,  
We may say as the clouds seem not to lift,  
“I'm tired of rowing, let me drift.”

Then don't give up, but kneel down there  
And strengthen the perilous hour with prayer.  
Many have sailed o'er this sea before you,

And they became tired of rowing, too;  
But only those who sailed through fears  
Saw golden dawn after many tears.  
They did not say to the storm cloud, "Lift:  
I'm tired of rowing, let me drift."

Life bears us on like the current of a mighty sea. Our boat at first glides down the broad channel through the murmurings to the sea and the winding of its grassy borders. The trees shed their leaves over our heads, the flowers seem to offer themselves to our hands. We are happy in hope and we grasp eagerly at the beauties around us, but the stream hurries on and still our hands are empty.

As we hasten into manhood and womanhood, our course changes to a wider and deeper flood; to objects more striking and magnificent. We are animated by the enjoyment and industry of others, by some short lived success, or are depressed and made miserable by some short lived disappointment. But our energy and our depression are both in vain. The stream bears us on, and our joys and sorrows are alike left behind us.

Perhaps after gliding smoothly along for some time, we meet an obstacle in our way and are drifted and tossed with the waves till at last we become shipwrecked. We then feel that we have made a complete failure, but, after thinking that in doing anything in the world worth doing, we must not stand shivering on the bank, thinking of the cold, but must jump in and do our best, we renew our vigor and try again. While perhaps many try again, there are some who, after they once begin to drift, continue drifting and drifting until they are beyond all possibility of making a success.

If one intends making a success he must take earnestly hold of life. Study closely, the mind's bent for a labor or a profession. Adopt it early and pursue it steadily, never looking back to the turning furrow, but forward to the ground that ever remains to be broken.

Ways and means have much to do with every man's success, if will and actions are rightly adapted to them. Many of our rich men and our great men have made their fortunes by this principle. But some sigh over the lack of inheritance, which is certainly unmanly. Every one should strive to be creator rather than inheritor. He should be conscious of the power within himself, and fight his own battles with his own lance. He should learn that it is better to earn a crust than to inherit coffers of gold. When once this spirit of self reliance is learned, every man will discover within himself the elements and capacities of wealth. It seems easy enough for a man to obtain wealth, for the way to wealth is as plain as the way to market. It depends chiefly on two words: Industry and Frugality; that is, waste neither your time nor your money, but make the best use of both. "Industry is fortune's right hand, Frugality her left."

Without these, nothing will do, and with them every thing.

Industry need not wish, but he that lives upon hopes will die fasting. For "There are no gains without pains."

"He that hath a trade, hath an estate, and he that hath a calling



hath an office of profit and honor, but, the trade must be worked at, and the calling followed, or neither the estate nor the office will enable us to pay our taxes."

If we are industrious, we shall never starve, for, at the working-man's house, hunger looks in, but dares not enter."

Then let each one of us be ready to do life's great work before us, for,

Many have sailed o'er the perilous sea,  
And we must sail too, yes, you and me.  
Our boats may be tossed by the tempest's frown,  
The storm may burst and beat us down,  
But keep to the oar and struggle on,  
We're stronger for trials that have come and gone.  
Then do not say to the storm cloud, "Lift!  
I'm tired of rowing, let me drift."

Grace Greenlee entered the public schools here in 1889 and the High School in 1892, completing the English course.



## A Mill Cannot Grind With Water That Has Passed.

BERTHA HIMILLER.

In the busy whirl of this life a person should not forget to stop and seriously ask himself these questions:

Am I making all of my life that is possible? If not? Why not?

Did I improve every passing moment with the very best material that will aid in the future?

If this has been done, success is certain.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,  
Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;  
Omitted, all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and deep miseries.  
On such a sea are we now afloat;  
And we must take the current when it serves,  
Or lose our venture."

The school has been our guiding hand; now we must take the rudder and guide our own course, avoiding the rocks and shallows, as best we may. It now remains wholly with ourselves whether we have a safe voyage and at last enter a quiet haven, or, whether we are shattered on the rocks.

"In ourselves our future lies,  
Life is what we make it."

"He may develop the nobility lying dormant in his soul, or the reverse, according as he encourages the good and stifles the evil, or, is careless as to his duty."

We use economy in our finances. Do we employ the same economy

in the use of our time? "What you lose today you cannot gain tomorrow."

Is it not true that time,—however spent,—is an agent in the forming of character which is the whole foundation of our success?

Abraham Lincoln, was one of the greatest statesmen the nation has ever known.

Was it not through his earnest efforts that it was possible for us to become what we now are?

Did he,—as a great many others do,—engage in the use of such material as would not benefit him in after years?

No, his, whole time was given to such reading as in after years was not only of great value to him but we today, as a nation, realize the effects of his great and honored works.

His strength was gained simply by improving the opportunities as they came.

An example of what the improvement of present opportunity may accomplish is found in the "Great Rebellion," where so much blood was shed by our true soldiers of the north to bring about the "Abolition of Slavery," and put our nation's people both black and white upon an equal basis.

Would this have been accomplished had not every opportunity been improved to the best advantage.

"The longer on this earth we live  
And weigh the various qualities of men,  
The more we feel the high stern featured beauty  
Of true devotedness to duty.  
Steadfast and still, nor paid with mortal praise,  
But finding amplest recompense  
For life's ungarlanded expense  
In work done squarely, and unwasted days."

Every good deed performed by a writer goes to make up his book.

Only great and wise men have been able to give us literature that will stand the test of time.

To enjoy the companionship of these authors through their books we must have passed through much the same experience as they; thought the same noble thoughts; performed the same generous acts.

Life is short for us if we fit ourselves for the companionship of these great men; we must have a desire to become noble.

Wise men always hide their deeper thoughts.

You and I do not grasp them by one single reach. But when they are sure we deserve it they allow us to reach forth again and obtain some of these beautiful thoughts.

We see no reason why, by means of electric force, gold is not placed on the top of mountains so it can be easily obtained and immediately used for such purposes as desired.

But Nature, who has managed all things well has placed it in small fissures and to obtain it we must dig long and diligently.

Not only is this true in the laws of Nature, but, on the other hand, to get an education; to have a book of only good deeds, we must first

find this fissure of education and of truth, and then like the miner extract all the good from it by diligently improving the present opportunities, and, "Look not mournfully into the past. It comes not back again. Wisely improve the Present. It is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy Future without fear and with a manly heart."

Bertha Himiller entered the Villisca High School from Dist. No. 2, Jackson twp., in September, 1892, completing the English Course.



## Cast Thy Bread Upon the Water.

ESTHER HOLM.

In the dim unveiled ages, when the race of life began;  
In the newness of Creation, when occurred the fall of man;  
In the silent hush that followed—ere the Angel, with his pen,  
Saddened, did record it in that Book ne'er ope'd to mortal ken;  
While the guilty souls awaited, there came from the heav'ns above  
The voice of God,—they had wronged Him,—yet He came with  
words of love,

Of the course of good and evil ye have chosen each his own;  
Ye shall suffer pain and anguish, ay, and travail soul and mind,  
Ye shall have the Life Eternal and forgiv'n shall be the past,  
If in this world's strife and tumult ye will comfort and will cast  
Forth into the course of action to a fellowman in need  
A thought, a kind word, some pleasure, I will recompense the deed.  
Of thy talents give a portion, it may guide some soul safe, through  
The dark and raging storm to life and again return to you.

A drop of ink let fall into a cup of water discolors not one drop of the water alone, but penetrates every particle however small. A tiny pebble thrown upon the still, silent water makes a tiny wave—the first wave produces another, the circles widen, widen—the pebble has disturbed a mighty sea. Thus, like the sea is life—any action, however trivial, committed to the world, ceases not at our time or destination but goes onward, action itself causing action; souls are touched, still the end is not yet effected. The influence of the one little act we may never know.

From the ruins of Babylon have been unearthed ancient tablets with the inscriptions made by a people centuries ago. We marvel that in such long time, the records are not effaced, yet we realize not that the word we speak, the deed we do, goes from one human being to another, leaving its impress and from these souls with whom we are in contact to others we shall never know.

That great amphitheatre, the Coliseum, reared by Titus, 80 A. D., that it might be a lasting monument of his time, though the most massive of structures, it has perished. It is now a ruin and the ruins themselves shall perish, the stones crumble, the gold and silver be beaten

low and yet its builder, failing in this monument, has reared another, enduring through all ages. This man's most insignificant thought giving rise to action, lives today in the world, perhaps in us, we know not. On the brow of yonder man are the inscriptions of the first of the human race, ay, and graven deeply.

The sculptor at his work carefully traces upon the marble a likeness and within himself he thinks this must be wrought with fitting care—it must be perfect for it shall last ages. The marble perishes and we, to whom is a greater labor, the working upon material more durable than marble—the immortal soul—are we so painstaking and careful as we should be? Every line engraved upon the tablets of memory will brighten or shadow an eternity. Go back a few years to the time of the freeing of the slaves—the immediate action was simply upon those living in the south, not more than fifteen million people, yet what a thrill ran throughout the civilized world. Thus with every deed the effect may be fainter than influence not so strongly felt, but just as surely does it go forth to every creature.

History tells us that the orbit of civilization seems preordained to travel from East to West, China, India, Palestine, Egypt, Greece, Rome, are successively lightened, as the splendor of day passes over them and advancing farther in its course, we see the shadow of darkness as surely falling on the lands left behind. Egypt and Greece are in comparative darkness, they have passed from the world's front stage, but they have reared monuments which shall never decay. Today behold Athens. Where is her power? She has none. Her people are serfs and slaves; her beautiful language barbarous; her cities fallen; the glory of her kingdom is departed but her intellectual kingdom shall never cease its reign. Athens has given to us arts so perfected that we today can scarce rival. History repeats itself; we have no assurance but that of the same fate, and yet when civilization and knowledge shall dwell in some other country when we are gone and these structures of today be but the ruins of a past, if we will we can have left a monument like as they. The influence of our intellectual power shall be exempt from destruction and survive us eternal and immortal. It may be glorious to write some verse that shall thrill some few great souls, but if in so doing the little things—though nothing is small in effect—are neglected, better, then, a simple word which shall cheer some fainting heart and renew a failing manhood. Knowing the eternal strength of a single deed, and that every cruel word embitters not alone the life for which it was meant but that countless numbers bear its effect, knowing that we have power to brighten or blight, ought we withhold sympathy and extend naught but the discouraging word which shall crush all hope? These things can never die. Is it then worth while that on our pathway so barren of sunlight and joy that we rudely crowd another, with his burden weighing him down, or jeer at another's misfortune or lightly pass sorrow by? In this life where none can escape responsibility and care, is it not better to love and cherish and help each other? Even in our practical business life is exemplified the truth that the



more put forth the more the return. Benevolence can almost be termed righteous selfishness, for the more we live for others the greater benefit to self. Yet not for this let us be kind and mindful of every duty, not alone because its influence shall be lasting but because we have received good from others. We are moulded by the impress of the characters about us. Let us pass on the inspiration we have received nor be discouraged nor cease trying if the result does not show itself, for true is the verse of that song which says "though you think it lost forever it will yet return to you." Our lives shall not be measured by the years that pass by, but by our deeds—

And whether our lives be short or long  
 'Twill count not; if in the passing throng  
 We have raised a brother from the clay and mire  
 And borne him upward a short step higher.

Esther Holm received all her schooling in the Villisca public schools, entering the High School in 1892, and completing the Latin Course. She won first place in the Third Annual Declamatory contest of the High School this year, but owing to her class (Dramatic) being filled, was not able to go to the Southern Iowa Contest.



## Refinement a National Benefit.

CARRIE KING.

Ancient Greece, stood head and shoulders above all other nations, in the civilization of that time.

The refinement and culture of the Athenians, marked them as a people almost separate and apart from the rest of the world.

The finest art productions come from Greece. From her comes the world's masterpieces in poetry, oratory, sculpture and architecture.

Greece had no aristocracy, but every citizen enjoyed free and equal rights in common with every other citizen.

If a man wore a tattered cloak but possessed wit, bravery and talent, he was as readily received into the brilliant salons of Athens, as the richest and noblest of her citizens.

Grecian literature, in modern times has been taken as a model by many of our best authors. From it men have received their highest inspirations.

The history of her literature and her art shows the highest example of refinement. Her political administrative and commercial history shows her prosperity to have been equally great. If we would put more thought upon the aesthetic and refining side of life, rather than on so much which produces the Almighty Dollar, would we not be erecting our temple of prosperity upon a more certain foundation? For

the lasting prosperity is that which feeds the soul as well as the mind.

So that when the rains of internal disturbance come and the winds of national peril blow, and beat upon that temple, it may not fall, because it is founded upon a rock.

Historians and writers have generally recorded that a nation's prosperity invariably goes hand in hand with its civilization and refinement.

China shaken from center to coast with war and violence, shut out from the civilization and refinement of the European nations, has not attained to the degree of social and financial prosperity of her younger sister-nations.

Our great and glorious country, one of the most highly civilized of the globe, is one of the most prosperous.

True, it is made up of common people, laborers and artisans, but of these the greater part must be cultured and refined. In business, in almost every phase of life, that high degree of culture must be found.

A low, ignorant person has seldom been chosen to execute the laws of our nation, our cities or our towns. We want the learned man, the polished man, the Christian man, the refined man to fill our offices, our pulpits and our schools.

How true is the old adage, "Manners make the Man!"

The man who simply dresses well is not the true man; but he who is refined and cultured. The dress only helps to indicate the character.

The Africans live in a state of society almost as savage as that of our North American Indians over four centuries ago; have no ideas of culture nor of refinement.

They have no colleges, no schools, no great places of learning where they may be trained in all the different lines which go to make up an intelligent people.

They are simply left to roam over the country, ignorant, poor, despised. They live in rude houses, have no social organizations, are ignorant of the Gospel.

They indeed need the refining influence of civilization.

Upwards of three thousand years ago, when the Pharaohs dwelt upon the banks of the Nile, when some degree of prominence was given to priest-craft, literature and learning, Egypt's prosperity was far in advance of even that of the present day.

Her ships rode the seas, her commerce found its way to other nations. The wisdom of her rules permitted her to furnish food to the famine-stricken people of Canaan. She was indeed one of the most prosperous nations in the early dawn of history. Her prosperity, also walked hand in hand with her refinement.

And what can now be done for the Dark Continent? Let the refining influences of Christianity flow in among her people. Let the teachings of the Gospel leaven the minds and consciences of her inhabitants. Let this continue and increase from generation to generation, and I doubt not that her prosperity will keep pace with her advancing refinement.

By being the most, refined nation, we are the most progressive.

Even the home shows the effect of a cultured and refined mother. The home is beautified the family atmosphere is purified, the children are intelligent, taught to be courteous, to think pure thoughts, to read good books, to keep safe company; and the result is earnest, loyal, moral and upright citizens.

Within the last few years our people have made many discoveries and inventions, which have helped to place us in the front ranks of culture and refinement. As we progress in years, we progress in civilization.

In foreign countries, too, the work of civilization is going on; in some helped by our missionaries.

When those people become refined and educated, it is safe to say that a higher development will be reached, and those nations be set free from the darkness which enshrouds them;

"For every bondsman in his own hand bears,  
The power to cancel his captivity."

Carrie King entered the 3rd grade here in 1886 and the High School in 1892, completing the English Course.



## Nobility's Badge.

MAY MCADOO.

Who is this clad in armor with helmet and shield, mounted on a prancing charger? It is the knight of the fourteenth century. He, with his bravery, gallantry and chivalry bears the badge of nobility for that century.

But tonight I talk to you of him who bears the badge of nobility of the nineteenth century. Does he bear any insignia or any outward sign of his rank? Not so; he is to be distinguished by his thoughts, his aspirations and his actions. Such the bard of Avon describes "as one whose life was so gentle and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'This is a man.'" Or such an one as Whittier describes,

"No duty could o'er task him,  
No need his will outrun;  
Or ever our lips could ask him,  
His hands the work had done.

He forgot his own soul for others,  
Himself to his neighbor lending;  
He found the Lord in his suffering brothers,  
And not in the clouds descending."

He wears the badge of nobility in the nineteenth century because he is a wise, gifted, noble-hearted man. Not wise in the lore of books

alone, but in that wisdom that feels all the fine possibilities of life. Not gifted in the sense that genius is, but in that power to make even poverty and toil "restful and rich." Noble hearted in as much as he is able to give human nature reverence for the sake of one who bore it—even Jesus of Nazareth; one who makes himself divine with the inevitable tenderness of God; one who feels in his innermost soul that man is more precious than all the yellow sands of all the Lydian rivers.

And how does the wearer obtain this badge? The queen of the fourteenth century dubbed her subject a knight simply by raising the sword above his head. This she did as the consequence of some brave and noble deed in war and conflict. But the knight of the nineteenth century gains his badge all unconsciously, by doing the duty that lies nearest at hand, by making the most of his opportunities. He never strove for the acclamations of the multitude; he never triumphed over a fallen foe; but in the quiet walks he may be sometimes found, plodding on, asking only the approval of his own conscience. Again, he leads the world with grand and noble thoughts to higher things, or with words of eloquence shaping the destinies of the nation. Again, he may be the possessor of great wealth which he pours forth with unstinted hand to help mankind to better things.

In the fourteenth century we find him in high places, in the court, amidst the clash of arms and the sound of trumpets. But while this knight is here, where may ours be found? Among the large-brained, clear-eyed men who are ready to assail every wrong, to break all chains that bind the spirit of progress, and scatter before their swift advance darkness, ignorance, poverty and all their attendant evils. We find him among the poor and the lowly, where he takes up the burdens and fights the battle of life with as much valor as ever did the knight errant of old.

Will any one—can any one—deny that our modern knight is far more worthy of honor than is the other one? Surely

"There never rode to the wrong's redressing,

A worthier paladin;

Shall he not hear the blessing,

"Good and faithful, enter in."

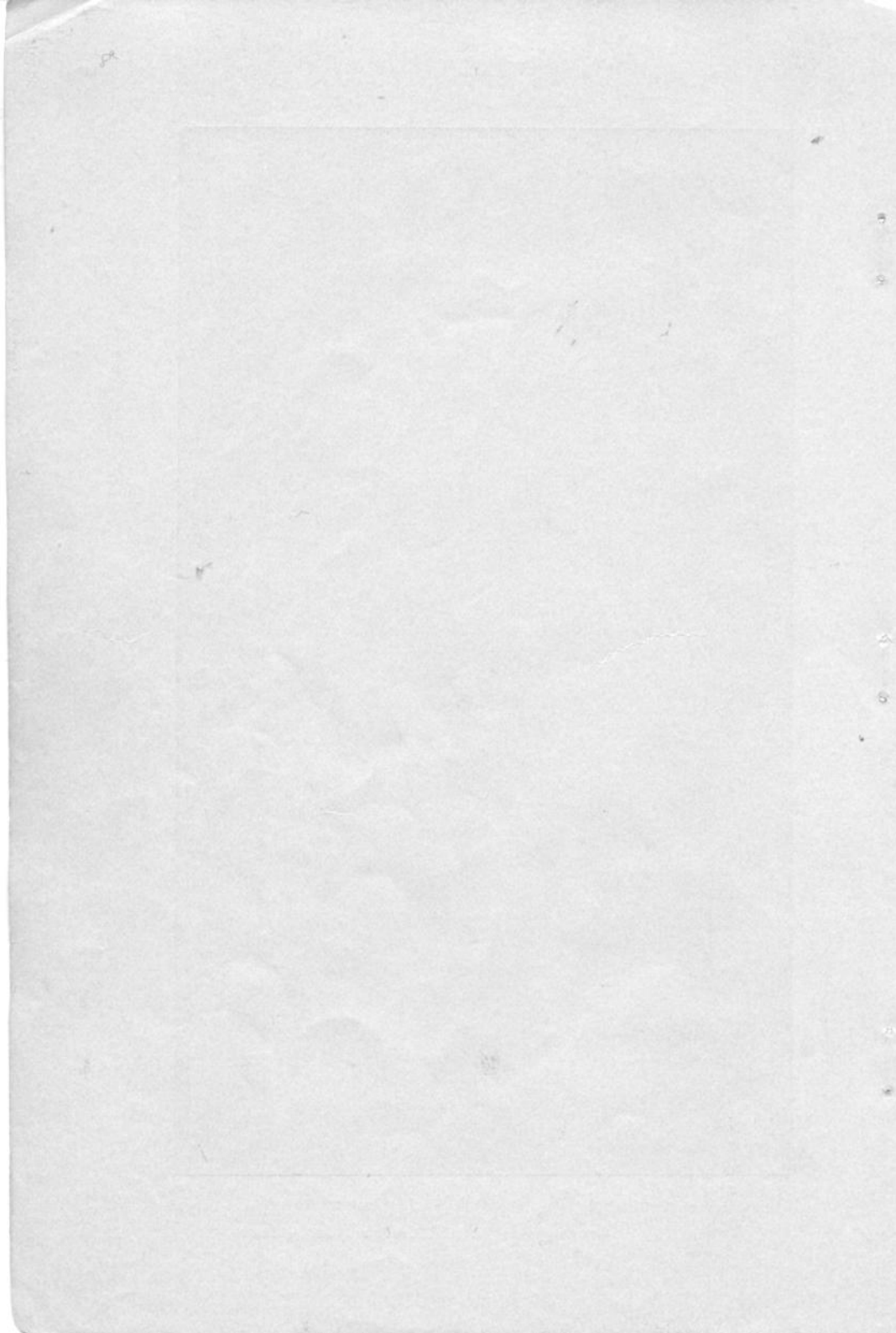
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May McAdoo entered the High School from Dist. No. 1, Frankfort twp., in September 1892, has taught a two months term of school while in the High School and completed the English course. She is president of the Senior Class.





1 Chas. Mcyerhoff; 2 May McAdoo; 3 Ralph D. Williams; 4 Ora Criswell; 5 Grace Greenlee; 6 Ralph H. Williams; 7 Sam'l B. Scholz, Jr.; 8 Linnie Moore; 9 Carrie King; 10 Wm Sampson; 11 Bertha Himmler; 12 Jno. Gillmore.



## Man His Own Architect.

CHARLES MEYERHOFF.

The immortal bard has said, "It is not in our stars but in ourselves that we are underlings." This is not a new thought, but I believe one's success in life depends largely upon his thoroughly believing that success lies within himself and not upon environment, heredity or any of the hundred and one excuses we hear trumped up for failures.

It is a very common occurrence to hear people say that "circumstances shape a man's destiny" This is true in some cases, but the majority of men who have made a success in life will say that the surroundings of their earlier life had but little effect on their after life because "all boys are boys" until they reach the stage in life when they begin to realize their situation.

"A man's true greatness lies in the consciousness of an honest purpose in life." This is founded on a proper estimate of himself on frequent self examinations and a steady obedience to the rule which he knows to be right. Experience teaches us that "we become that which we make ourselves." For example, Washington and Lincoln. Washington was raised where he might attend school, and had the means with which to support himself while so doing. Lincoln was obliged to work in order to support himself and go to school. Although there is a great difference in the circumstances that attended their earlier lives, (one brought up nearly within the reach of poverty, the other in the midst of wealth) they were both able men and competent for the position they afterward occupied.

Erasmus, the greatest scholar of his time, was born in disgrace and began a life of misfortune. It was one of continuous struggle for light, learning and freedom, while Leonardo, the universal genius, alike as painter, architect and philosopher, was the natural son of a Florentine noble, whose name has long been forgotten, while his son's name will live all time.

Great towns do not necessarily produce great men. On the contrary the tendency of town life is rather to produce small men. The whirl of business and pleasure which pervades the life of cities distracts the mind and hinders the growth. There is a constant succession of new excitements producing no permanent impressions, because one effaces the impress of the other. While the person in the country is allowed to grow up slowly enough to properly develop, the one in the city is rushed up. The one in the city is sharp and clever in his way by perpetual friction with his fellows and when he becomes quiet and alert in his special business he stops there and goes no farther.

It is said that there is too much excitement and too little repose in

a city and not enough time taken for thought, but if two persons were put side by side it would be barely possible to tell from which place they came.

It has been wisely said that "every man stamps his own value upon himself, for we are great or little according to our will." We try to be honest and true and little by little we become that for which we strive and what was once difficult, by degrees becomes less and less so.

"He that is wise let him pursue some desire or other for he that doth not effect something in chief, unto him are all things distasteful and tedious." A noble heart will disdain to subsist like a drone upon the honey gathered by others' labor; or like a vermin to filch its food out of the public granary; or like a shark, to prey on the smaller kind; but will one way or other gain his own subsistence.

How often have we heard the remark: "Oh, it is only the cropping up;" but we must remember that there is one thing that heredity does not influence, and that is genius.

In cases of men of the greatest genius there does not seem to have been anything remarkable in their parents. Shakespeare was the one man of his time. No Shakespeare before, none after. His folks were of the lower class and his father was a farmer and a sheep herder. Sir Walter Scott was the son of a poor man. Garfield was likewise the son of a poor farmer; and yet these men stand among our greatest.

Since our greatest men have risen to prominence suddenly and not generally from the better class, we cannot tell when or from what source our next will come. Holmes has said: "I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving. To reach the port of heaven we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it; but we must sail, not drift nor lie at anchor."

A man's greatness lies within himself and we are great or little according to our desire, for,

"All are architects of fate, building in these walls of time,  
Some with massive deeds and great, some with ornaments of  
rhyme.

Thus alone can we attain to those turrets where the eye  
Sees the world as one vast plain, and one boundless reach of sky."

Charles Meyerhoff entered the High School from the Nodaway schools in 1892 and completes the English course.



## Common Sense.

LINNIE MOORE.

Philosophy wandering on weary wing through many ages, at last makes her nineteenth century refuge in home circles, in clubs and in places of social gathering. Many and high are the themes here discussed. The assembled sages gallantly march their forces up to all



questions of science and ethics and seldom march them down without planting a banner or capturing some flag. This represents wisdom in her best estate as thriving with the mass and not with one individual. The minds of the people are freely spoken out at these assemblies. Every young person starting forth in the journey of life desires to meet with some measure of success. In order to do this the youth of the land must take their first foot-steps on a firm soil or they may share the fate of many a fine castle which has proven a failure because of the weak foundation upon which it was erected.

Success in life depends upon the improvement of the opportunities of youth, for "Life is a casket not precious in itself but valuable in proportion to what fortune or industry or virtue has placed within it."

What is the true path to success? Does it lie through health? If so why do not the bands of tramps that infest our country succeed? Does education insure success? It matters not how much is known, but it does matter what use is made of it. One may know as much as the greatest scholar that ever lived and yet not be known to the world unless he applies his knowledge in the right direction. If neither health nor education is the true element to success, what is? A large portion of the people will say wealth. It is true that with wealth, we can command an education and move in good society; but think for a moment, how many of our noted men have been wealthy—only a small per cent.

Our present executive was obliged to borrow a small sum to start forth in life, yet he has been advancing step by step until he has been awarded the highest honor. He has made life a success. Given money at the start, most of our young people would never become workers. They forget that—

"The heights by great men reached and kept;  
Were not attained by sudden flight."

Thus while many sons of poor men are becoming famous, those of rich men, the world hears little of except as inheritors of vast fortunes. Health, education and wealth are not the only things needed.

Nature has bestowed upon us many things necessary to our physical comfort; by that same kind hand, has been given us what Pope calls,

"A certain truth which many buy too dear, Something there is more needful than expense, And something previous even to taste—'tis sense, Common sense."

Common sense, as a teacher, shows us many things concerning the affairs of life. It shows us how to develop our bodies in such a way as to aid us in our life's work. For mental and moral strength depend upon physical strength.

That the end of education is to make us better and more useful, and if we keep on obtaining knowledge without applying it, it is then an injury and not a help. It assures us that money is only good when well used, therefore we must not sacrifice what is nobler than money in an effort to obtain it.

The lack of common sense to consider where the path we take will lead us out, is the cause of so many failures; There being no middle path, we must be going either right or wrong; we should study our motives to ascertain whether we are treading the highway to success. The finest ship ever built would drift to the "deep waves of death" if it attempted to sail without a helm. So, that we may not be drifting, let us laden our vessel with all that is necessary and useful to life and with common sense at the helm, our voyage will surely be crowned with the greatest success.

Linnie Moore received all her schooling in the Villisca Schools, entering the High School in September of 1892 and completing the English Course.



## Never Too Late.

CARRIE E. NILSSON.

"It is never too late to be what you might have been," morally, physically, intellectually. If we could but drop the curtain upon the Past and lift the veil of the Future there would be no occasion for the penning of this thought.

If we, in doing the little duties which go to make up the days work, would follow the just decision of our mind and conscience, there would be no regrets, no heartaches for the "might have been." If we, like the seven wise virgins, had our lamps "all trimmed and bright," there would be no lamenting of lost opportunities.

Each landmark along the path of our desires marks the successive approaches to the goal of our success. If we work from pure impulse without reflection, we weave like the spider, for its work pursued steadily, bends in this way to become an end in itself.

Sometimes we start out bravely to accomplish a cherished object but fail to realize the goal. It becomes too burdensome, like the part of clay; we stumble and let it fall; we gather together the broken fragment, and stick the bits together, propping the ruin in its old place as a memorial. Although we failed, in a way, to reap success, yet our labor was not all in vain, for there lies the broken vessel to remind us that we can strive again and with ease bear the burden in safety.

Every individual possesses some peculiar quality or some of qualities which distinguish him from all others; it is the stamp impressed by nature, education or habit. His environments are either incentive or detrimental to his prospects in life; they are modified by his determination and perseverance and these in turn are influenced by his environments.

We live in comparative idleness from day today with no thought

of future want. The sense of security more frequently springs from habit than from conviction, and for this reason it often subsists after such a change in the conditions as might have been expected to suggest alarm.

It has been said, let a man "neglect the responsibilities of his office, and he will inevitably anchor himself on the chance that the thing left undone may turn out not to be of the supposed importance." Do not trust to chance in accomplishing your daily work. The Fates are sometimes, nay, often obliging enough to do your difficult tasks for you but it is only for the purpose of ensnaring your unwary feet, and hindering you in the future. To have your path in life made smooth and easy does not teach you self reliance.

"Providence furnishes materials, but expects that we should work them up ourselves." There is a supply of material and time for all who will make use of it. It depends on the laborer himself whether that supply shall bring forth a rich return or not. The manufactures, trades and agriculture employ more than nineteen in twenty. Miserable indeed are those, who, from the conditions of their birth and education are not among the nineteen who work for daily bread. We do not want this kind of people who draw sustenance and give none, but those with the desire, energy and strength to improve all things with which they come in contact. We were certainly placed here to do the very best we can with the talents given us. Some day we must render up an account to our maker and shame for us if we have not increased those talents given.

Ours is an advanced stage of civilization. The torch of science and art has been born aloft for more than five thousand years. We must bear aloft that torch and feed the flame until it shall burn with an everlasting fire. There can be no rest for any one, but a continual advance onward and upward to excellence. Who would not obtain to the height of power—not for the sake of renown—but for the good that that strength might do for the struggling ones around. It is a hard path to find and when found proves to be a stern and difficult one to follow. Few have the courage and perseverance to even attempt to find this pathway and faltering by the way never reach the haven of rest.

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Carrie E. Nilsson, began school in a kindergarten in Topeka, Kas., soon moving to a country school in Montgomery county, entered the first year class in the High School in the spring of 1893, finishing the Latin Course.

## Pussy Wants a Corner.

CLARICE M. OYSTER.

Oft times the most simple and nonsensical affairs are strikingly illustrative of the practical and higher things of life. The game of "Pussy wants a corner" so often played by the children, may be likened to life, for life is a game. There are chances for every one which each must win for himself. Some think that the world owes every one a living. But this is a delusion, for just as in the game each must win his own place. New opportunities are constantly arising which must be met. No man who believes that the world owes him a living survives in history. No mention is made of him. The men who believe and act that the world owes them not a living, such are the names that live. Such an one was John Jacob Astor. While New York has a name, the memory of Astor will form an important part in its historic fame. He resolved to make his fortune in the New World. He was poor, uneducated, and his worldly effects could be carried in a small bundle. He had money enough to secure a common steerage passage. All sorts of stories are circulated about the early career of Mr. Astor. He is said to have commenced trading in apples and peanuts. If this were true, it reflects no disgrace upon him. He brought with him seven flutes from his brother's manufactory in London. These he sold and invested the proceeds in furs. He went steadily to work to learn the trade for himself. He was frugal, industrious, and early exhibited great tact in trade. He possessed marked executive ability, was quick in his perceptions, came rapidly to his conclusions. He made a trade or rejected it at once. He made distinct contracts and adhered to them with inflexible purpose. Mr. Astor kept on his way and rolled his fortune up to over fifty millions.

Another one, who, though he did not gain wealth in money, yet possessed wealth of intellect. Mr. Greely, the well-known editor-in-chief of the N. Y. Tribune. He represented the general convictions and aspirations of the American people. In the bidding places of New England's power, the factories, work-shops, and the hearths of quiet homesteads, the Tribune was an oracle. In the fenced fields of the prairies and in the log-cabins of the far West, it was a power. Mr. Greely is distinguished for the intensity and honesty of his convictions. As an individual politician, Mr. Greely's life was a failure and yet he was a success in so far as he began life on the lowest round of the ladder and by his talent, invincible industry and purity of character, elevated



himself to the highest position and probably had more power over the American people than any other living man.

No man need be a failure. The world owes no one a living, but it will give an honest and frugal living to every one who faithfully tries to obtain it. There may be discouragements and failures, yet there is hope and with Franklin's saying "God helps those who help themselves" progress may be slow but in time the end can be obtained and as Holland aptly puts it:

"Heaven is not reached by a single bound,  
But we build the ladder by which we rise,  
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies  
And we mount to its summit round by round."

Clarice M. Oyster received all her schooling in our own schools, entering the High School Fall of '92, completing the Latin course.



## Great Truths Are Intoxicating To Little Minds.

BESSIE REEVES.

In the well-devised plan of the Omnipotent Father, some of His creatures fill places of greater prominence than their associates. Each of the others who fill but a tiny "niche" in the world has a no-less-noble task of filling that "niche" to the best of his ability.

Those few whom we recognize as our superiors and as worthy of imitation, win the praise of their fellow men because of some merit or point of excellence in their character.

They, as well as ourselves, are searching for the great truths, of life. Some, in the beautiful arts, can reveal the truth on the speaking canvas or in lifelike clay. Some, with sensitive fingers, reveal the truth in strains of fairy music: Others still who sway the world by that which "is mightier than the sword," are searching for the truth in the field of literature. The scientist, by pursuing the truth in the laws of nature, triumphs in his field.

But the task of many who live in obscurity is quite as important as any of these. The influence of a lowly task well performed is aptly expressed by these words from Elliot:

"That things are not so ill with you and me is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life and rest in unvisited tombs."

We who, being below the mental plane of those who mounted high—on fame's ladder, are not broad enough to grasp the truth, must see its clear light as it is reflected by these human mirrors. Great truths are comprehended by few. Using the words of Hawthorne, "Great truths are intoxicating to little minds."

To the ignorant, to those unacquainted with that field of labor, the truth revealed by the master mind is not far from magical. The state-

ment of a simple truth is to a little child the greatest of wonders. So with the matured mind unless that mind is broad enough to grasp the whole truth. Half truths are no truths. Thus a confused understanding of truth may be worse than total ignorance of it. Just as a little child refuses to believe that the stove will burn until he has learned by experience that contact causes pain, so man must learn by experience and by education the great truths of life. As the eye closes itself to a bright light, so the age shuts itself to exclude the clear light of truth. Having lived for a time in the darkness of wrong, and having listened to the pretended truth-tellers of the age who lulled conscience to sleep and closed our eyes to the light of truth, we find ourselves beginning to long for light only when our residence in mental darkness has made us afraid to look at its clear rays.

Man is influenced by his mental training much as a plant is by its surroundings. Some, well developed mentally, may be regarded as the best specimens of their kind, and from such we obtain wonderful fruits. Others, like hot-house vines, are beautiful to look upon but the all-important brain fruit is wanting. Is it not then but little wonder that the achievements of a well-developed mind have an intoxicating quality when imbibed by any save a powerful intellect? Those who have labored against untold adversity to add one more to the constantly growing list of discoveries and inventions have suffered much from the lack of sympathy and encouragement which they would have received had mankind been able to comprehend the truth of their theories.

Nor is this blindness to truth a growth of recent years. It has existed since the dawn of Christianity. It dwelt in all its bitterness in the heart of man when the Savior, the One who is "the Way, the Truth and the Light," came upon earth. The truth was too divine, too infinitely just to be grasped. An earthly king was expected; but a King of men's souls, far grander than any of earth's monarchs, was rejected. As this greatest of truths has suffered so every great reform must pass through like trials. Too often the fundamental truths of some movements are made ridiculous by inability to grasp them.

One who, while deeply in sympathy with a cause and anxious for its success, is not broad enough to comprehend the whole truth, is termed a fanatic. Fanatics have little or no influence over broad minds and the fanaticism of one may undo the work of many able supporters of a cause.

Let us see to it that our minds are able to grasp the truths of life in all their different garbs. What a prospect for him who will fill his mind with useful knowledge which will one day enable him to have a place among the thinkers of his time. The world will look to us for the fruits of thought and study with which to satisfy the earthly craving after what is good and true. Will we endeavor to satisfy this desire? If so, we must prepare to meet the demands of the future.

Since it is in our power to make ourselves what we choose, we should embrace every opportunity to broaden our minds. Youth is the

time to lay the foundation on which to build in the passing years. Do not scorn the means, however humble, but enlarge your minds by patient search and application, remembering that none are too feeble to grow stronger, for as Carlisle has said, "The weakest living creature, by concentrating his powers on a single object, can accomplish something; the strongest, by dispersing his over many, may fail to accomplish anything."

Bessie Reeves received all her schooling in the Villisca Public Schools, entering the high school in '92 and completing the Latin course.



## Shall We Have Manual Training Schools?

MYRA REEVES.

As time passes, there are advanced new theories, which, when put into practice, are either an advantage or disadvantage to mankind. As these new ideas come crowding each other, as they will on through the swing of the centuries, it requires consideration and time to determine whether or not they are a source of advantage.

One recent idea, meeting with increasing favor, is educational: that manual training schools should be established, where the hand, directed by the mind, may become skilled in the many employments in which a great portion of mankind is engaged.

Not that these are to take the place of the schools where the mind is trained, for what is more important than mental drill? What more important to the child than the development of his mind? As the bud unfolds, and is able through its petals, fast growing wide to receive more and more of that limitless matter air, so in school, the mind unfolds and is able to drink deeper and deeper draughts of knowledge. It enables one to think for himself, to decide for himself. It enables one to see more of the good and beautiful of this life. The problems here solved aid in solving the greater ones which await him.

Since mental drill is so important, should time be taken for manual training? We answer affirmatively. "Education is the harmonious development of the physical, intellectual and moral faculties." "It is not a soul, nor yet a body which we are educating, but a man."

An all wise Creator did not endow us with powers to lie dormant, but intended that all our faculties should be developed. Therefore we should cultivate the physical powers as well as the mental and moral. It is a well known truth, that "we are so much the more free, so much the more independent, the more power we possess."

Some manual labor performed each day would be a much needed recreation for the student who devotes a great portion of his time to study and thereby neglects the physical exercise so necessary for bodily

strength. Since the mind sympathizes with the body, it would also be strengthened by the physical task. Thus we see the manual training school aids in producing what Locke calls a perfect and complete definition of happiness: "A sound mind, in a sound body."

In this school the young lady may be taught some employment by which she may obtain a livelihood; she may become skilled in the art of cooking, and in many ways which tend to home-making. Be her station what it may, this knowledge will aid her in doing or directing and by its means she will bring health and comfort to those about her.

In this day, when competition is so great, when the problems of life are so uncertain, and misfortune is liable to overtake the most carefully planned pursuit, nothing is so important as being skilled in some employment, and here the young man may become master of his occupation.

"Habit is a cable: every day we weave a thread and soon we cannot break it." In this school, daily performing some physical task one would acquire a habit of industry and perseverance. If throughout our land these schools were established, in a few years we would be more industrious as a people, and the class which daily seek food at our door would become almost unknown. The criminal class would also become less in number, for idleness and crime go hand in hand.

Another great advantage to be gained from this school, is the discovery and development of the individual powers of the pupil, which enables him to choose more wisely his vocation for after life. How many sad mistakes are made by young people when they select their life work. They choose some line of work for which they are not at all adopted and discouraged, make fruitless attempts again and again, but their whole life is one of drudgery, when they might have won success in another pursuit. Had they attended a manual training school their individual powers would have been discovered and developed, and they would have known whether they could best perform manual or mental labor, and what branch of either.

If the young were taught daily to perform some physical task, there would be created in the public mind a greater respect for labor. What do we depend upon more than labor? The food consumed, the clothing worn, the houses in which we live, all the luxuries we enjoy every thing pertaining to the welfare of humanity, has its foundation in labor.

Why scorn the means by which all these benefits are obtained? What institution deserves more assistance than one which develops a greater respect for labor? An institution having this for its fundamental principle must be one of the greatest civilizing forces of the age. In view of all these advantages, does it not seem best to provide for our schools manual training departments?

If we have any special talent, no occupation in which we may be placed need prevent its development. Would Paul's great writings have been better had he not been a tent maker?

Can we not take for an example in temporal matters the one who

is our perfect example in spiritual things? Even Christ did not neglect the development of his physical powers, but learned the carpenter's trade.

Let us hope that the advantages of this school which makes us, as a people, stronger physically, stronger mentally, and more industrious, which reduces the financial troubles of multitudes, discovers and develops the hidden powers within us, enlightens us on the subject of labor, helps humanity to help itself, let us hope, that ere we have crossed the threshold of the twentieth century, these advantages may be realized in our country, in our own state, and in our own town.

Myra Reeves entered the High School from Taylor county in 1892, completing the regular Latin Course.



## Contrasted Destinies.

EVA. RICHEY

Let me present to your mental vision two pictures that we may contrast them. Imagine for the background of the first picture a conventional New England village in the early years of the 19th century. A young girl just at the verge of womanhood is

"Standing with reluctant feet,  
Where the brook and river meet,  
Womanhood and childhood fleet."

Her father had sent her to a boarding school where she learned a little French, a little music, a little embroidery and little else. As her brother is preparing for college, the desire is born in her soul to accompany him into farther fields. She wishes to attain for herself a place in this great busy world. Her father, surprised that her dresses and jewelry did not satisfy her, exasperated that she should attempt such an unheard of proceeding, quickly silenced her desires. And so, with a sigh and much secret longing she gave up her hope.

We think the heathen fathers are brutal when they throw away their girl babies. This father did not do that. He merely brought his daughter up cramped and penned in by every restriction with which society and the times were acquainted, and those were many. He threw away only her higher powers, her spiritual nature, her intellectual possibilities. She was allowed neither thought nor individual action. The ruling law of the times seemed to be "The woman must keep her place." Therefore this young girl simply stayed at home, while her brother went out into the world, learning to take care of himself and earning his own way. She yielded to the inevitable and yet there were periods when she became aroused and restless and longed



for something better. But most of the time she was apathetic and cared for nothing noble or grand.

So things went on until the father died. When the will was opened it was discovered that he had left all his wealth to his son with the added clause that he was to give a home to the sister. This meant living with a sister-in-law, being the odd one in the home. For all intents and purposes she might just as well have not been living. Her death would hardly have caused a ripple in the current of events of the village.

Meanwhile Time was leaving his impress upon her. Lack of appreciation together with the knowledge that should her life end, few would feel a regret conspired to create an unloved and unloving woman. Humiliated and slighted as an "old maid" her feelings were scorned and disregarded. Thus, living on the charity of her brother, in the home she had been wont to think of as her own, with no definite aim or purpose in life, is it any wonder that she was glad to sink into an obscure grave?

"Perishing gloomily,  
Spurred by contumely,  
Cold in humanity,  
Into her rest.  
Cross her hands humbly,  
As if praying dumbly,  
Over her breast."

We will choose for the background of our next picture a busy, breezy, western town in the closing years of the 19th century. The central figure is another young girl. She had not been sent to a boarding school but with her brother had just finished a High School course.

Her mind is full of noble and progressive ideas of what she will do; of the many great and noble possibilities that were within her reach; of how high in the ladder of fame she would climb. And

"The centuries behind her like a fruitful land reposed,  
And she clung to all the present for the promise that it closed,  
And she looked into the future far as human eye could see,  
Saw the vision of the world and all the wonders that would be."

Though possessed of a high school education only, she had all that was necessary to make herself recognized in the world. However, she was not yet satisfied but purposed following her brother into further study. Then when she was in college and her work was really begun, she, with her weaker strength, worked as her brother never thought of working. Perhaps it was her finer sensibilities, her more intricate intellect that helped when her brother was in trouble and came to her for aid and advice. Perhaps, then her firm mind and soul it was that guided him. But never did he come to her in vain. She was always ready and willing to advise and comfort him.

When the end of her schooling was come, it was discovered that she had graduated with much higher honors than her brother. She now resolved to go out into professional life, to stand alone, to be the architect of her own fortunes.

She received many hard rubs and knocks, and yet she did not despair but went on advancing to a higher and nobler destiny.

In spite of the great progress that has been made, yet we are still within the 19th century and some of the prejudice and injustice which characterized its earlier history still clings to the present. Therefore, while the brother found little difficulty in mounting to the higher walks of his professional life, with the sister it was different. All acknowledged the superiority and excellence of her work. All acknowledged that her work was at least equally important with his. But for her labors she received a small pittance compared with his reward. Because it was the general opinion that she lacked those necessary qualities and those which for so many generations man only has been supposed to possess, she was not advanced to the higher positions as was he, but received those far less lucrative.

We must leave her here at her work, patient and uncomplaining, although she knows that much that should have been hers, she never can have. She is happy and contented for she knows that when life's school is ended and the Great Commencement Day has passed she will be as the angels of God in Heaven, and her work on earth will rank for itself alone.

You who have little girls in your homes, whose time for being educated will soon come, which of these two destinies will you choose for them? How will you educate and mold their minds? Will you give them every advantage that lies in your power?

Or will you shut them in by unjust restrictions? Will you systematically stunt their mental growth and deny them their natural rights and that equality which is theirs before high Heaven?

Now be for one moment just and true to yourself, which is it you are planning for, and favoring the most, your boy or your girl?

Why is it that you will not look at them as intellectual equals?

Why do you not learn that the kindred noble impulses and lofty ambitions that are agitating your boy's mind are also stirring in the soul of your girl?

Why will you not all say with me, what a happy time that will be when the barriers are broken down and the woman is untrammelled in the exercise of her natural rights?

Yet would she still retain that truer sense of duty and that stronger sense of right which even now elevates her far above the head of man.

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Evabel Richey received all her schooling in the Villisca schools, entering the primary room at 6 years of age, and the High School in '92, completing the Latin course.

## In His Image.

GERTRUDE SAMPSON.

In the first chapter of Genesis we are told that man was created in the image and likeness of God.

This statement is usually accepted without question. Yet how little we think of its magnitude. In His Image! Can it be physically? If so physically alone? God is triune in nature; has he made us in his image?

What we term the lower animals have bodies resembling, in a more or less degree, our own. Therefore we must resemble God in other ways than this. Are we aspiring too highly in believing we are partakers in this triune nature? Are we not in a degree endowed with his attributes?

One of God's greatest attributes is love. While Jesus was on earth, he spent the greater part of his time healing the sick in mind and in body. So as we, in our love for mankind, strive to discover cures, to establish hospitals, homes and asylums, as we strive to soothe and relieve the distress of the suffering ones about us. We are approaching nearer to his image.

All the lower animals were created with great provisions for their protection. We may see this each way we turn. We may see how the insects and worms are made to fit their surroundings, and how the timid birds and small field animals are the same color as the grass and ground in which they live. Tho' ages have past since they were created, they have remained the same, while man, who was left to devise protection for himself, has built forts and battlements, cannons and warships, and gone on from using the rudest implements of war to the most perfect ones of to-day. But rather let us sing the song of peace.—

“Put off, put off your mail ye kings, and beat your brands to dust;

A surer grasp your hands must know your hearts a better trust,  
Nay, bend aback the lance's point, and break the helmet bar.

A noise is in the morning winds but not the note of war!”

The deer is given fleetness of limb to escape its pursuers and accomplish great distances in a short time; yet man is endowed with the power of mind to form machines by which he may outspeed the swiftest deer.

The wild goose, guided by instinct, knows how and when to seek another clime and can go from zone to zone without losing its way; but man is given power of mind to invent an instrument that points its finger with unerring precision toward the Pole star and guides him in the right course.

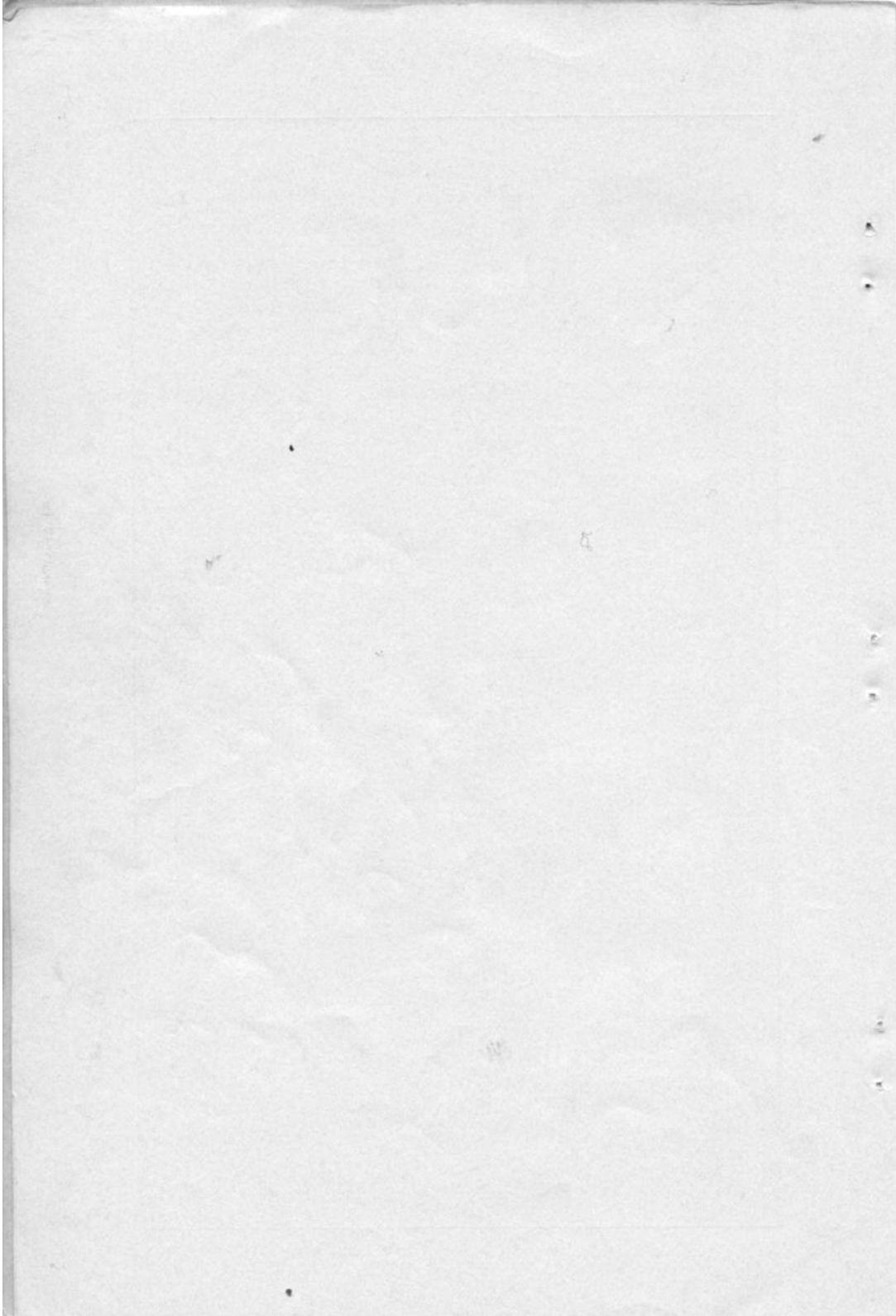
1 Myra Reeves; 2 Cella Gillmore; 3 Alice Stoddard; 4 Evabel Richey; 5 Bessie Reeves;

6 Gertrude Sampson; 7 Clara Cowgill; 8 Belvidere Smith; 9 Clarice Oyster;

10 Carrie B. Nilsson; 11 Esther Holm; 12 Wilbur W. Wright;

13 Edith Ervin; 14 Leona Wallace.







The eagle is given strong wings to bear him up as he soars higher and higher surpassing all other birds in his flight. But far, far above the flight of the eagle soars the thought of man, and from generation to generation, increasing in strength and growing in magnitude, approaching nearer and nearer to the image and likeness of God.

All things were to pay obeisance to man, not only the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air alone, but also the elements of nature. Light and heat, water and electricity are God's greatest forces in nature. Ages before man comprehended their power, God made use of them around about us. He poured his light and heat upon the bosom of the mighty water, its surface expanded and rose in vapor, forming clouds to be surcharged with that subtle agent called electricity, "whose mighty thunderings were the Lord's. The explosions of which might be heard from pole to pole as it shook the drops of water to the ground, as it burned and destroyed the impurities of the atmosphere and returned again to its great reservoir, the earth.

But there were born into the world a Franklin and a Morse, a Watt and a Fulton, a Daguerre and a Roentgen, a Tesla and an Evershed, who bridled the lightning, harnessed the steam, focused the light and captured the force of the waters, even to the great Niagara. But when we consider that all this progress is but as a grain of sand upon the shore of what still awaits us, we cry out in the words of Holmes:

"What though we perish ere the day is won?  
Enough to see the glorious work begun!  
The thistle falls before a trampling clown,  
But who can chain the flying thistle-down?  
What arms might ravish, leave to peaceful arts,  
Wisdom and love shall win the roughest hearts;  
So shall the angel who has closed for man  
The blissful garden since his woes began.  
Swing wide the golden portals of the West,  
And Eden's secret stand at length confessed!"

Gertrude Sampson entered the High School from Dist. No. 5, Jackson twp., in the fall of 1892, completing the Latin course.



## Christian Citizenship.

WILLIAM SAMPSON.

In my spare moments I fancied I saw spread out before me a beautiful landscape with its mighty rivers flowing to the sea, its abundant forests waving in the breeze and balmy air that seemed to belong to a land of everlasting summer. The inhabitants had just recovered from a long and ardent struggle for liberty, their industries seemed to be all destroyed and all action ceased, still at one of their large business centers were gathered about thirty of their best statesmen endeavoring to make a constitution for this people to suit them in their condition and for all time to come. The fruit of their labor was a code of laws that

surprised the statesmen of much older nations and such as the world never saw before.

The object of the framers of this constitution was to place in the minds of the citizens, this country and their duty toward it second to One only. In this they succeeded; for their constitution stood, like a frail leader before a great people, but they seized upon it with a spirit that exists only in a people formed under like conditions. And soon the threads of commerce were woven throughout the land. Trade, with his strong arm, reached out and supported many infant industries. And the social advantages developed in the line of telegraph and the press until friends of different places were enabled to live in touch with one another. This was the era of good feeling, and what an inspiring time it was, when individuals, families and trains of settlers pressed out into unknown regions to build for themselves homes on the frontier, when everybody seemed to feel the spring of springs pulling at their souls to do something for themselves and aid mankind. That was the time when character was formed, under like conditions Washington was brought up, and Webster, Clay, and Lincoln and in our present day amongst the vice and crime of a large city, we see a Dr. Parkhurst. Thus is shown the great necessity of responsibility in the forming of character. Oh, those good old days! What a monument for an ancestry and what a blessing for a posterity.

But it happened as this nation grew stronger and became self supporting that the law-makers seem to forget from whence the power came, neglecting the rights of the people.

There crept in between these lawmakers and their country two great obstacles, a desire for office and a love for money.

This desire for office reached the legislative bodies and there displayed a disgraceful party feeling which resulted in several magnificent games of chess for the principal offices and mingled with a love for money, was accompanied by a trading of votes, bribes, and wine and cider campaigns such as would blot the otherwise fair pages of history.

At this time much attention was given to the affairs of the government and consequently it became nearly perfect. After some years of satisfactory rule another political storm arose and it seemed to the pessimist that all was going to ruin. Now let us look at both sides of this question. We find men in public office who use their influence and official power for their own good, irrespective, sometimes, of duty and justice, and others that use their country's reputation to create sensation and turn every international question into a war cry, creating an evil effect at home and abroad.

On the other hand we see a conservative people, "slow to anger" and of sound judgement. Among this class of people was formed a grand movement known as "Christian Citizenship." The object was to league together all good, honest citizens in one great party, to manage the government irrespective of party or policy; to have but one plank in their platform and that the great plank of right.

It may seem strange that a clear-brained, clear-eyed person should need anything to inspire him to do his duty toward his beloved land. Something to stir him up to preserve those inestimable privileges that he enjoys; those privileges of a free land, a beautiful home and a mother's love; these are privileges that cannot be expressed in market value.

There is always a way to reach the sensitive nature of man. This may vary with the individual, but to the mass of people the most effective way is through the persuasive power of song. "Give to me," said a musician, "the control of the songs that a people shall sing and I will control their actions." The true and most lasting source of love for country is the songs of that country. How these songs spring into existence is as mysterious as many phenomena of nature. We see the electric light and view the power house with all its mechanism for generating electricity; we ask how this power is transmitted and with a little search find the missing link, a "live wire."

So we are searching for the missing link between a true man and a true citizen, and this "Christian Citizenship" is the nearest solution of the question that has been found.

We are the people, this is the country, and shall I, as a public official, a business man, a director of the press, or as a clear-eyed citizen, neglect my duty toward my country? Forbid it, Almighty God; if it ever should be so, "may my right hand forget her cunning and my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth."

William Sampson entered the High School from Dist. No. 5, Jackson twp., in September of 1892, completing the English course. He represented the V. H. S. in the Southern Iowa H. S. Declamatory Contest at Mt. Pleasant this year, and is now president of the V. H. S. Athletic Association.



## Monroe Doctrine.

SAMUEL B. SCHOLZ, JR.

The last quarter of the nineteenth century has added more to the world's history than any previous epoch. Great events have taken place. Inventions and discoveries have been made; writers and authors have contributed their portion. Very recently the scientific world has been surprised with the discovery of Roentgen rays, and great problems have confronted the political world. Alsace and Lorraine is the cognomen of a difficulty between France and Germany. The invasion of the Transvaal has called forth discussion in the legislative departments of nations. The Armenian trouble is one of the most serious difficulties in the Old World. But the question in which we are most

deeply interested, is the inforcement of the Monroe Doctrine and the principles which it involves.

After the downfall of Napoleon the Holy Alliance was formed with the object of maintaining the "divine rights of kings." At a meeting of delegates representing the Holy Alliance at Verona in 1822 it was proposed that European powers should assist Spain in recovering her lost American provinces. This is what called forth the Monroe Doctrine. Briefly stated it is this: "No more European colonization in America. No extension on this continent of the European political system and no interference with the independence of any American Republic."

The United States at that time compared with the United States at present was a pigmy compared with a giant. Her natural resources were small, her commerce was not yet developed, she had not yet really become a nation among nations. Of course the Monroe Doctrine was very popular with England at that time because if Spain possessed vast American territory there would be a great commerce for Spain and no other nation. England would rather see American Republics and English Commerce than Spanish dependencies and Spanish Commerce. "It is an interesting coincidence that the first direct application of the policy the Monroe Doctrine involves was to prevent the establishment by England of a protectorate over the Mosquito Indians in Northern South America. The U. S. interfered, the difficulty was settled by the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

The United States has been compelled to interfere in several attempts at violations of the Monroe Doctrine. There were in 1825 controversies with France over the island of Cuba. In 1861 Maximilian of France tried by force of arms to gain possession of Mexico, this was a serious question for the United States but after the close of the Civil War the French withdrew their troops on the demand of the United States. The north-west boundary dispute involved the Monroe Doctrine, but this was settled by the purchase of Alaska from Russia for seven million, two hundred thousand. One of the most direct violations of the Monroe Doctrine was in Santo Domingo. This was settled by compromise. The Venezuela difficulty is caused by England's claiming territory of Venezuela and is a direct violation of the Monroe Doctrine. United States, the "Mother of Republics, will not allow England to add to her territory of South America, but will do all in her power to prevent it.

President Cleveland in his message to congress said that the way in which England was trying to gain territory in South America was in opposition to the Monroe Doctrine and further that although he was acquainted with the suffering and destruction produced by war, the United States would bear arms against England if necessary to uphold this Doctrine. The sentiment of this message was applauded by the people.

We recognize the all greedy and grasping nature of England. The way she is obtaining territory in India and Africa are good examples.

Every year the English standing army of India increases in strength. Many think it is merely a military display. Not so. It is an attempt to gain more power. And do not her possessions already girt the globe?

The feeling of this, our nation, toward Venezuela is not simply of interest, but of patriotism and sympathy for a weak nation. In one of England's papers appeared the query, "What can the United States do with an army of twenty-five thousand men." Let them try us and see what we can do. We do not wish war but if it is necessary to uphold the sacred doctrines of our national policy, United States is willing to spend treasury and blood. She has always arrayed herself in the cause of right and should not be found wanting now, when a weak nation needs her help.

Sam'l B. Scholz, Jr. began school in a Kindergarten in Menominie, Wis. He entered the Villisca Schools, 5th grade in 1889, and the High School in 1893, completing the English Course.



## Seven.

BELVIDERE SMITH.

In the early history of Rome the Roman numerals were used for writing numbers, but with commerce the Arabic figures found their way to the conquering city, and from there we get an indispensable part of our language. It is supposed, originally, each figure contained the number of angles that designates its present name. The figure seven has grown out of a character that had seven angles, though the present one has but two. Its origin is no less mysterious than is its use in the Bible, in Literature and in Mythology.

In the beginning God created the world in six days and on the seventh rested. The French, thinking it was merely habit that the week had become so, and that a different number of days would be as well, tried eight days as a week, but the people wore out sooner and seemed to require the rest of the seventh day.

The Israelites were commanded to go once around the walls of Jerico for seven days, and on the seventh, seven times, when amid the shouting and blowing of trumpets, the walls fell.

According to mythology there were seven daughters of Atlas and Pleione, who committed suicide at the fate of their father and being pursued by Ixion were rescued from him and translated to the sky and there transformed into stars. As only six of these are visible to the naked eye the ancients believed that Electra hid herself for shame that she alone of the Pleiades had married a mortal man.

At the close of the sixth century, according to the legend of the Seven Sleepers, during the flight of the Christians from persecution,



seven Christians of Ephesus took refuge in a cave, where they were discovered by their pursuers, who walled up the entrance in order to starve them. A miracle was interposed in their behalf and they fell into a preternatural sleep in which they lay for two hundred years. On awaking they imagined their sleep had been but for a single night. The cross which before had been the object of contempt and blasphemy, was now erected in triumph.

Charles VI, King of Austria, died without direct heirs. Maria Theresa and Frederick both tried to obtain this throne. Maria was successful, but Frederick was felt to be one whose coming into the world might change the map of a country. And this is known in history as the "Seven Years' War."

The cycle of the "Seven Wonders of the World" originated among the Greeks, after the time of Alexander. They are commonly known as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Colossus of Rhodes, the Temple of Diana, the Mausoleum, Pharos, the statue of Jupiter and the Egyptian pyramids. Perhaps the one most commonly known is the "Hanging Gardens of Babylon." Nebuchadnezzar to please his wife who longed for the mountain scenery of her native country, Media selected a rectangle each side of which measured four hundred feet and around this space he built a series of seven piers and other rows of arches were erected, and thus the vast structure rose to the height of seventy-five feet. Upon the summit was spread an abundance of earth, and here not only were seeds grown and flowers reared and shrubs transplanted, but trees of the largest growth, brought from distant provinces, were set in their native beauty. In the banks of the Euphrates was set a huge hydraulic machine, by which water was raised in pipes to the summit, and distributed about the Garden. On the out side, at convenient intervals were flights of steps leading to the top, and along the ascent were resting places.

The gigantic Colossus of Rhodes, representing Apollo was a bronze statue 105 ft. high. It stood across the entrance to the harbor of Rhodes.

On the rocky coast of Egypt near Alexandria was erected the Pharos, the largest light house every built. The statue of Jupiter at Athens is Phidia's master-piece.

The Egyptian pyramids are the most venerable monuments preserved to us from the early world. Although standing away back in the earliest dawning of the historic morning they mark not only the beginning but the perfection of Egyptian art.

These seven wonders are things of the past, but tonight the boys of our class are present, the seven wonders of the class of '96. Though in numbers a hopeless minority yet have they preformed their duty faithfully and well as tonight will testify.

In the New Testament it is recorded that an Apostle came to Christ and asked: "How oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him, till seven times?" The Master made answer: "I say not unto thee, until seven times, but seventy times seven."

Can the man that has hatred in his heart that has lasted for years meet his neighbors with a friendly face? The face is the index of the soul. The Master is the best example we can have for our own, and may our motto ever be our persistent struggle for success, in our kind acts to others in all good and perfect acts. "Not seven but seventy times seven."

Belvia Smith entered the Villisca schools from Central City, Neb., and the High School in 1892, completing the Latin course.



## The Influence of Books.

ALICE STODDARD.

In every life there are influences tending to mould character. Man may be born rich or poor, of a high or low station in life, and with greater or less natural abilities. These conditions he may not be able to change; but there are some influences, brought to bear on his life, for which he is responsible. One of the greatest of these, is the influence exerted by books.

Every book read exercises some influence for good or evil, and we unconsciously receive and retain certain ideas.

It is best to "Read only what has been approved by good authority."

Doyle says "A man's brain originally is like a little empty attic, and you stock it with such furniture as you choose. A fool takes in all the lumber of every sort he comes across, so that the useful knowledge gets crowded out, or at best jumbled up with other things, so he has difficulty in laying his hands upon it. Now the skillful workman is very careful indeed as to what he takes into his brain attic. He will have nothing but tools which help him in his work, but of these a large assortment and all in the most perfect order.

It is a mistake to think that little room has elastic walls and can distend to any extent. Depend upon it, there comes a time when for every addition of knowledge you forget something you knew before. It is the highest importance, therefore, not to have useless facts elbowing out the useful ones."

Good books instruct, inspire, encourage, and promote high ideals.

They have also been a direct means of civilization. Before they became plentiful, only the clergy and nobles were educated. But now, all classes can be educated, and people have begun to think for themselves. The republican form of government which we enjoy, could not succeed among ignorant people. Books have made it possible also, for us to have our public schools.

They have accomplished many things which could be accomplished in no other way. Addison and Dickens started some of the reforms in England by their books.

Uncle Tom's Cabin has been one of the most influential books. Written at that particular period, and showing the cruelty and suffering in the south, it aroused an intense feeling against slavery. Thus it was one of the causes of the Civil War. And we should not forget that greatest of all books, the Bible.

The true lover of books possesses the best of friends; for although deserted by human friends, his books remain, and are better and safer company than many people. And if one is known by his associates, he is surely known by the books which he reads.

All books, however, do not exert a good influence. Our literature today, contains much one might not think harmful, yet, which is termed light reading. This if indulged in but little, may do no harm; yet is liable to cultivate a taste, and in the end will make one dissatisfied with his surroundings, give him wrong ideals, and an unreal view of life; so that he will be unprepared to meet the responsibilities of life.

If one does not possess a taste for good reading, he should cultivate it, and read only what will benefit him, and he will soon learn to love it. Milton says: "That which is not good, is not delicious to a well governed and a wise appetite."

Then one should have a variety of reading, for the truly educated man will be informed on all the topics of the time.

We in our school life have had but a glimpse of knowledge, and it has surely made us happier, and awakened in us a desire to know more. Some will attend other schools and colleges, but there will still be more beyond. Some will not have that privilege. But to each is given golden opportunities which should not be neglected. Each one has opportunity to read.

In these days when there are cheap books and free libraries, no one should plead ignorance because he can not obtain books. He has only to choose those which will benefit him most, remembering the words of Lord Lytton when he said: "Reading without purpose is sauntering, not exercise. More got from one book on which the thought settles for a definite end in knowledge, than from libraries skimmed over by a wandering eye, a king's garden none to the butterfly."

Alice Stoddard received all her schooling in the Villisca Schools, entering the High School in 1892, and completing the Latin course.



## Know Your Opportunities.

LEONA WALLACE.

Why is it that we, living in this age of rapid growth and advancement, one in which new channels are open to every one, and so many advantages for us, that we hear a continual complaint? Is it on account

of tyrannical ruling of our country? No, it is none of these. It is a lamentation over what might have been. Regret for opportunities shown and not heeded. Whittier, in his musings on Maud Muller, said:

Of all sad words of tongue or pen,

The saddest are these, 'It might have been.' "

How often do we hear people say: "If I could live my life over again, how different would it be. I had many opportunities. If I had only known what was to be my path in life, whether thorny or flowery, how easily might I have shaped my life to meet all its required duties." Every man should regret lost opportunities. No one knows what is in store for him, so everyone should shape his life to meet any trials or difficulties which may present themselves.

The first thing necessary is that we know ourselves; know what we are capable of doing. If we cannot estimate our own powers we shall never be prepared to recognize the opportunities which may present themselves to us. Besides, one who knows himself is in a good condition to make his opportunities.

No two persons have the same path to tread. Everyone has some opportunities different from every other person. There were once two men living in the same town. One, rich in earthly treasures, saw no need of taking advantage of the many opportunities which present themselves to that class of individuals. Before he died he was penniless and without friends. The other man started out in the world without a dollar. He took advantage of every opportunity, and when he died he left behind a reputation which greater and richer men have envied. Men like this are the men who make their mark in the world. They are the ones who have influence on their associates.

There is an old saying, "The fountain cannot rise higher than its source," which in this day and age is beginning to prove itself untrue. In England, a man's popularity depends upon his ancestry; in United States upon himself. If Abraham Lincoln had followed his father's example, he would never have risen higher than the occupation of hunting, would have had no education. But in order that he might learn to read, he would take his book and study while herding. Lincoln was one of the men who make their opportunities. If he had waited until a chance of attending school presented itself, the emancipation proclamation might never have been issued, our country might still be divided. Like the man spoken of before, Lincoln's name has never been forgotten. His character still remains as an example for us.

The trials and difficulties only help to develop man's higher nature and make him more fitted for life's duties. There is one opportunity which presents itself to each and all, the opportunity to do good, to elevate fallen humanity. By so doing our lives may be made cheerful and happy.

Although there are many persons who have not accomplished as much as others, yet they have done their best and should not be censured. Truly has it been said, "He who does his best, does well; angels could do no more." Every century brings new opportunities and should

we not take advantage of ours and encourage the rising generation to do the same?

To every person will come a time when he shall wonder if he has done his best. Every man's conscience will tell him whether he has or not. To a person who has there can be no regret.

So let us strive to live a life by which our deeds may live after us; one on which we can look back without the images of lost opportunities rising before us; one by which we may approach nearer the pure and holy example of Jesus Christ, comforted by the thought that although we have not accomplished as much as some, yet we have done our best and the angels above could do no more.

Leona Wallace received all her schooling in the Villisca Public Schools, entering the High School in 1892 and completing the Latin course.



## Ours for Us.

RALPH H. WILLIAMS.

Ever since our first parents were driven from the Garden of Eden it has been the custom of man to roam, either seeking for adventure or to better his condition. Long before the time of Christ the tribes of Asia pushed westward and drove the inhabitants of the land before them and in turn were driven out by the succeeding tribes.

The English nation of to-day has been made from a number of different peoples and of as many different languages, and the United States has even more nationalities represented in its make up.

This question is not new. It has been discussed by the people of the United States for the last century. It is both political and social and includes, not only the question of immigration but naturalization also. Although many of the immigrants make good citizens, there are without doubt many undesirable ones. In some nationalities, on account of their illiteracy and lesser aptitude for assimilation, they are more numerous than in others. The Chinese are, with the exception of diplomats, representative merchants, students and the like, prohibited from acquiring a residence within the United States because of their education, the peculiarities of their race and the fact that they almost invariably intend to remain until, having collected a little property, they may return to China.

There has been a change for the worse in the last twenty years in the quality of the immigrants in two respects. First, the proportion from southern Europe has increased and this class are of all the most undesirable. Second, the class of people from the northern countries



of Europe are the dissatisfied, discontented and non-prosperous of the large cities. Those from the southern countries of Europe are massed in our metropolitan cities and form in a large measure the slums. Our cities are overcrowded now. Why do we want any more of this class who, in a time of depression like this, are only a public burden?

Another reason for more rigidity in enforcement of immigration laws is on account of the immigrants' lack of knowledge of our language and, as is the rule, most of the foreign class being massed in our large cities, do not learn to speak or read our language, how can they understand our laws and vote intelligently? Great questions are often decided here by the alien vote. A foreigner may own property, transmit it by will and have all the rights of a citizen except the ballot. Let us not be in haste to give him the greatest privilege we can bestow upon an American citizen, until he prove himself worthy.

You may ask if immigration is such a source of danger at present why has it not been so in the past and why have not laws been framed to prohibit it? I answer that the conditions are changed. In the past a large per cent of our immigrants were honest men who came here to become citizens of the United States. They helped fight our battles for liberty and preservation of the Union. They were in sympathy with our institutions and laws. At present there are large numbers of paupers, anarchists and infidels coming. There is also another class, the unskilled laborers, coming here, not to become citizens but because wages are higher and they can save more than in the old country. After they have massed a large sum they return to their native country to spend it. Is not this an injury to us? If it is not injurious to us as a whole it certainly is injurious to the laboring man who is a citizen of this country and who intends to remain such the balance of his natural life.

If we must have immigration let us have laws that will prohibit this worst class. Investigations have been made and it has been found that if an educational test were required of the immigrants it would bear very heavily on those from southern Europe, while those from the northern countries would be affected but little.

The peril lies at the portals of our land. There is pressing in a tide of unrestricted immigration. The time has certainly come, if not to stop, at least to check, to restrain these immigrants. If we do not close our gates against them we should at least place sentinels there to challenge those who would enter. The time has passed when the gates which admit men to the United States and to citizenship should be left entirely unguarded.

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Ralph H. Williams entered the High School in Sept. 1893, from Dist. No. 8, Jackson twp., and completed the English course.

## Fiction.

RALPH D. WILLIAMS.

The brightest star in the firmament of Literature, is fiction. A star garnitured with almost universal attributes,—limited only by the power of language. Adorned with the sublime charms of art, of talent, of diversity, of inspiration,—gems sparkling as drops of dew. Seldom are such Elysian portraits imbued in the mind of mortal man.

But look! In the far background we behold, in the oriental nations, the first phases of this, the Sun of Literature. Trace its golden rays, and note, in addition to their inherent grandeur, how differently they have ornamented the cathedral of fiction in different nations and times. Prior to the present era of literary bloom, the sphere of fiction revolved in relatively small and definite orbits; but, "in the nineteenth century, every mode of life and every kind of opinion has sought to recommend itself by adopting this fascinating garb."

Here a question arises. Why was fiction so late in acquiring the beautiful hue of its true character? Partly, because restrained by the iron hand of imperial crowns. Certain sovereigns, it is true, by encouraging literary pursuits, have immortalized their reigns as the "golden ages of literature and art," but such felicitous periods were few and far between. But now is the Augustan era of modern times, and journalistic freedom is the Areopagus of the social and political world.

Fiction, in its nobler sphere, is the most munificent gift of belles-lettres. Have you thought upon its exquisite powers of inspiration, its incentives to attain a higher level, and how it is instrumental in the welfare of man? If not, there is a diamond in your path left unpolished. Fiction, when elaborated by artistic skill, has wrought the downfall of long cherished evil creeds. It has paved the way for the chariot of progress. It is the guiding star, the golden thread, leading through the labyrinth of literary darkness to an idealistic earthly paradise.

What truth then is locked up in that orient gem,—"He who can read has a golden key, a Rosetta stone, to untold treasures." The world's authors are a grand orchestra, the sweet strains of which ennoble the mind and so conduct us to higher, purer beatitudes.

Who knows to what extent fiction has restrained the foot with tendencies to go astray, from the awful abyss of perdition. And yet how many who enjoy its beneficence are its radical opponents. From an ethical basis? Yes, and a plausible one. The Puritans were adverse to all literary works of an imaginative character. This "religious portion of the community" construed all such in the light of falsehood.

It is to be regretted, however, that in their baser strains, the sweet

springs of fictional literature are contaminated with the essences of sensualism. This being so, we must avoid these emotional bonds, for, like the innate fires of wine, they affix the seal of ultimate perdition. "Books," says Goldsmith, "are embalmed minds." Hence, by its labors in the arena of fiction, every nation, having a written language, has portrayed its social standard for the enlightenment of a later day. But the emblems of some, unfortunately, are not in harmony with the stamp of purest import.

A theme frequently agitated is the abolition of fictitious literature. In Puritanic circles the advancement of such an issue is an act of impropriety, but in the greater and less ardent portion of the enlightened world, it is viewed in the crystal investiture of Christian faith. Here, the most eloquent forensic oratory could not forever bound its versatile attributes. The finest literary orbs are mounted in the azure welkin of fiction, but even this exalted capacity does not exempt it from the general imperfection of human works.

Fiction, like certain baser institutions, is, ultimately, an instrument of divinity; but it would be very impolitic to debase its nobility by such a comparison, as it is, in the beautiful words of Keats, "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

Such is a cursory view of fiction under the light of optimism. The seal of fiction is often affixed to those crimson orbs mounted in the firmament of darkness and death, and this unwarranted circumstance is the pedestal of a Puritanic creed, so superficial in its test of purity.

But, despite discord, (for "discord," says Pope, "is unseen harmony,") the nobler qualities of all things, physical or spiritual, manifest themselves with time.

With fiction, this is preeminently true. Time dispels the mystic veil and reveals purity and truth—the apocalypse of supernal glory—empearled upon the Book of Life.

Ralph D. Williams entered the primary room at Assumption, Ill., then the rural schools of Illinois, and, entering the second year of the High School here in September 1893, completed the English course.



## Political Reform.

WILBUR W. WRIGHT.

While we are on the eve of a great political battle, and the turbulent sea of politics rolls to and fro throughout the length and breadth of our land, bringing us face to face with as momentous an issue as has yet confronted the American people, the query rises in our mind, on whom lies the blame for the great financial distress of our land? or

what is the cause of the "hard times" which are now spread like a pall over our country? We turn to the factory, to the farm, we see an over production of the necessities of life. Great numbers of of poverty stricken foreigners are pouring into our country from all parts of the world. Other causes might be enumerated, to which hard times are ascribed. Working men say that combination of capital, low wages, and machinery are to blame. Politicians feel that change of administration, tariff or the absence of tariff are the chief causes. Clergymen and moralists are inclined to assert that social and moral influences and the liquor traffic are at the bottom. But the theory which we wish to advance is, that party policy and attitude of our citizens toward the political parties are more influential causes than any heretofore mentioned.

This theory, considering the fact that our political parties have much to do with all that concerns the financial, the social, and the moral welfare of our people, seems as probable as any. Our parties are necessary institutions. Without them, it would be impossible for a republican form of government to successfully exist. There are however many serious defects in them, which are evident to the most ordinary observer. In the first place fault may be found with their management which is well known to be largely in the hands of a class of men known as party leaders. Under their supervision politics are controlled in a manner devoid of all principle and all patriotism. They are men who are actuated largely by selfish motives. As members of their parties all their powers are exerted in behalf of that party, not that their country may be benefited, but for their own aggrandizement, for the hope of one day being an officeholder. This class of men however are not our uninvited guests. There is a practice, that of evolution in office, prevalent in our government from which, to a great extent, they derive their sustenance. The originator of this unwise scheme "to the victors belong the spoils," was Andrew Jackson; and now this custom has settled down on us with its fearful consequences. It has engendered political strife, corrupted the public service, and in fact it is no exaggeration to say that it is one of the greatest dangers to which our government has been subjected. To counteract this our civil service has been established and is doing effective work.

Again, representatives sometimes have a wrong idea of their duty toward their constituency and the question is often raised, should not a representative, in case of conflict between his own opinion and that of his constituency, support that measure which he deems for the good of his entire country? We answer, yes! but is not the man which we select, chosen to represent us in the seat of government? Is he not the direct exponent of the men who elect him? Yes, but he is in a position to be more enlightened on the questions of the day than they. Who will not admit that a representative is bound to his nation by higherties than to his party? He is therefore under obligations to support that measure which will be for the best interests of his entire country. It

is a lamentable fact however that in practice this is not true. The representative, with an eye on reelection, either votes according to the wishes of his constituency, although in his mind it is for the detriment of his country, or dodges the issue altogether.

How is an improvement to be made on this state of affairs? The condition in America now much resembles that in England of which Addison wrote, "Party spirit, when it rages in its full violence, fills a nation with spleen and rancor and extinguishes all the seeds of good nature, compassion and humanity." In other words, party lines are drawn too closely, so closely in fact, that there is a strong temptation on the part of the voter to cling to his party rather than to uphold his principle. A republican form of government places a ballot in the hands of every American citizen and says, "You are the government of the land, and in you lies the responsibility of controlling this great nation."

Our fathers have made this nation the very image of liberty and if we are to maintain the height which they have reached, every voter must throw aside his party affiliations and his party prejudices and cast his ballot in the interests of principle, of justice, and of righteousness.

May the voters of our land fully realize how great may be the destiny of this nation, and what his individuality is, and ever salute with a firm hand and a throbbing heart, the stars and stripes, so dear in the hearts of every loyal citizen. And may the flag ever float from the highest pinnacles throughout our native land.

Wilbur W. Wright entered the High School in Sept. 1893, from Dist. No. 8, Jackson township and completed the Latin course.





## Presentation of Class to Board.

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At the close of the orations the class formed in a crescent on the stage and Supt. Burton spoke as follows:

"It is appropriate upon occasions like this, that someone representing the instruction in the High School should address to you as you go 'Out of the Harbor into the Sea,' some words of commendation, some words of advice, it may be, before we recall the pilot and send you upon the high seas of life under your own guidance and your own command.

In the four years that have passed we have toiled and labored together for your advancement, toward the fitting of your minds and your characters for actual struggles of life, and none have worked more earnestly than you. I desire to-night to publicly commend you for it.

We have often had differences of opinion no doubt, from your entrance to the high school to the plan of your exercises to-night, but they have been such differences only as I know we to-night in our mutual joy pass by.

We are glad you have "finished your course," yet regret that in so doing, that in being promoted to the school of life, we, as student and instructor must separate; but our last words to you shall be "may the blessings of Heaven rest upon you, and crown your life's work at last."

As you go out into the world, you may not always drift with the tide; you will often find it necessary to buffet against it. You will meet criticism and opposition. At times you may be almost overwhelmed by the floods, but, act wisely, let "common sense" be your pilot, earnest effort your engineer, faith in the right your commander and you will succeed. Abraham Lincoln in the great work of his life met with opposition; in the Campaign of '64 his enemies denominated the gallant soldiers of the North who offered themselves for a sacrifice if need be upon their nation's altar, "Lincoln's hirelings," and the president's policy a failure.

But Lincoln's faith in the final triumph of right kept him steadfast in the path of his original plan, and the product, the success of the Northern arms, made us a united people.

Grant was called "the butcher" by his enemies as he massed his troops at the Wilderness and before Petersburg, yet amidst the criticism and opposition he went forward with his purpose to "fight it out on this line if it takes all summer," and the fall of Petersburg and evacuation of Richmond marked the successful achievement of his

plan. The product, the down fall of the Confederacy, made Grant's generalship and Lincoln's policy the greatest achievements of the century.

So you will be judged by your product, and the most difficult tasks you will have to do are those just before you. If they are well done those farther on will be easy.

The most difficult sailing is as you leave "the Harbor." "Be not weary in well doing," but meet bravely the duty of every day, that to you it may be said at last "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou in."

Mr. President—I present to you the Class of '96. They have completed the High School Course as required by the Board. I commend them to you, and ask that you present them with some statement to that effect. They have earned this reward from your hands, as they go "Out of the Harbor into the Sea."



## Presentation of Diplomas.

W. B. Arbuckle, President of the Board in accepting the class, and presenting the diplomas, said:

Class of '96: We congratulate you on your success in your studies and your excellent orations which we have had the privilege of listening to on this occasion, and feel proud of you as a class, not only on account of your numbers and splendid appearance, but your excellent scholarship as well.

You have the honor of being the largest high school class ever graduated in Montgomery County, I might have said in South-western Iowa but to say Montgomery County is glory enough.

It is gratifying to know that our schools have been made sufficiently interesting, and the desire for education on the part of the students has been so great as to cause so large a number to remain in their classes until we are compelled to say to you we can advance you no farther. In this age of progress and enlightenment they who are without education have an unequal chance in the world in the great struggle of life for fame and fortune.

Youth is the opportunity for education. You have improved your opportunity. What you have acquired could not be purchased with gold or silver but could only be obtained by years of hard study and constant application on your part, wrestling with text books, solving of difficult problems, enduring the hardships and disappointments, and enjoying the pleasures and successes that are incident to school life. This diploma will indicate that the one whose name it bears has completed the Villisca High School course which will amply qualify you

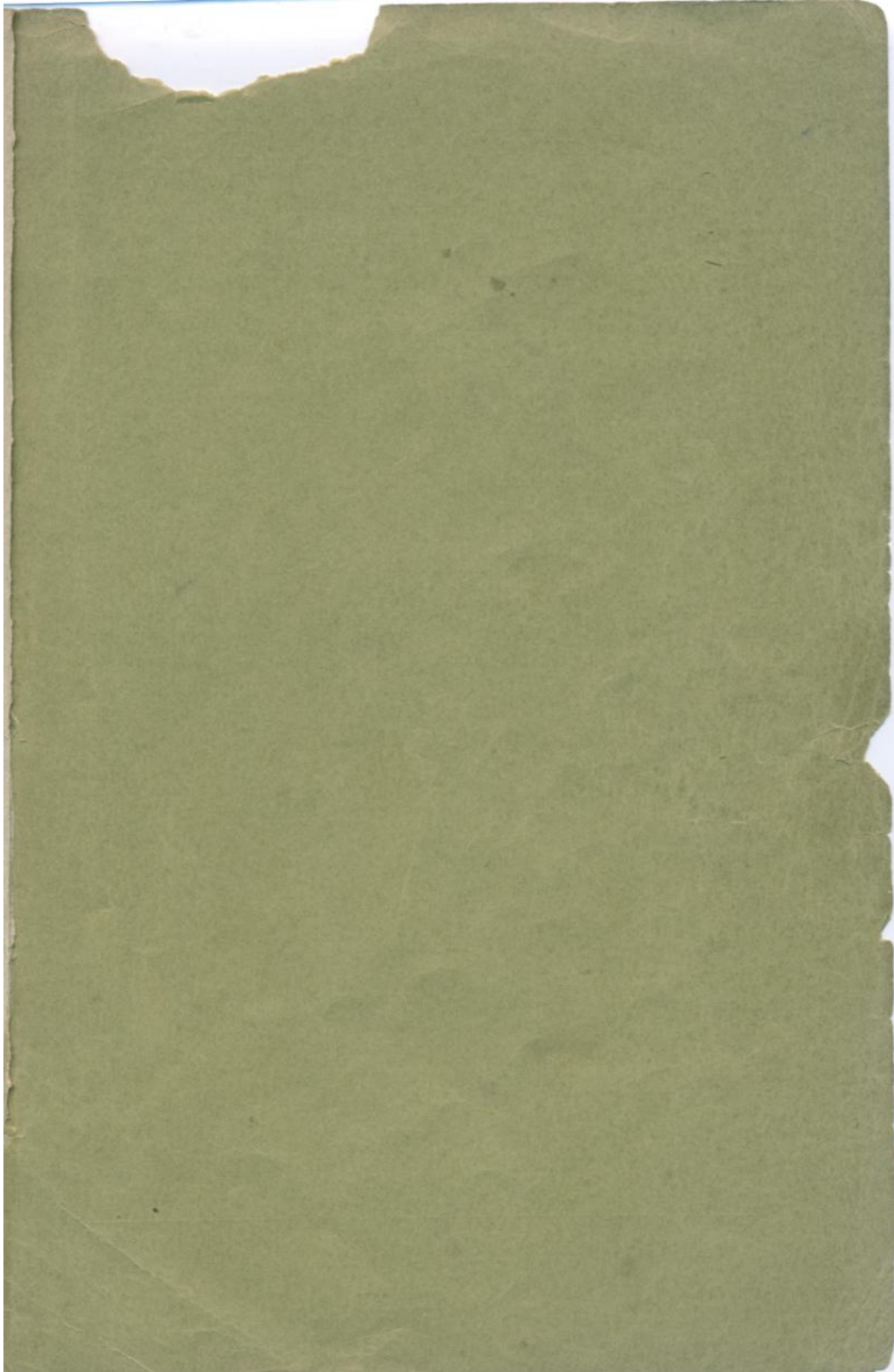
for any of the ordinary positions of life so far as education is concerned. Should you desire to dig deeper into the storehouse of knowledge and enter the professional field this will admit you to our State University without further examination or preparation, and will admit you to almost any educational institution in the land on practically the same conditions.

Now in behalf of the Board of Education of the Independent District of Villisca, I present you each with your diploma, for which you have labored so faithfully and have so richly merited.—In conclusion we extend to you our best wishes for your unbounded success, hoping the future may have great things in store for you as you launch your several boats "Out of the Harbor into the Sea."



### Stage Decorations.

The stage was arranged for an out-door scene, with a green landscape for a background, and bunches of flowers and fern-covered rocks on either side, while in the midst a fountain played, sending a stream several feet into the air, falling with a ceaseless splashing and murmuring amidst rocks and ferns. Above the stage the motto, "Out of the Harbor into the Sea," arranged in front of electric lights, continually flashed out and disappeared as though it were a phantom ship, or revealed by flashes of red and blue light. The class was massed behind the fountain, the girls all dressed in pink and white and presented a brilliant scene.





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