

1904

# **The Senior Echo**

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# THE SENIOR ECHO

VOLUME 1.

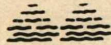
CLASS 1904





CENTRAL BUILDING.

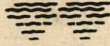
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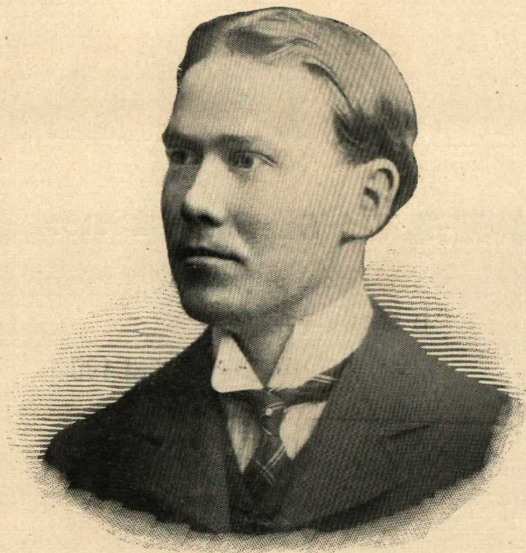
To  
Mr. W. Sherman Lister

This record of pleasant days  
is affectionately dedicated

—The Class of 1904.







Superintendent W. Sherman Lister.



## SUCCESS IN LIFE.

By Superintendent Lister.

I AM glad to use the "Echo" as a medium through which I may speak to the young people of our schools, and especially to those who are about to bid farewell to high school and enter the busy walks of life.

Members of the class of 1904 you are, just at this time, objects of surpassing interest to every thoughtful beholder. I say that, not to flatter vanity but to awaken a sense of responsibility. Permit me to emphasize two things which in my opinion will largely determine each individual's future success. These two are: training and character.

In the early history of our country skill in any line of work had not the premium put upon it that there is to-day. Our forefathers did not find it necessary to be a college graduate, or to be trained in a technological school, or to have a scientific education to make a success in life. Success, if it be measured by dollars and cents as units, came in large measure to John Jacob Astor, Daniel Drew, Vanderbilt, and many others who had never made any special preparation whatever for the lines of work which they pursued to amass their great fortunes.

Not so to-day. We are living in an age of invention, an age of electricity and the development of steel; an age in which the laws and forces of nature are being studied for their worth as

applied to practical purposes. No person can hope for success to-day above that of the common laborer who does not train diligently for the business which he intends to pursue.

If he aspires to be a musician he must train for it, for our ears have been cultured to know what good music is; if he desires a business career he must train for it, he must not only familiarize himself with the minutest details of that business which he chooses but he must possess a mind trained to act perfectly, to weigh and consider quickly and accurately, and to form unerring judgments.

In no line of activity to-day do we find a greater demand for well-balanced, thoroughly trained minds than in the great field of commercial industry. The testimony of our Captains of Industry is such, too, as warrants young people in electing that their training shall be continued in the higher institutions of learning of our land.

In the early days a lawyer could succeed by studying in the office of another, a physician by taking his course with another physician, but to-day no lawyer can hope to do anything who has not read his Blackstone under the careful supervision of a trained teacher, and the physician to whom we entrust ourselves in time of illness is one who has spent years in most careful preparation



and who has learned from specialists who devote their lives to the discovery of truth. The same is true in other lines as well, the world is demanding trained "hewers of wood and drawers of water."

I could not forget that other point. I would not have you measure success in life entirely by the dollar unit. If you do your lives will be miserable failures.

Character, that indefinable something within you which receives and records indelibly upon your mind the thoughts, words and deeds of a life is all important.

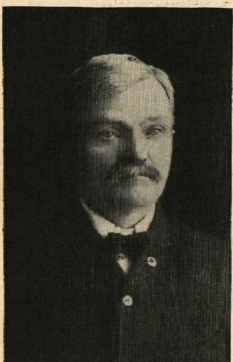
If the character is right there need be little fear for success in life. Character building is not the work of a moment, a day

or even a year. It is a slow process. We are working continuously, sometimes consciously, more often unconsciously. Some one has said: "The right kind of character is built by hammering one upon another of the sheets of gold leaf until they are a strong piece of solid gold. This character will stand the test of fire. But the character that will fail might be likened to a piece reared upon tin foil, which while to all appearances well adapted for a time, will not sustain the test of years."

I believe each of us is placed upon this earth for a definite purpose. To fulfill this heaven-appointed purpose would seem to me, be the supremest test of "success in life."



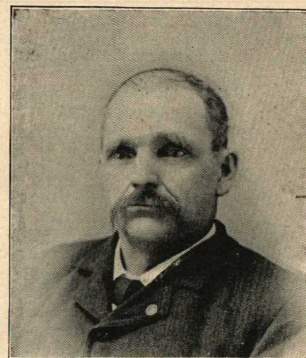
BOARD OF EDUCATION.



C. S. Cottrell, Treasurer.



John L. Root, President.



R. G. Lyon, Secretary.



P. L. Varnum.

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E. H. Taylor.



H. J. Miller.



THE Board of Education feels a justifiable pride in the progress which the Vassar schools are making under the supervision of Superintendent Lister and his able corps of teachers.

Only a few weeks ago, another of Michigan's oldest and best colleges, Olivet, complimented the standing of our high school by placing it on the list of approved institutions whose graduates are permitted to enter the college department without examination. To-day a young man or young woman can be as fully furnished for university or college work as in our largest cities; thus in the educational line Vassar is offering inducements as a resident town second to none. This should be borne in mind by every loyal Vassarite when expatiating upon the desirability of our village to those who are contemplating a quiet, attractive, healthful place in which to rear their children.

The class of 1904 is one which any *city* might congratulate itself upon graduating, both in the personnel and number of which it is composed. Nine young men and eleven young women!

What an influence they *may* exert in the world! What power for good or evil is bound up in that score of lives!

Who knows but some name among the number may become a household word in our national life, and adorn the pages of American history.

The Board expects the very best from these young people, and hopes the very best for them. The halls of learning are open to them, and there are numerous opportunities for acquiring a complete education along the avenues of self-help open to ambitious young men and women.

It has been my observation, that, other things being equal, the educated man distances his competitor in the race of life.

An engineer officer being recently asked whether college or men trained by practice are better equipped for industrial work, replied "Everything being equal, the practical man is likely to know more than the technical man about actual shop work. He is also likely to stop knowing when he should go on knowing. This feeling is general. The merely practical man is being outdone by the modern technical graduate, who has learned *how* to do things.

The great Gladstone said to young men: "Get knowledge all you can, . . . work onwards and work upwards."

Dr. Cuyler, of New York, says: "I have watched the careers of young men by the thousand in this busy city for over twenty years, and I find that the chief difference between the successes and the failures, lies in the single element of staying power. Permanent success is oftener won by holding on than by sudden dash, however brilliant. The easily discouraged who are pushed back by a straw, are all the time dropping to the rear—to be or be carried along on the stretcher of charity."

They who understand and practice Abraham Lincoln's homely maxim of "pegging away" have achieved the solid success.

The Board of Education of Vassar will watch with interest the career of the class of 1904.

JOHN L. ROOT,  
President of the Board of Education



THE Board of Education, while pursuing various methods to gain a livelihood, are united in the interests of education, and believe that the future of our nation depends largely upon the public schools of to-day, and the success of the public school depends upon the united efforts of the teachers, board of education, taxpayers and patrons of the school. We know that every boy or girl in this broad land of ours, of sufficient health, between the ages of five and twenty years, can gain an education if disposed to do so, and thus arm themselves with weapons which, combined with energy, will enable them to compete for a position in the front ranks of this commercial, agricultural and manufacturing nation.

The Vassar schools, through the efforts of the Board of Education and their corps of teachers, are justly proud of the position they occupy among the schools of our great State of Michigan, a school where a diploma is a pass to enter any educational institution of the state.

The present Board consists of John L. Root, its President, who is a commercial traveling man, and one who, in the course of his ramblings, is ever on the lookout for pointers that will increase the efficiency of the Vassar schools.

R. G. Lyon, its Secretary, has been a member of the force about fifteen years, and enjoys the hearty good will and smile of teachers as he presents them each month with an order for their pay.

C. S. Cottrell, the Treasurer, is a farmer and one who has contributed largely to the support of the school, and now has one daughter who is a successful teacher in the grades. Mr. Cottrell has been a member of the Board for eight years and his experience in school matters is valuable and ever for the good of the school.

P. L. Varnum, who keeps a shoe store, is a veteran in school

matters, having served upon the Board for many years and a number of those years as President. Although his own children have grown to manhood and womanhood, still Mr. Varnum takes the same active interest in the school that he did when they were under instruction, and his varied experience in school work makes his councils of value to the School Board.

Captain E. H. Taylor, who is a Civil War veteran and since that time a lawyer, is an old member of the Board, having served as its Secretary for nearly nine years. He brings ripe experience into the councils of the Board. He is a man who believes in pushing forward and exerting every effort toward making the school buildings and grounds attractive to the pupil. He is interested also in a well-directed system and is ever striving to place the school upon a higher plane as an educational institution.

H. J. Miller, the druggist, who was appointed within the year to fill the position on the board caused by the death of Dr. James C. Avery, is a comparatively young man with a growing family, and takes hold of the work like a veteran. He is full of energy and enthusiastic for the cause of education.

This short sketch of the Board of Education would not be complete without paying a high tribute to the memory of Dr. James C. Avery, who was called to his reward during the school year now nearly closed. Dr. Avery was a good citizen, a bright and active man in everything that went toward making this world better. Ever ready to encourage his fellow men to a higher level of manhood as well as frown upon whatever is degrading and tends toward a downward course.

The Board of Education believes that the world is better for the fact that Dr. Avery lived in it. Although he was cut off in the prime of life, his works will follow him.

R. G. LYON, Secretary.



The Faculty.



Cora Willsey.



Nina E. Bristol.



Ida A. Root.



Edith Hurst.



Florence N. Bryan.



Maggie J. Frazer.

Photos by Knowles.

The Faculty.



E. Helen Husted.] ]



Lizzie Laking.



Ethel C. Cottrell.



May North.



Margaret Graham.



Effie LeValley

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# THE SENIOR ECHO

Of Vassar High School.

Published by the Class of 1904.

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## Editorials.

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TO the class of 1904, the largest of the thirty-three classes that have completed the course of study of the Vassar High School, belongs the pleasing duty of addressing the people of Vassar and friends of the high school in an annual representing the best efforts of the pupils. The colleges and many of our high schools have recognized the value of a publication of this kind. Our school has long been capable of putting out a creditable annual, though no other class has yet recognized this work as imperative. It becomes necessary, in our school work, to adopt new methods from year to year to keep pace with the outside world. So we consider the publishing of our "Echo" as a step in this advancement and a fitting finale to the four year's work. No pains have been spared to offer subjects of interest to both young and old. We have hunted up facts from many sources that we might furnish to the people a history of the "Old School" and have even gained the aid of the first teacher ever employed in Vassar, now Mrs. O. P. Tobey. She felt incapable on account of

her advanced years, of writing anything, but furnished some facts which we might use. Her words have been inserted somewhat against her wishes, but we trust the offense will be pardonable in view of the wishes of many who remember her efforts in connection with those early school days. Then, too, we have spent a great deal of time and written many letters to far distant parts of the United States to gain information concerning the Alumni. One would scarcely believe that the graduates are so widely scattered. The Vassar High School has furnished from among its boys and girls occupants of positions in all the important professions, who have become men and women of well rounded character and noble purpose. We found that the former graduates and teachers were very ready to contribute toward making our undertaking successful. Only a few have been asked to write articles, and they have responded very ably and cheerfully; indeed, had we space, any number could have been procured. We are confident that this department of the work will be of great interest to our readers. Some consideration, however, must be asked concerning the other parts of the book. It may be sufficient to say that it has been our earnest endeavor to place in the hands of the people a publication worthy of the standard of Vassar High School. May our efforts serve as an inspiration to the classes that shall follow. May the "Echo" of our past year's achievements reverberate through the old familiar halls and return to the classes of future time with the words "Follow," and "Perfect."

ALICE GRAVES.



### AIM IN LIFE.

How many people are there who find that there is always something wanting in their lives? That there is always a desire for something they can not find?

In such people's lives there is something lacking. Although they may work hard every day, either mentally or physically, they live only a day at a time and have no definite aim toward which to direct their energies. Instead of letting ourselves go through the world like a wrecked ship upon the ocean which is drifted about by every change of the wind, and many times is found going back over the same places which it had just traversed, should we not have some port toward which we sail? Otherwise we are no better than the roaming gypsies. Although we stay in one place a year, perhaps ten years or even more, have we done the very best that we could to fill our position whatever it may be, and have we made an impression on the surrounding community?

People may say: "There is a steady young man; he will make a success of life;" but they are not aware that to make life a success it takes other qualities than steadiness, that a man must strive to do the very best he can along his line and let come what will he must be up and doing. Life is short and the world is large and there are so many people that one man's life is to the world not worth considering unless it rises far above the average.

It is true that no man has ever reached a perfect state of happiness; but men have lived who have found the interest in their work so absorbing that they have had very little time to worry

over their misfortunes and troubles, and it must be such who enjoy life most.

It is the man with a will power like an unbending steel who succeeds in life. Such a man has mapped out him his course in life and his conscience is the compass by which he steers his little bark over the intricate coral reefs and gulches during life's many storms so that it will be ready to anchor in harbor at any time when land is sighted, whether the voyage be long or short.

There is always a place in the world for such people; they will not be an incumbrance to the progress of any nation to the world in general. The world needs more such people in politics, religion, law, and in any work that benefits mankind. No honest, upright profession can prosper without them.

W. J. Ross.

### HIGHER EDUCATION.

In this day and age of the world it seems hardly necessary to give the arguments in favor of a college education—yet there is sometimes danger that high school graduates who for years have been eagerly looking forward to graduation do not realize the goal of their hopes and ambitions should fail to recognize to be, as its name implies, only the first step gained on the ladder of education.

It is but a milestone in the journey of life. Education is not finished but just begun, and there are higher schools of learning where the mind is trained more fully to meet the duties and responsibilities of life.



in Asia—to gain control of the “swarming orient,” and this first step—to thwart Japanese growth in Asia—is but one of the many in the long journey before her.

Interest increases as the Japanese go from victory to victory. Port Arthur and Vladivostok are practically lost, and the only means of reinforcement and securing supplies left to Russia is by the trans-Siberian railway, while the Japanese can easily be reinforced from home. Thus we see Japan victorious—Russia defeated in the first stage of the war.

What is next? Japan can not invade Russia even if she desires, while Russia may carry on the war indefinitely; and Russia has declared she will not acknowledge defeat. This great problem cannot be answered as yet. The danger in any way one may see at it seems to be war of long duration, or the entrance of other nations into the conflict.

ERMA BOYD





It makes, comparatively speaking, very little difference what institution we attend. There is the opportunity in the small college for coming personally in contact with the professors, who are men of culture and learning, to inspire any young person with higher ideals.

On the other hand the larger college or university offers superior facilities for specialization in a favorite line of research.

But both the small college and the great university will serve to broaden and develop the student and give a truer and more unprejudiced outlook on life. In this age when our colleges are turning out so many well educated persons, one needs careful training in thinking quietly, talking gently, and acting frankly with all his faculties alert, to compete with the college bred men and women in every profession. Not only do a man's abilities then demand a higher remuneration for his services to the world, but what is of still great importance, his capacity for usefulness is greatly increased.

Statistics can be quoted to prove the advantages that college bred men and women have over high school graduates, but they are scarcely needed. It is possible to-day for any boy or girl who is energetic and ambitious to win these advantages by his own labors and many of our great men and women have worked their way through college.

It is sincerely hoped that many students in the Vassar High School will seek this means to develop their faculties and increase their usefulness to the world. As a modern and progressive class,

we trust that all of our number will be able to continue their school life in higher institutions of learning.

BEULAH BLACKMORE.

#### THE RUSSIA-JAPANESE WAR.

Today in the far east a war is being waged—a war that may determine the fate of the yellow race. What the issue will be, what changes will be made in the map of the world or the history of mankind remains as yet a question of tomorrow.

Those nations not among the contending powers at the beginning of the struggle took their stand, either neutral or with the defensive or aggressive sides, and now wait to see it "played out." On the one hand the course of events was that Japan should go on unhindered in her great development; she should have Korea for her overflowing population; that her trade should expand into Chinese provinces, and finally, as a result of all of these ambitions she should become the first power among the "yellow races."

On the other hand, this working out of a new era in the history of Asia under the leadership of Japan conflicts sharply with Russian ambition. It has been *their* plan for years to push *eastward* to the ocean—for they must have an opening to the ocean in some way—and by intrigue, force and patience they have established themselves in Manchuria, where they mean to stay. Underlying this plan is their purpose to outstrip English influence