

## School History.

By Erma Boyd.

TO the early settlers of Vassar, when once they had secured for themselves a home, came the urgent necessity of establishing a school and placing their children under some suitable instructor.

Accordingly, after T. North's spending three days in tramping through the forest to secure a sufficient number of citizens to sign a petition, what was known as the "Curtis Shanty" was made over into a school, and three months of school taught by Miss Augusta Slafter.

Very few remember this school. The "Echo," however, thinking it would be of interest to the public, has secured a few facts regarding this first attempt at education in Vassar, from its first teacher, now Mrs. Tobey, of Oregon, who says:

"The first school taught in Vassar was in the summer of 1851, of which I was teacher, at a salary of \$1.50 per week, with the privilege of 'boarding around' among the patrons of the school, some living at a distance of two miles."

"At that time the country was new, roads bad, sometimes almost impassible, which was only too true, when two gentlemen named Sylvester Black and Albert Smith came to Tuscola for me with a canoe by way of Cass river."

"After embarking, all went well till we reached the 'Rapids,' where the boat would not float, but with true Yankee ingenuity

the gentlemen disembarked, procured a long strip of bark from a tree, attached it to the front end of the canoe, and one walking on shore towed, while the other waded in the river and pushed in the rear until we came to deep water again, the teacher all this time riding in state like an 'eastern Princess' "

"The people were so anxious to have a school, they put a row of seats, just boards, around one room of the 'shanty' for the small children, and a table through the center, with board seats on either side for the larger pupils."

"The inhabitants, having come from different sections of the country, there were scarcely two books alike, and there was no place nearer than Flint where they could purchase more. Consequently the pupils were obliged to borrow and lend each other's books, which sometimes made trouble for the teacher as well as the pupils."

Although this school may not compare favorably with our present one, yet it should ever be dear to the hearts of Vassar, for it was this school, established on such a small scale, that laid the foundation of the Vassar schools of to-day, as well as being the first school established in the county.

In 1852 a frame school house was built, now commonly known as the "Moore House," and school taught during the winter term of this and the following year by D. G. Wilder. This



served as a school building for some years, but as well as the first one it had been built conveniently near the river, and it was perhaps in punishment for some of those delightful trips the pupils took, that warranted the parents to build a brick school house in 1860 on "the hill," thus making future generations aware that Education as well as "Fame sits upon an eminence."

Diplomas were not granted until 1871, the school having been graded in 1864 by ex-Congressman E. P. Allen, who left before the expiration of his term to join those struggling in the Civil War. Up to this time, however, only two had finished the course, Mrs. W. S. Ellias and David Malin, of this village.

The attendance during all these years, had been steadily increasing; another teacher had been engaged to assist in carrying on the work, and in 1881 an addition was made to the building, leaving it as it is to-day. Pupils were now coming from the east as well as the west sides of the river, and in 1886 a ward school was built on the east side, thus enabling the smaller children to attend school nearer home. Even this did not satisfy the claims made upon the schools, and in 1896 another ward school was built on the west side, making in all three schools for Vassar.

Pupils graduating from the high school are admitted to any college in Michigan without an examination, which shows its standing among the other high schools of the state.

Recently a new department was introduced, that of Music.

For some years the pupils of the various schools have been w  
out this instruction, and now they realize more than ever the v  
of it. A chorus has been organized, consisting of about eig  
members, which meets for rehearsal every Wednesday evening.

Of the original number of pupils, who composed the  
school, only four now reside in Vassar: Mrs. James John  
Mrs. A. L. Brock, Mrs. James North and Mrs. John Burg  
These people have watched the steady development, seeing  
grow from their own modest little school taught by Miss Sla  
53 years ago, to the present one conducted by thirteen teach  
and this year they see a senior class, almost as large as th  
original school of 25. Vassar has ever shown an interest in e  
cational matters. The citizens have always aimed to keep th  
school up to the highest standard, and it is a remarkable fact t  
only eleven years after the first tree was cut that the back part  
the brick school house was built.

In the history of the Vassar schools it is shown that  
successful school like any organization, social or political, is  
result of a gradual growth. Although the desired result may  
be attained in one brief year, yet once gained it will stand the t  
of time like the enduring oak, while its more progressive co  
temporary, the Jonah gourd, springing up in a night, withers a  
fades away in the fierce heat of the succeeding day.



## OUR ALUMNI.

### CLASS OF '71.

F. S. Lewis—Physician, Mayor of Port Angeles, Wash.  
James A. Smith—Principal of a school, Rifle, Colo.  
H. A. Sturgis—Lawyer, Omaha, Neb.

### CLASS OF '72.

Louie Deare—  
Sabra Safford—Mrs. G. W. Edwards, Sumner, Wash.

### CLASS OF '73.

Ida Cottrell—Mrs. E. Bradley, East Orange, N. J.  
Mary Meehan—Mrs. J. A. Trotter, Vassar.  
Della Gibson—Mrs. W. Kimble, Massachusetts.  
Ella North—Clerk, Vassar.  
Eliza Dopking—Mrs. H. A. Beach, Clio, Mich.

### CLASS OF '74.

C. C. Curtis—Died Aug. 28, 1903.  
Glenn McElroy—Advertising Agent for Detroit Free Press,  
Detroit.  
Mack Haywood—Artist in Europe.  
Clarence Tappen—Insurance Agent.  
John Carey—Lawyer, Lennox, Iowa.

### CLASS OF '75.

Amelia J. Alber—Stenographer, Kalamazoo.  
Joseph Selden—State Bank Examiner, Niles.  
Mary J. Sturgis—Died Aug. 3rd, 1902.  
Anna C. Harmon—Mrs. E. B. Hays, Riverside, Cal.

### CLASS OF '76.

Carrie L. Carlton—Mrs. Tanner, Flint.  
Jennie Wilson—Mrs. Chancey Furman, Bookkeeper, Vassar.  
Joseph S. Johnson—Insurance Agent, Saginaw.  
Cora Irons—Mrs. Long, died March 9th, 1902.

### CLASS OF '77.

May E. Banghart—Mrs. J. Smith, Principal School of Expression, Detroit.  
Mary McDonald—Mrs. Mary Chandlier, Instructor at Miller's College, Cal.  
Orson W. Cooley—Farmer near New Castle, Colo.  
Mary Cooley—Teacher, Bay City.  
Lily C. Brockaway—Mrs. Hadsell, Owosso.  
Ida Nelson—Mrs. I. R. Brown, Detroit.

### CLASS OF '79.

Tessa Michael—Mrs. Dann Elliott, South Bend, Ind.



CLASS OF '80.

Theda A. Sturgis—Mrs. Arthur Welseh, Colo.  
Lucy M. Wilkinson—Mrs. Holmes, Caro.

CLASS OF '82.

Anna B. Selden—Mrs. G. W. Peck, Minneapolis.

CLASS OF '83.

Anna Huston—Mrs. W. J. Spears, Merchant, Vassar.  
✓ Lizzie Johnson—Music Teacher, Vassar.  
Ollie S. Johnson—Mrs. Frank Collins, Vassar.  
Dora C. Lane—Mrs. A. A. White, Central Lake, Mich.

CLASS OF '84.

Lena Davies—Mrs. Frank Wightman, Vassar.  
Abbie Saunders—Mrs. Chas. Stone, Clare, Mich.  
Clyde Stillson—Lawyer, Duluth.  
Norris Wentworth—Engaged in Lumbering, Bay City.  
Ida Garner—Mrs. Chas. Wells, Vassar.

CLASS OF '85.

Abbie M. Barnum—Mrs. Cavers, died Feb. 14th, 1900.  
✓ Nellie M. Johnson—Mrs. Arthur Rogers, Saginaw.  
Lizzie A. Laking—Teacher, Vassar.  
Will S. White—State Agent for American Book Co., Detroit.  
Mary A. Clyne—Mrs. Brad. Miller, died Aug. 21, 1901.  
Kittie M. Sage—Mrs. John Hancock, Vassar.

CLASS OF '86.

Vinnie Barnum—Tailoress, Flint.  
Laura A. Moore—Mrs. Guy Walters, Vassar.  
John A. Loranger—Lawyer, Traverse City.  
Anna L. Bergman—Mrs. James Thurston, Denmark T<sub>C</sub>  
Gertie M. Miller—Mrs. G. A. Moore, Vassar.  
Clara A. Lane—Mrs. H. J. Miller, Vassar.  
Lizzie E. Thurston—Mrs. Geo. Gray, Vassar.  
Geo. W. Walworth—Physician, Reese.  
Chas. L. Brainerd—Ass't. Cashier of Bank, Marquette.  
Lizzie B. McFail—Died April 11, 1887.  
Geo. C. Tappen—Shipping and Receiving Clerk for E  
Paper Factory, Niles.  
Jessie D. Bullard—Mrs. H. B. Linsey, Hiland, Mich.

CLASS OF '87.

Emma Meehan—Foreman of Ladies' Suit Dep't in fac  
Angeles, Cal.  
Sadie Hovey—Mrs. Wm. Boardman, Cure, Virginia.

CLASS OF '89.

✓ Will Johnson—Hay & Grain Dealer, Detroit.  
Thad S. Lane—Gen. Manager of Home Telephone Co.  
town, N. J.  
Edward S. Reid—Electrical Draughtsman, Detroit.



CLASS OF '90.

Mazie Brainerd—Mrs. Clark, Higganum, Conn.  
 Bert Stephens—Architect and Gen. Manager of Lumber Mill,  
 Beloit, Wis.  
 Wm. A. Moore—Jeweler, Wilmington, Del.  
 May North—Teacher, Vassar.  
 Steven Graham—Judge of Probate, Port Huron.  
 Winifred Manchester—Mrs. Ernest B. Long, Williams, Arizona.  
 Lillie VanSycle—Mrs. Chas. Bradley, Flushing.

CLASS OF '91.

Mintie Gage—Mrs. Geo. Clarke, Vassar.  
 Walter Loranger—Lawyer, Traverse City.  
 Lelia Vandermark—Vassar.  
 Carrie Proctor—Mrs. Wm. Parish, died September 19, 1901.  
 Nettie Wentworth—Mrs. Elmer Coltson, Kingston.  
 Cora Lane—Mrs. W. B. Chapman, Vassar.  
 Ula North—At University of Chicago.

CLASS OF '92.

Maud Averill—Mrs. Elmer Pickeron, Spokane, Wash.  
 Mary G. Reid—Mrs. Chas. Caine, Marquette.  
 Laura Clough—Stenographer, Owosso.  
 Harry Morris—Physician, Sebawaing.  
 Susie Budlong—Mrs. Douglas Du Perier, New Iberia, Louisiana.  
 Allie Johnson—Civil Engineer, Detroit.  
 Agnes Atkins—Mrs. Frank Oaks, Ithaca.  
 Bertha Schoff—Mrs. C. N. Pierce, Vassar.

CLASS OF '93.

James Allen—  
 Harvey Morris—Physician, Vassar.  
 Hattie Jackson—Mrs. Kilpatrick, Millersburg.  
 Herman Curtis—Died Feb. 1st, 1901.  
 Addie Brainerd—Mrs. Clapp, Hartford, Conn.  
 Almon Perry—Farmer, Vassar.

CLASS OF '94.

Adelcy Akins—Mrs. Geo. Warner, Vassar.  
 Preston Perrin—Electrical Engineer, Ypsilanti.  
 Joseph Persing—Civil Engineer, Toledo.  
 Anna Park—Mrs. Chris. Buckner, Marlette, Mich.

CLASS OF '95.

Helen Bourns—Mrs. Bert Jenkins, Portland, Mich.  
 ✓ Lloyd Johnson—Physician, Wadsworth, Ohio.  
 Elgie Dalby—Employed on Chocktow R. R. from Memphis to  
 Little Rock, Ark.  
 ✓ Julia Varnum—Mrs. Ned Miller, Vassar.  
 Will Wellemeyere—Physician, Vassar.  
 Grace Huston—Mrs. E. C. Woodruff, Chicago.  
 Lizzie Borland—Mrs. E. L. Casterton, Music Teacher in School,  
 Bay City.  
 Winnifred Perrin—Second Ass't. Actuary of Penn. Life Ins. Co.,  
 Philadelphia.



Florence Forbes—Mrs. Lewis Hascall, Vassar.  
John Blackmore—Studying Music in Australia.  
Morley Osborne—School Com. of Arenac Co., teaching at  
Standish.  
Rena Furman—Mrs. T. M. Stephen, Vassar.  
Mae Wilson—Bay City, with Standard Benefit Association.

CLASS OF '96.

Lulu Balkwell—Mrs. Milo Lamphere, Vassar.  
Maggie Green—Stenographer, Saginaw.  
Edith Ellsworth—Bookkeeper, Vassar.  
James Green, Architect, Chicago.  
Carrie Cowles—Mrs. Gordon Leacock, Lapeer.  
Lettie Whitcomb—Teacher, Frankfort.  
Cynthia Caryl—Benton Harbor.  
Guy Ormes—Clerk of Tuscola Township, Tuscola.  
Carlton Forbes—Fort Wayne, Detroit.

CLASS OF '97.

Mary Atkins—Mrs. E. W. Sanford, Marlette.  
Mary R. Haines—Teacher, Arbela.  
Jennie Dean—Teacher, Toledo.  
Mabel Jarvis—Vassar.  
Audley Wilson—In Printing Office, Reese.  
Clay Harrison—Teacher, Munger.  
Bessie Crosby—Teacher, Unionville.  
Vina Johnson—Vassar.

Maggie Graham—Teacher, Vassar.  
Janie Borland—Teacher, Racine, Wisconsin.  
Luther Hull—Bookkeeper, St. Ignace.  
Hattie Fairleigh—Mrs. Harry Maus, Detroit.  
David Rutherford—Telegraph Operator, Coings.

CLASS OF '98.

Josie Adams—Teacher, Calumet.  
Ida Root—Teacher, Vassar.  
Gertie Lane—Mrs. W. Frank Sherk, Mayville.  
Ross Johnson—Died July 15, 1902.  
Carl Garnum—In Furniture Establishment, Bay City.  
Lulu Graves—Jeweler and Optician, Bad Axe.  
Laura Davies—Died Jan. 24, 1899.  
Gertrude Thompson—Reese, Studying Music and Painting  
Saginaw.  
Maud Lake—Mrs. Earl Oversmith, Saginaw.  
Rachel Borland—Stenographer, Racine, Wis.

CLASS OF '99.

Orla H. Baker—Lawyer, Chicago.  
Carrol Forbes—Caro.  
Veva Wilson—With National Protective Co., Detroit.  
Eva Chadwick—Mrs. Eber Decoe, Vassar.  
Jessie Cottrell—Mrs. Norman Blaylock, Vassar.  
Mary Wilson—Mrs. Erastus Brainerd, Vassar.  
Effa Krisler—Foreman of Knitting Factory, Vassar.  
Dayton Gurney—At Agricultural College, Lansing.

CLASS OF '00.

Tena Graham—Teacher, near Millington.  
Mattie Kirk—Studying at Ypsilanti.  
Lena Graves—Jeweler, Bad Axe.  
Fannie Elliott—Vassar.  
Katie Green—Vassar.  
Eva Knight—Mrs. Bert Clark, Vassar.

CLASS OF '01.

Lewis Ellsworth—Cashier of N. Y. Life Ins. Co., Cumberland,  
Maryland.  
Harold Gaunt—Studying at Alma.  
Roy Botimer—Pharmacist, Detroit.  
Clayton Stephen—Ass't. Cashier State Sav. Bank, Vassar.  
Grow Schoff—Mail Carrier, Vassar.  
Orra Thompson—Bookkeeper, Buffalo.  
Ethel Cottrell—Teacher, Vassar.  
Hattie Aldrich—Watrousville.  
Lew Whitcomb—Studying at Ann Arbor.  
Will Beecher—Advertising Agt., Port Huron.  
Harold Adams—Clerk, Rochester.  
Earl Oversmith—With Am. Express Co., Saginaw.  
Helen Husted—Teacher, Vassar.

May Smith—Bookkeeper, Vassar.  
Ola Smith—In Printing Office, Vassar.  
Ella Bates—Teacher, near Millington.

CLASS OF '02.

Guy Stark—Studying at Ann Arbor.  
Mabel Root—Vassar.  
Edith Garbett—In Printing Office, Vassar.  
Mae Laramie—Studying at Albion.  
Grace Lane—Clerk, Vassar.  
✓ Carrie Varnum—Vassar.  
Maude McComb—Teacher, Tuscola Center.  
Roy Brainerd—Bookkeeper and Stenographer, Vassar.

CLASS OF '03.

Alice Blackmore—Sault Ste. Marie.  
John Davies—At Saginaw Business College.  
Ruth Trotter—Vassar.  
Maude James—Teacher, Vassar.  
✓ Lena North—Vassar.  
Edna Schoff—Vassar.





## Articles From Alumni.

### The Worth of a High School Education.

J. A. Smith, Class of '71.

IN the course of a long experience in educational work, and a wide observation and acquaintance with men in all walks of life, I have never yet met a man who regretted having learned too much or spent too much time in acquiring an education. On the contrary, it has been a common source of regret that more time had not been devoted to intellectual pursuits.

In the educational system, the high school is the intermediäre link, going beyond the absolutely essential limits of the common school, and stopping at the portal of the university.

It opens wide the door to a liberal education. If through the avenue of the college or the university, it is well, but if this opportunity be denied the student, still he has before him the vast world of literature and science with the ability to comprehend, the training to master, and the acquired taste to pursue them to a successful issue.

If the high school graduate can never join with the university man in the alumni dinner, he can still find congenial fellowship in the great World College Alumnae Society, in which belong the names of Burrit, and Edison, and Franklin and Lincoln, and Herbert Spencer, masters of language, science, literature, state-

craft and ethics. But learning and ability level all and worth finds its proper recognition. It is only in the untried portion of a man's career that the world in college he was graduated from or was kicked through.

It is estimated that the chances of a high school graduate a successful life are increased eight hundred times over the uneducated man, a proportion to gain which is worth fold the time, energy and labor required for its attainment the increased power of enjoyment, the fellowship of minds, the companionship of the world's great writers vast field of contemplation opened to the trained and mind increases its value many fold more. Whatever elements may be in the way of the young man's or woman's a college education, the high school course may be accessible almost any young person of good health who possesses able degree of industry, energy and self-denial, as may by the history of the Vassar schools, which in the past four years have sent out so large a number of well young men and women of very moderate means to successful careers in life. At least, the writer knows this to have in its early history, and has seen the truth verified in many of cases in his subsequent experience in high school work.

The writer spent the years from 1863 to 1871 in the schools, and is but one of many who owe the foundation



education to that institution, and look back upon the days spent there in grateful recognition of its great good to them, and honor the taxpayers who founded and have maintained such an excellent system of schools in Vassar.

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PORT ANGELES, Wash., March 28, 1904.

My Dear Miss Graves:

Your request that, as a graduate of Vassar High School, I send you a communication, reaches me here on the outposts of civilization and progress, the extreme northwestern county of the United States proper. Doubtless many of the patrons of your book will remember me as a member of the first graduating class, viz., that of June 30, 1871. There were three of us in that class—Hiram A. Sturges, James A. Smith and myself. The first is successfully practicing law in Omaha, Neb.; Mr. Smith, I have not been able to locate. The teachers whose names adorn the diploma before me are: Lucius A. Park, principal; Elizabeth Green, Matilda Rutherford and Emma Nickerson. The board of trustees were: B. W. Huston, Thos. Williamson, Dr. William Johnson, Benj. F. McHose, James E. North and John Johnson, many of whom have gone to join the great majority.

I have been here over sixteen years, and note the great contrast between the climate here and in my old home. While we are in latitude 48 N and you are in 44, our climate is far milder. This has been an exceptionally cold winter with us, but the

crocus and pansy blossoms are to be seen in every garden, and the forest trees are struggling into leaf this 28th day of March. I have not seen zero weather since I came to Port Angeles. I am still practicing my profession, and it may interest my old friends to know that, while I am a Democrat, and this city has a Republican majority of nearly one-third, I am serving my second term as mayor. My thoughts often go back to my school days in Vassar, and I can recall the names of many of my old school mates who, while not formally graduates, deserve a high place on the roll of honor of Vassar High School. To all such, as well as to the Alumni and the present graduating class, I send greeting and my best wishes for success and happiness. Fraternaly,

F. S. LEWIS, M. D.,

Class of '71.

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To one who leaves the school of his boyhood days behind him there comes, with the advancing years, filled as they are with happy memories, a sense of perspective, as he looks back and sees with a fresh point of view and with new interest the lessons that were plain before his eyes in those younger days; yet his eyes saw them not. He remembers how it seemed more pleasant to shirk some tasks that appeared irksome to him; how, as long as he appeared to get through with his work, it was well enough. This is one of the lessons that comes forcibly home to one in later years, that it makes no difference what appearances may be,



it is the reality that one should look to and care for. There is nothing more harmful to the forming of character than the desire for appearances rather than reality. Do not pretend; do what you undertake as thoroughly as you know how, and in after years you will look back with satisfaction rather than regret at the course you have taken.

Recently I had explained to me the manner of making phonograph records, and I was told how the sound waves to be recorded caused the membrane in the machine to vibrate, and how this, acting through the recording needle, made the continuous series of indentions which we see, like a fine line on the record, and which, when the needle goes over them again, give forth the same sound waves that produced them. It struck me that this process was enough like the formation of character to be worthy of remark. Each of us is nothing more or less than a continuous record of impressions received from childhood up. The many forces that surround us are continually at work—the air we breathe, the food we eat, the breezes that soothe us, the birds' song, the scent of flowers, the harsh word, the rose's color, the helpful deed. Each of these, acting through its proper channel, produces just as effective an impression as the note on the record of the phonograph. We are in character a composite of all the impressions we have received. No note is lost; no jar or discord fails to wound us. Thus far the analogy holds. What I want to call attention to is this: If you were to sing into a phonograph you would want it to preserve only what is sweet and harmonious and beautiful. How much more, therefore, in your treatment of

your fellows, should you desire them to have recorded in building of their characters only what is true and noble and good. Remember that no deed is lost, that no voice ceases to sound, but the character it helps to form will live again. If it comes from you, therefore, let it be for the building of good.

GLENN W. McELROY  
Class of 1915

I must, indeed, congratulate those who have taken themselves the publication of a Class Annual for the Vassar School—the first annual ever published by that institution. I believe I voice the sentiment of my class of '95 when I say I wish I possessed such a book. May the classes continue the good work.

Perhaps a class annual should contain but the bright life; but I know others will write of this, so may we and should we not often, consider the deep and vital plan and purpose of our being, and how we can best fulfill that purpose?

Life is such an earnest, vital, essential affair. It is a grand opportunity to do and to achieve; to carry forward and good schemes; and to help and cheer a suffering, weary world. It may be, heart-sick brother.

I believe we little realize the full meaning or value of life. We would make a grander effort to accomplish more, if



Now and then a man stands aside from the crowd, labors earnestly, steadfastly, confidently, and straightway becomes famous for wisdom, intellect, skill, greatness of some sort. The world wonders, admires, idolizes; and yet, dear friends, it but illustrates what each of us can do if we take hold of life with a purpose.

If a man but say he will, and follows it up with the right effort, there is nothing in reason he may not expect to accomplish. There is no magic, no miracle, to him who is brave of heart and determined in spirit. Hard things are put in our way not to stop us, but to call out our courage and strength; and one mark of a noble nature is the desire to do hard things.

All success is but the result of hard work. George Elliot said she read a thousand volumes and did years of drudgery to produce "Daniel Deronda." Daniel Webster had no remarkable traits of character as a boy. After receiving his diploma from Dartmouth College he said: "This diploma will not make me a great man. If I ever distinguish myself it will be by my own individual effort. Dartmouth College will hear from me."

Work, without a definite end in view, without a fixed and determined purpose, is little else than useless. Carlyle says: "A man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder, a waif, a nothing, a no man. Have a purpose, if it be but to buy and sell oxen well, but have a purpose, and, having it, throw as much strength and muscle into your work as God has given you."

MRS. ELIZABETH CASTERTON,  
Class of 1895.

### **Reno, the Metropolis of Nevada.**

To those who have never visited the Pacific slope, and who have paid but little or no attention to the progress of the west, a few items in regard to the wonderful growth of western Nevada during the past few years may be at least of passing interest.

Marvelous as has been the change which has made of an alkali desert a blooming garden, which has converted a dusty railroad station into a city, beautiful for its residences, admirable for its educational advantages, yet the most remarkable feature of this development of a heretofore almost barren region is the fact that this change is nothing of ephemeral life, but a steady growth of exceeding fair promise.

Forty years ago the mines on the Comstock furnished the millions necessary to our government, impoverished by civil war. Of the fortunes made by private individuals in Virginia City, little, indeed I might say nothing, was given to the state which had so richly dowered these multi-millionaires. It was left for a new generation to find the possibilities of Nevada. Irrigation has reclaimed the desert and has furnished more homes to the industrious poor than were ever given through the means of the richest of Nevada's mines.

Just to the west of Reno, a short distance by rail, lies the California slope, noted for its flowers, its vegetables and its fruits. But fine as California's products may be, they do not compare in flavor with those grown in Nevada, which, though less in quantity, are equal in quality to those grown in any part of the United States.



Nowhere are there bluer and more cloudless skies than in Nevada, and the sun shines day after day undimmed by cloud or storm.

The climate is more even than that of the east, and has a charm of its own that can only be appreciated after long acquaintance.

Reno, which has been called the "Pittsburg of the West," is a city rich in possibilities as "an agricultural center, a railroad center, a mining center and a manufacturing center." The recently discovered mines of Tonopah will soon be connected to Reno by railroad, and indeed access to a large range of mining territory can only be had by way of this city.

What irrigation will do for the vast extent of still uncultivated lands can only be estimated by the results already accomplished; but Reno is even now accessible to a vast extent of highly cultivated country, and to the great grazing pastures where thousands of cattle feed; and necessity is already demanding new factories on the banks of the swift moving Truckee.

As for the people of Reno, they are earnest, whole-souled, energetic, eager for the best both for their city and their state; proud of their university and their public schools, of their churches, club houses and public library, they are still prouder of their homes.

Compared with the cities of the east, Reno is only a child, but a child of glorious promise.

ALICE M. MICHAEL.

#### To the Class of '04.

Away back in the dateless past the Aryan race, to which we belong, had its Adam and Eve. The Garden of Eden was in some subtropical region, where nature produced spontaneously all that was required for the simple needs of our remote ancestors. No sort of forethought was required, no provision in a season of abundance for a season of scarcity; and man was a sensual, who ate, drank and slept, took no thought for the future. He had no doubts, fears or troubles. Intellect had not been called forth from its dormant state.

We frequently err in thinking that this was a happy condition, not realizing that happiness is a relative term. In that state there is no pain, anxiety, struggle or suffering, there can be no happiness, contentment or peace. The happiness of the present is not desirable.

In the Creator's good time, the legend poetically says that Adam partook of the fruit of the tree of knowledge, and was no longer content with his environment. He became conscious of things before undreamed of. He began to exercise forethought to satisfy his new-found wants. The Garden of Eden disappeared. The man went forth, henceforward to earn his bread by the sweat of his face and the labor of his hand and brain, and tasted the real joys he had ever known, which came to him with the effort to supply his own needs.

Every nation retains an inherited or transmitted memory of its edemic period, from the cultured Greek to the A



savage. There is nothing finer in literature than the Greek legend of the giant Prometheus (the giant forethought), which refers to this expulsion from the Eden of its golden age. Yet we still imagine this expulsion from Eden as a great calamity, and sanctimoniously deplore it as a punishment by the Creator for some sort of sin which must have been committed, instead of considering it as God's great plan for elevating the race. The hungering for knowledge is never a sin, although it always banishes from Edens.

We, too, all of us, look back upon our Garden of Eden in our infancy. Then we knew no want that was not supplied before we were even conscious of it. We were fed, clothed and sheltered. Our first steps guided and supported, we were shielded from all harm and danger. Yet no unkindness from parent or Creator drove us from our early Eden of infancy to begin the struggle of life for ourselves.

All successful life requires expulsion from Edens. The moment we settle down with no ambitions or desires to be attained beyond our present, we cease growth and development, and become as useless to our fellow-men as the infant or the clam.

The class of 1904 have just emerged from their high school Eden, and the flaming sword of destiny forever prevents their re-entrance. Its members are called to action in the wide affairs of men. There are painful wrenchings of old associations. It is for the best. If one were to remain forever in the best of schools he would never be wise, for he would never learn from that great teacher, experience.

As they go out to mingle in the struggle with their fellows they will experience for the first time that real joy which comes only through merited success. Let the long list of successful men and women who have passed the same school portals be a constant inspiration for highest effort.

The world is full of those who in the field of politics, religion and all branches of human activity claim—nay, demand—the right to think for others. Deny to them firmly this assumed right. Hear respectfully their opinions and reasons, and then do your own thinking, and abide by your own conclusions. Break out of the old beaten paths. The world needs *original thinkers*.

VASSAR, May 23, 1904.

IRA L. FORBES.