

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

November 2006, Issue 170

Share Session

Our last meeting of the year rolled around. November, being November, was very dark, a reminder of the passage of summer and fall and the emergence of that six-letter word: *Winter*. Coupled with Eastern Standard Time, our start time had been dark for almost three hours. Still, there were those determined enough to brave the elements: Dot and Larry Hesel, Elsie Turon, Dot Blenis, Harriett Rasmussen, Judy and David Rundell, Phyllis Beechert, and Don Teator. It was nice to see Phyllis back.

A major topic of the night was Harriett's update on Richard E. Taylor's son's (Howard) story, with the communication of a couple of the grandchildren (and great-?). Howard left his home on Wright Street in his late teens and is seldom heard from again, at least, in his father's diary. However, Howard did write, especially to his sister Mary. Eventually the descendants of Howard crossed paths with a notice that Harriett Rasmussen was transcribing Richard's diary. Both parties are having a field day, and Harriett shared some of her findings. I'll save that for an upcoming newsletter.

David brought in what looked like a billy club, the kind policemen use. And, it was indeed for some sort of enforcement purpose, although we wondered if these clubs were ever used during the blackout drills during World War II here in Greenville, the source of David's billy club. We spent a few minutes about the nature of the blackouts – how long, how often, the supervisors, the darkening of lights, accidents during, etc.

Dot Hesel brought in a Crisco cookbook from several decades ago. Many of the recipes still sounded tasty, even though products like Crisco have competition in a health-minded world.

Don shared the 2007 Kaatskill Life calendar, which shows historic places to visit in the Catskill Mountains area.

Phyllis brought in a cornucopia of items: a recipe booklet, courtesy of Greenville Frozen Food Lockers (the Family Liver Loaf was not one of our favorites); some Chris McDonald photos from the 1960s and 1970s, with names written on the back (thank goodness); a 1949 photo of the basketball team Phyllis (and Dot Blenis, Martha Vance, Evelyn Simpson, among others) was on; pens and rulers courtesy of different area businesses or political campaigns; a flyer on when to spray different plants or fruits; the 1976 GCS Commencement flyer; the 2006 Veterans' Day flyer; a 2006 Interfaith Council flyer; and a few other pieces. Thank you, Phyllis.

Elsie brought in a treasure trove: a couple of school photos, the 1930 tax assessment roll, and two Greenville Locals. The one is dated March 15, 1906, and this issue notes the opening of the new Greenville Academy (the current library building). I've tried to copy it for this newsletter; the news print takes some concentration, and a little is lost in the copying, but it is worth the wading through. (The list of donors is short about ten names, which I accidentally forget to include. I'll try to make amends in the annual report.) Thank you, Elsie, for these important pieces.

I'm keeping this part short so the whole newsletter is less than three pages. The next newsletter, the annual report, will be out in mid-winter. Stay healthy, and if you can, work on a local history idea or two.

Take care,



Academy Opening.

The opening of our new school building on Wednesday last was an event that will long be remembered in our village. The weather was not just what we would have liked for such an occasion but the friends of our school turned out in numbers sufficient to crowd the Presbyterian church, where the opening exercises were held. Previous to these exercises the new building was inspected by a large number and words of commendation were hearty and frequent. The meeting was called to order by the President of the Board of Education, Dr. C. P. McCabe, who called the Hon. Chas. R. Knowles to preside. After prayer by Rev. E. D. VanDyck the following ode was sung by the congregation:

Near the shadows of the Catskills,
In a hamlet small,
Stands an institution of learning
Open now to all.

Chorus:

Lift the chorus, speed it onward,
Loud our praises tell,
Hail the new and worthy building,
To the old, farewell.

Stands the new and worthy building
Where, for many a year,
Stood the honor'd "Old Academy,"
Long to memory dear.

Chorus:

Where we couched our early lessons
With a hearty will,
And where friends who've long been parted
Meet in spirit still.

Chorus:

But to-day the friends who've gathered,
As we gayly sing,
Shout with us the joyful chorus
Till the echoes ring.

Chorus:

The presiding officer then called on Dr. E. S. McCabe who, after a few preliminary remarks, gave the following historical address:

In compliance with a request by the Board of Education of the Academy, that I give expression of some reminiscences of the earlier days of the Institution, is my only apology for occupying a few moments of your time.

The articles of incorporation of this Academy were granted by Daniel D. Tompkins, the then Chancellor of the University of the State of New York, and Gideon Hawley, Secretary; on the 27th day of February, 1816, to the following incorporators: Rev. Beriah Hotchkiss, Augustine Provost, Eliakim Reed, Aaron Hall, Stoddard Smith, Levi Callender, Abijah Reed, Truman Sanford, Alexander Calhoun, Eli Knowles, Jonathan Sherrill, Amos Botsford, Reuben Rundell, Daniel Miller, Francis Hickok, Joseph Bishop, Daniel Hitchcock, Josiah Rundle and Obediah King. The Academy building having previously been erected.

A few of their number passed from their labors before or during my earlier years, but of most of them I have a distinct recollection. It would not be inappropriate for us to make a brief reference to the worth and character of these earlier champions for a higher educational institution in this town than existed at the time of the erection of the first Academy building.

Some of them had been soldiers through the Revolutionary war, some sons of Revolutionary soldiers, all engaged in active business pursuits intent upon accomplishing the great purposes of life, one of which was the establishing of a higher institution of learning in this village.

Many of these incorporators had not had the advantages of such an institution as they planned for their children and future generations to follow. They appreciated its benefits and necessity in all pursuits of life. But what an undertaking at that early day in the history of this village, which was but a small hamlet, away from any of the more traveled thoroughfares, the town not fully settled, poor roads, but little money in circulation and meagre facilities for acquiring it, all combined to render it insurmountable. But they were energetic, determined men,

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The possibility of lack of patronage or failure of the enterprise did not weaken their faith or paralyze their efforts, but stimulated to greater efforts in accomplishing their plan for an academeical department of learning in that first Academy building.

At this time, 1816, there were some twelve or fifteen academies in this State and they were located in central and more populated places, and yet most of them have long since ceased to exist as such, and that this Academy has survived and retained its vitality and life through all the vicissitudes and changes of nearly a century, seems surprising.

The roll of students represented many families from this town and others of the county, and many families of the counties of Delaware, Schu-

larie, Albany, Columbia and Ulster. Some students were in attendance from Connecticut. Permit me to mention a few of the patrons of the school: The Boucks, Daulorbs, Jenkins, Pratts, Hydes, Brewsters, Lays, Whitneys, Palens, Szeperus, Biegelows, Blanchards, Hasbrooks, VanBorins, Weyes, Days, Cowles, Reeds, Verplancks, VanBurgens with many others too numerous to mention.

Previous to the building of the old Academy the district school was held in a building at the north end of the village near where the residence of David Irving now stands; afterwards moved to a building located where Milo Deyo's blacksmith shop stands, and then to the present site of the Academy.

The incorporators of the Academy entered into an agreement with the school district by which it could occupy a room in their building.

The first Principal employed in the Academy was the Rev. Daniel Parker M. A., father of the late Supreme Court Justice Amasa J. Parker of Albany. A most successful and accomplished educator, giving prestige and rank to the school and, in its earliest days, securing many pupils, not only from this immediate vicinity, but from a large territory adjacent, and many of them in classical studies and higher mathematics. He lived in a part of the house occupied by Dr. Amos Botsford and after leaving here engaged in a similar institution in Hudson. His assistants were Ormal Bosworth and Sarah Reader. Prof. Parker was followed by Andrew Huntington M. A. with Miss Mary Chipman and Miss Brackett as assistants. Miss Brackett afterwards married a former pupil of the school, Rev. D. Henry White, who for many years was President of a Theological Seminary in New York city.

Prof. Huntington was followed by Joseph Hyde, and he by Orsen Spencer, he by Egbert B. Wheeler with Charles J. Knowles and Palleus Phillips as assistants. Wheeler was followed by Prof. McLauren, a Scotchman and a thorough disciplinarian, and he by Elijah Garfield, who came here in 1841.

Mr. Garfield had had many years of experience as an educator, had had charge of an Academy in Middle town, Conn. He drew around him a large number of promising pupils, remaining until old age disqualified him for farther usefulness. He would at times refer to pupils of his in earlier years whom he had prepared for college who had become conspicuous as lawyers, divines, and others prominent in affairs of state, including among them Martin VanBuren. He prepared for college, while here, a number of students, was a successful educator and a christian gentleman of whom many of us entertain pleasant recollections. He was followed by Lorenzo D. Hand B. A., who also

sustained the former prestige of the school for a number of years, thoroughly qualified for his work and a christian gentleman. After leaving here he engaged in agricultural pursuits in a western state and was followed by John W. Round, who remained only one year. He was followed by James H. Brantford, and he by Rev. Myers, who taught for a brief time, to be followed by Omer W. Wright, an energetic and successful tutor, being in charge of the school for two years. After leaving here he moved to a western state where he entered upon the practice of law and obtained much prestige as an attorney.

James V. D. Ayers M. A. followed Prof. Wright in the year 1856, who proved an unexcelled educator, had charge of the Academy at two different periods of time as Prof. Hand had had, filled the school building with a large class of promising pupils. Mr. Ayers was a typical instructor and christian gentleman of whom many here have naught but most pleasant recollections.

He was followed by Prof. Alexander Reynolds, who also was a successful instructor, a gentleman and christian, but did not remain in charge of the school only a year or two. Bentley S. Foster succeeded Alexander Reynolds, and he was followed by one of our former townsmen, Edgar Cooney M. A., who afterwards read medicine and entered upon its practice on Staten Island. Dr. Cooney had a grand class of pupils and would blush if we were to say of him what we would like to, therefore we withhold and pass on to say he was followed by that original thinker and scholar, Philletus Phillips M. A., who previously had had much experience as an educator and with whom it was difficult for pupils to carry out their mischievous plans. On one occasion he found on attempting to ring the old bell one morning that is famed to emit any sound and, after much trouble, it was ascertained that some pupils of his had perpetrated an old trick, had stolen clothing from some ones clothes line during the night and wrapped them around the clapper of the bell. Mr. Phillips made no reference to the matter before the pupils, seemingly ignoring it, until the culprits became emboldened and exposed their names when soon after, to their great surprise, were arrested by a warrant, which brought them to the penitents seat begging for pardon. If by chance one of those boys is present at this time I will beg his pardon for this reference to the forgotten episode.

Mr. Phillips was followed by Rev. W. F. Albrecht, another thoroughly qualified instructor and successful in his work, had a large class of enthusiastic pupils. Was followed by Prof. Cates and he by J. E. Odell and he by J. L. Childs, who filled the building to overflowing with pupils, but in consequence of falling heathily, was compelled to abandon the school before his term expired, leaving it in charge of Rev. Mr. Stratton to run out, after which Prof. Button came in charge.

The period of time when Dr. Herbert Smith and Frank Taylor were in charge of the school we are unable to ascertain definitely. The more re-

cent instructors, Profs. Stewart and Kingsbury, and the present, Geo. Cook M. A., you are all too familiar with to require from us any comments. Their successful labors in sustaining the character of the school and qualifications for work are like an open book.

While its possible with some who have gone out from this institution of learning, life may have proved a failure, but the great majority have been aided in their efforts to make life a success and for the betterment of the communities in which they have lived and humanity in general.

Some entered the ministry, some embraced the profession of law, some of medicine, while others engaged in various business pursuits of equal responsibility. If you will bear with us for a few moments of time we will recall the names of a few who have become prominent in various walks of life.

Rev. Charles J. Knowles, father of one of the Board of Education, became an able divine and theologian, a forceful preacher of spotless character and a typical pastor. His tomb is in his parish burying ground on Long Island, where he spent most of his years of usefulness.

Rev. Philo Calloun, a great preacher, ranked high as a scholar and educator, devoting his whole life to a Professorship of Languages in a southern institution of learning.

Rev. D. Stübel Speer, another eloquent preacher whose pulpit service was much sought for by many prominent churches in various cities of this state. He died not many years since in the dwelling of his grandfather where he first saw the light of day.

Rev. Ransom Welch, a polished orator and scholar, was a Professor in one of the highest educational institutions through his active life.

Rev. John Wood D. D. obtained his primary education here, finishing up in Drew Seminary. He has obtained a prestige as a pulpit orator and preacher far above the average in his profession. Revs. Jonathan Dovy, Sylvester Woodbridge and brother Jubel able and useful men. Charles J. Knowles and Philo Calloun were sons of incorporators of the school.

Of those entering upon the profession of law we find the names of: Charles Jenkins, an able attorney, Mitchell Sanford, a noted pleader before a court and jury, his brother Lyman, at one time Attorney General of this state and for many years County Judge and Surrogate of Schenectady county. Lyman Tremaine, one of the ablest attorneys in the State in his day. Lorenzo B. Shephard, father of Edward M. Shephard of Brooklyn, who at the time of his decease was Corporation Council for the city of New York, one of the most prominent pleaders before the City Court.

John VanBuren, son of ex President Vanburen, who was a student here for two years while his father was a member of the State Senate, became a noted lawyer, a brilliant platform speaker, was in one instance highly complimented by Daniel Webster who was the opposing counsel in a case before the United States Court of Appeals. Clark, Botsford, Levins, Hinecock, contemporaries with the above named attorneys of recent years and the present; Alonzo Spalding, John Teats, O. C. Stevens, Frank Taylor and others.

From those entering the medical profession we find the names of the two Dr's, Lay, Gibbons, Teats, Hull, Canham, H. G. McCabe and of two sons of incorporators of the school, Eliza Miller and Gideon Botsford. The writer of this was aided by this institution in his preparation for his profession.

Of later graduates we will mention Griffin Collins, Edgar Cooney, C. P. McCabe, A. T. Powell and Frank Hineckley. What a catalogue of names of others we might mention who have gone out from this seat of learning since its origin and entered upon the various callings in life, who would never attained to such positions of trust, usefulness and responsibility, had they been deprived of the aid of this or a similar institution of learning. We would recall the names of many of them of whom some became conspicuous in the business world, financiers acquiring large fortunes, but this brief ten minutes of time allotted me compels me to hasten on.

While there is being introduced in our schools some innovations of long established customs of course of studies questionable benefits in practical life, like Irish and ruffles, yet the standard of education is advancing in our state and this school must keep in line with progress if it measures up to the expectations cherished here for day.

Will it continue to send out young men and women that will prove as useful citizens as heretofore have gone out?

The institution has made its impress upon this community in moulding its character and cultivating a taste for literature that would not otherwise have existed. Earnest and well directed efforts will be required on the part of the Board of Education if success crowns the effort that are now being put forth in behalf of the school. As are now, so in the future competent instructors will be needed, not only educationally, but mentally qualified to impart instruction with much magnetic influence that will draw scholars from outlying districts.

We are here to day to aid in facilitating the opening of this new school building so well equipped for its use,

with its large, well lighted, airy and well ventilated rooms, each pupil to occupy an individual seat and desk. Sanitary arrangements most complete. Location and surroundings so desirable, all favorable for its future success extending through another century is the wish of all.

Now, Mr. Chairman, after thanking these my friends, these enthusiastic pupils, their instructors, and the Board of Education for their patient forbearance with me while giving utterance to these few desultory and I fear uninteresting thoughts, I will give place to others who are far better qualified to interest.

The above gentleman was followed by Chas. R. Knowles, a copy of whose address has not been received by us from the stenographer as this page goes to press on Tuesday, much to our regret. After Mr. Knowles' eloquent remarks Rev. E. D. Vandycck was called upon and spoke as follows:

It is to me a source of lasting pleasure that I am one of those favored beings who have been permitted to graduate from a Free Academy. Twice at least during my boyhood and youth my parents changed their place of residence and I believe that one of the chiefest reasons for their doing so in each instance was for the sake of educational advantages for their children.

When I was eight or nine years old we removed to Newburgh. In each of the four wards of the city there was a grammar school, and there was one academy for those who completed the prescribed course in all these schools. After attending the second ward school for about four years I was very happy in being promoted to the Academy. My walks to and from that institution, noon and afternoon, took me directly past the old grammar school I had attended and you can perhaps imagine with what pride I stalked past the children just across the street, with the big academy boys who went my way. The academy course in those days, perhaps not as full as now, was three years long, and when at the end of the three years I received my diploma, in connection with the commencement exercises at the opera house, I doubtless felt more conscious of having completed my education than I ever have since. In view of all this you may naturally infer that I have a rather warm place in my heart for free academies everywhere.

I am going to take three heads for my ten minutes upon this occasion. They are, first: What a free academy has meant in my life; secondly: What the Greenville Academy has meant to this community in the past; and thirdly: What the Greenville Academy is going to mean to this community in the future.

First then the Newburgh Free Academy gave me the beginning of an education which has prepared me for my life work. It was there I got my first taste of Latin, not nearly so much as can be had in the Greenville Academy now. It was there that I first began to think of going to college, and the work done there tended to give me a taste for study which has influenced strongly my subsequent work. Again, that Free Academy meant to me the successful completion of a course of study at the opening of life. Still again, a free academy has meant in my life, a fund of pleasant memories to look back upon

through all these later years. I remember with a great pleasure the old academy. It was shaped and its appearance was somewhat like that of our old building here. One feature of it I recall was the smallness of the panes of glass in its windows. Whenever in playing ball any boy was unfortunate enough to throw or kick a ball against a window and break it, he had to replace the glass himself, and the cry which went up from all the crowd around, whenever any such accident took place, or nearly took place, was—"Nine by eleven"—the size of the glass one had to buy.

I remember the old attic up at the top, and when sometimes we were excused from a recitation and permitted to go up there to practice our pieces for some coming event, it was a great joy. And there was the graduation at length. I have still I believe somewhere the blue badge I wore with gilt figures on it, and I could relearn to you to-day a part of the first sentence of my speech upon that occasion. The speeches were not original, only selected recitations.

But least I weary you I want to say a word about what the Greenville Academy has meant to this community in the past. In the first place, it has sent out many noble men and women into the various walks and callings of life. Some of them have passed away but many are still living. Business circles, the medical profession, the law and the ministry, have all recruited their ranks from those who have studied here. And many homes have been, and still are happier and wiser and better because of what the mothers in them have learned and achieved as school girls here. Why is it not a significant fact, that even among the small minority of the former students that are still living there should be such a large list of names as there is of those who are substantially interested in the furnishing of this new building. Does not this indicate that there are many who appreciate what the Greenville Academy has been to them in the past? And there are doubtless many others whose names have not been seen in this connection who have gone out into life to occupy positions of great usefulness and influence among their fellow men. Oh, who can estimate what an effect one's school environments often has upon his whole future life!

Again, with reference to the Greenville Academy of the past, it has given a markedly intellectual atmosphere to this community. One has not to reside here very long to become impressed by the fact that there are not a few about him who read and think for themselves. And is it not to be inferred that the Academy among us has had not a little to do with the developing and fostering of such a condition? Intellectuality isn't everything, and it has its peculiar dangers and limitations. But it often helps to make other good things possible.

Some weeks ago I listened one evening to some efforts at verse making on the part of some of our young people, and though I must confess that the men were in the minority, a thought that came to me as I went home was, that, there are probably few communities of

the size of this, in which such an affair could have been so pleasantly and successfully carried through.

Still again, the Greenville Academy of the past has tended to relieve the monotony of agricultural life in this community. I believe there is a great deal in the idea, now being advocated, that man is apt to be better off if he can be upon the land, instead of being cooped up in the cities. And yet I believe he will be likely to do better work, if he have something to think about a part of the time, beside the crops and his daily toil. And has not the Greenville Academy of the past been doing in a measure, just such a work as this among us? It has been quickening and brightening thought and life.

We rejoice in these days in that feature of the Postal Department of our government known as the Rural Free Delivery. It is such a great convenience and comfort to so many people. But has not the Greenville Academy been a daily rural delivery of information and helpfulness for many a decade before the rural mail deliveries were known?

And now what is the Greenville Academy going to mean to this community in the future? Just here I hope I shall not seem wildly optimistic to any of you. When one begins to make prophecies he perhaps soon becomes conscious of the fact that he is very fallible. But this is the way the future of our institution appears to me. I think that as a village and community we are to be highly congratulated in the possession of this fine new building. It is not pretentious or showy, but it is solid, it is well built, and it is full to running over with that which promotes both comfort and utility. And as we walked about in those beautiful rooms to-day I think we must have been conscious of the fact that it is handsomely equipped for the work it has to do.

And it seems to me that I ought to say a word as I remember that it is the joint gift of the taxpayers and non resident. It is this: that I do not believe that there is another community of its size in the state that has more liberal and public spirited citizens within it, nor more thoughtful and generous friends outside it, than just Greenville. From this new building, the opening of which we celebrate to-day, will result, it seems to me, not merely the gathering of more students, but, what is even of greater importance, the promotion of more successful study. As another feature of the future, following that which has just been named, there will be more graduates from our Academy than there ever have been before.

Again, the erection of the new academy building will sooner or later, I believe, call for more dwellings in this village for desirable families who will want to educate their children here. And finally I am of the opinion that the sight of this handsome new building will increase the sense of responsibility and stimulate the energy of our boys and girls, inasmuch as they can have an high school course right at home if they will. Why it almost seems to me that if I were even a young man or woman beyond my teens and had no high school diploma, I should want to go to work in earnest to secure the sufficient number of counts from the Regents examinations to entitle me to one, if that were in any way possible for me. I'd almost like to go to school myself for the sake of studying in such a bright and beautiful building.

Rev. J. W. Leadbeater followed next in his usual forcible manner:

The Local.

F. WINNE, Editor.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1906.

Academy Opening.

(Continued from Page 1.)

There are two institutions I always like to see in every community, especially the one in which I live, namely, a good church and a good school. Both are necessary for the moral and mental equipment of every community and for the proper development of the different generations of its people. If you have the church without the school religion is apt to degenerate into mere superstition; and if you have the school without the church education is apt to degenerate into a refined paganism. Both are necessary and the one is the complement of the other. The church and the school are not rivals but allies, and while they pursue a somewhat different course their ways run parallel and they aim at the same goal.

There must be a proper training and development of the moral and mental nature to rightly fit the young people for the active and responsible duties of life. Prof. James, of Harvard University, has recently uttered some weighty words. He says that education, even the highest education secured in our colleges and universities, is not in itself sufficient to fit men for life, that the recent history of our country has proven that many of the law-breakers and criminals are men who have passed through our higher institutions of learning, and the lesson is that the heart needs to be educated as well as the head, that the moral nature must be developed as well as the mental.

The etymology of the word education is suggestive. It comes from a Latin word meaning "to lead out." Education then is the bringing out, the developing of that which is within. Only a person can be educated. You cannot educate an animal. You may train him and teach him to perform wonderful tricks, but you cannot educate him. When in Boston, that center of light and learning, a few years ago I saw an "educated" horse. The exhibitor claimed that the horse could solve successfully the most intricate mathematical problems. I did not attend the demonstration and so cannot say whether the horse did all that its exhibitor claimed it could do. This much, however, is true that, while it may have been most skilfully trained, it was not an educated horse, for only a man can be educated.

When going through the new school building this afternoon it suggested a contrast. I could not help thinking of that great man, Abraham Lincoln, and of the very unfavorable conditions surrounding him in early life. He was possessed of a great thirst for knowledge, but very meager were the opportunities for satisfying it. He had but two or three books, which he almost knew by heart. He would walk miles to get the loan of a good book the contents of which he would eagerly devour. He had no slate or tablet or pencil. He extemporized a slate from a wooden shovel, making the surface white and smooth with a jack knife, and used charcoal for a pencil. Then in the evening, when the day's work was done, he would lay himself down in front of the log fire in his father's humble cabin, and with no light save that which the blazing log afforded, would work out his problems in mathematics on the smooth surface of the shovel, shoveling the knowledge into his brain; and then he would whittle them off leaving a clean and smooth surface for the next occasion.

That was the method and that the school in which Abraham Lincoln secured

(Continued on 2d page.)

his early education and satisfied his thirst for knowledge. He believed that knowledge was power, and with these very meager opportunities and with this scanty equipment he succeeded in developing his mind, and he finally rose to greatness. What a contrast between the conditions of his early life and our own. Let us, therefore, fully appreciate the opportunities that are ours, and the splendid equipment which our new school affords. The trustees, the teachers, the pupils, and the general community, are to be felicitated and congratulated on possessing so fine a school building, modern, sanitary, and finely equipped in every detail, a school that is a credit to the village, and to the whole patronizing territory.

Some of us may feel somewhat sad at having to part with the old Academy, around which so many pleasant memories cluster. There is always sadness connected with the parting from old friends, but there is also pleasure connected with the making of new ones. The old was once new, and the new will some day be old. And while some of us may feel sad at having to part with the old, let us loyally and heartily welcome the new and cheerfully cooperate in making it a great success and a power for good.

The following is the address of Mr. Knowles:

"I find next on the program, reminiscences by myself—a very serious mistake this. It would be utterly impossible for me to add anything in the way of reminiscence to what has already so admirably and so fully been done by our worthy townsman. The very little I have to say will not be lacking in the merit of brevity.

In a few weeks, as you stand in the yard of your homes and on your hill-sides or in your pleasant villages and look eastward at the eventide, you will see reflected in the distance a bright light. You naturally inquire, whence does it come? What is it? How long will it be visible? It is the flash light of the night steamer going from Albany to New York, to be seen but a short time as the steamer passes Coxsackie. That flash light is thrown both in the rear, across the bow, both on the port and seaboard sides of the steamer.

We have had the flash light of the past admirably thrown from the stern in what the doctor has given us, and I simply want to throw one or two sharp, short lines across the bow in reference to the future. We ask reverently, "Watchman," not "what of the night?" but "Watchman, what of the future?" And in view of the experience of the past—in view of what has been done under God, as outlined in the past in reference to this institution of learning, who present as they recognized names to which they respond themselves to-

day, will but thank God they are the heirs of such a rich, noble heritage and parentage, and in the light of what we have received, manifestly, good friends, what is our duty in reference to imparting, and as heirs of such a heritage, what are we to give to the future.

One of the strongest educators of the land—one of the most forcible speakers and one of the most original thinkers—I refer to Dr. Eliot of Harvard College—in a lecture which he gave a few weeks ago, tried to forecast, if possible, something in reference to the century upon which we have entered, and in view of what the past hundred years have wrought, what they have brought to us along all lines of achievement, political, financial, commercial, social, religious, the doctor asks, "what will the next hundred years produce?" and in somewhat of an optimistic view he outlined what the possibilities are. It seems almost incredible to believe that anything approximating to what he suggests will ever be realized. And yet, good friends, when we look back upon the past, and see what a hundred years have wrought, is it at all incredible to believe for a single moment that

the doctor exaggerates? Why, take it in the city of New York alone, see what daily demands she makes upon you, upon the agricultural interests in the land. Have you ever stopped to think how large a herd of cows it requires to give New York city their milk for their morning coffee and tea? Not less than 200,000 are required to give forth what is needed for a single morning meal for the citizens of New York. This comes from all over the state. The evening milking from St. Lawrence, Jefferson and those remote counties reaches New York in time for the morning breakfast, and instead of the traditional milk maid to milk the 200,000 cows milking machines take her place. Now that is only one item, but it helps to carry in our mind a little of what the great aggregate is, and what we must expect for the coming future if our lines of progress and development keep step and pace with what they have in the past century.

Take the item of water required for domestic purposes alone in the city of New York. You in this vicinity have already become somewhat alarmed because of the proposed encroachments made on your fertile homes and farms and lands because of the building of proposed dikes and dams and reservoirs so as to have a reserve force of water for the daily drinking supply.

It is not only along this line. Here are one or two statistics which I venture to give to show somewhat what we must expect by way of daily increase in our population. It is said when Pilate condemned the Master for crucifixion he wrote an inscription in Hebrew, Greek and Latin and placed it above the cross, saying "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." So America, the great land of freedom, our boast and our pride, nails above the door of every entrance into this land, written in every spoken language of all lands, the simple word "Welcome." In response to that invitation which we ring out upon the air to all oppressed and downtrodden from every nation to here find a home and refuge, last year alone the number of immigrants arriving in this country through the several ports of entry was 1,026,499. What a marvelous

increase in our population for a single year, an average of 3,000 every day landing on our shores, seeking here a home and recognition. Out of this number of immigrants arriving during 1905, 230,882 could neither read or write. Is there anything for you as educators to do? Anything for us as Christian citizens in helping as best we can to promote the educational interests of our country to do? Any demand laid upon us? If I rightly interpret Divine command, it is that we shall exercise the spirit of Christ, and if we are then to measure up to our full standard of duty as citizens, as Christian men and women, it will only be as we come into the fullness of that spirit of ministry.

I find on referring to Commissioner Draper's report for the educational department of the state for 1905, that the total attendance at all schools, universities and colleges for the last year was 1,563,740 scholars. What an army, good friends, marching with steady step and elbow touch toward the higher, the nobler and the better manhood and womanhood which will enrich them for purposes far beyond our power of expectation or anticipation. And of this number 1,211,390 attended the common, elementary schools. The number of teachers employed in these schools were 40,891.

The report shows for our own county of Greene, with a population of 27,182, there are 902 illiterates, making 33 to every one thousand. Total number of voters in the county, 10,163, illiterates 576, or 52 to every one thousand voters. In our own state out of a population of 5,871,102 there are 318,100 illiterates. What a record. What a work. What a noble employment outlaying for you and for me. I think it is Whittier who has said:

So to the calmly gathered thought
The innermost of truth is taught,
The mystery dimly understood,
That love of God is love of good,
That to be saved is only this—
Salvation from our selfishness.

I tell you, good friends, there is good theology in Whittier's poetry. When you and I shall rise up above our selfishness, and seek only the welfare of our brother man, taking the part, fulfilling the obligation of the Samaritan, and minister to man at his greatest point of need, then shall we possess not only the spirit but the very likeness of the Great Teacher of teachers.

Let this, then, be the ambition, and let us seek daily and hourly to reach up unto it, and in the spirit that characterized the forefathers to which the doctor has referred, and as their sons let us try to emulate them in their efforts, and the reward will come back in fullness and richness of blessing.

"So high is grandure to our dust,
So near is God to man
When Duty whispers low, "thou must,"
The youth replies, "I can, I can."

Our eyes, then, must be toward the youth, the coming, the rising generation, as was the eye of our forefathers toward their youth. They it seems labored not in vain—they looked not in vain. Neither shall we if we are true to the obligations and the opportunities afforded, and in view of this I am very sure that no one in this school district can today regret any sacrifice made, any labor done in the accomplishment of what has become a reality, and what our eyes see and what our ears shall hear in reference to the future. Now the two most important factors for this are you, Mr. Professor, and you clerical gentlemen, for the teacher and the preacher must go hand in hand, and we, the laymen, follow where they lead.

Notes on the opening are crowded out this week but will be given next.

ACADEMY FURNISHING FUND.

In answer to the call for contributions to our new Academy building the following subscriptions have been received. We will continue this list in our columns until after the opening, adding names of new contributors as they may be received. Much may be added to the equipment if more funds are provided.

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