

The Highland Park News.

VOL. II.

HIGHLAND PARK, ILL., APRIL 29, 1898.

NO. 22.

THE MILITARY ACADEMY

Some few of the "ancient and honorable" of the Park citizens remember when that is now the Academy, was a "Ladies Seminary," for graduating incompetent and indolent young women, with the idea that they were educated, as we were informed on our first arrival in these parts. Ten years ago it passed into the hands of Col. Davidson and became the Northwestern Military Academy. That was in 1888. When fairly launched and on its way to success, the old buildings burned, involving a loss, as we noted in our diary at the time, of \$40,000, partially covered with insurance. With heroic courage and Scotch pluck, he and his family set about re-construction and in the face of very great obstacles, one of which was a bank failure involving several thousand dollars, they have the academy not only on its feet, but thoroughly and most successfully established with most of its liabilities cleared off, and a property with a cash value of \$60,000 at a moderate estimate. It has been a long, hard, and at times very hard, pull of ten weary, wearing years. But the day has dawned, the sun of prosperity is above the horizon, and the future is clear and established as surely as anything earthly can be and we take this opportunity of congratulating Col. Davidson, and his family on their achievement, an honorable and enviable one, and are glad to be able to set down, or set up our little memorial Ebenezer at the end of this tenth year of its struggling, eventful and successful history. Hence the years 1888-1898 have a world of meaning for Col. Harlan P. Davidson and had it not been for the Scotch blood in his veins he would have fallen by the way.

This being the tenth year there will be a "Decennial Reunion" of the alumni, and other friends of the academy, during commencement week, about mid-June. In numbers, of course, this reunion will not compare with most of the college reunions, for its alumni are of necessity limited. But in loyalty to their alma mater, in value of services rendered the country and in the type of manhood developed, the alumni of this Academy will not fail alongside those of any school in the land. The Academy has one feature, possessed by few schools of its or any other grade, — it won't retain among its pupils any young man whose promise is either small or bad. If a boy is seen to be vicious, steeped or grounded in vice, or if he is hopelessly incompetent he is retired. The school will not graduate a bad or incompetent young man. We have noted with pleasure the steady elevation of tone—the average moral tone, we mean—and the intellectual standards of the schools. It does not pretend to supplant, or be "just as good" as the college, but recognizing the fact that less than five per cent of the public school pupils ever reach college, it seeks to do thorough, practical work for the greater number of its pupils who will not go to college, while those who can, and do supplement their Academy, with a collegiate course, will find themselves equipped with a most admirable "fit." Whether the average age of the cadets is gradually increasing or not we cannot say, but think it is; while as to the average scholarship and manliness, we speak what we do know when we say, and say it unhesitatingly, it is.

Last Friday being Arbor Day, established we think largely through the influence of ex-President Cleveland's Secretary of Agriculture Morton, the class of '98 the day before decided to observe it and plant a tree. John Mooney furnished a fine specimen of an elm, about 6 inches diameter, a hole was dug, and the tree planted along the side walk just south of Dining Hall, leaving room between it and the corner at St. Johns avenue for the trees of the other nine classes, and they hope to plant them all this spring. As the day was wet, Mrs. Col. Davidson said it was a "very wet rain" an opinion in which we all heartily coincided. The literary part of the improvised program was conducted in the chapel. Mr. Ames of the class of '98 presided, and did it admirably, calling on Col. Davidson, Judge Hibbard and Chaplain Pfanstiehl for "brief" remarks, and the brevity of some of them extended to twenty or more minutes, and some minutes are long. The Judge says he forgot to say the tree the students planted in Vermont, roots in the air was a willow with one branch in the ground, arranged so it would grow. There was more or less fun in the speeches, Dr. Pfanstiehl, of course getting off the best joke on the inability of the "previous speakers" to stop, which the cadets cheered lustily. The class then recited apt poetic and prose selections appropriate to trees and tree-planting; a song was sung and the class in macintoshes went out and set up the tree in the place prepared, carefully placing underneath it the lead box, carefully packed and soldered tight, containing the class records, a brief, but comprehensive biography of each member, with a prophecy of each one's future career, and their pictures, with pictures of the buildings etc. The setting up the tree was a short job, as everything was ready, the class "yell" was hurled upon the waiting air, America sung by all assembled, professors, cadets and visitors and the benediction pronounced by Chaplain Pfanstiehl, closing the exercises of one hour, which we enjoyed very much.

The dinner bell rang immediately and we dined with the school to see what that "meagre fare" was to which Col. Davidson so feelingly alluded in his remarks, and found about 40 lbs. of finely cooked white fish,—on some other days we should have found 75 lbs. of roast beef or mutton, a bushel and a half of excellent potatoes, cooked admirably with plenty of first class creamery butter,—a little over two 60 lbs. tubs per week is used,—and bread as good as we get at home at Ravinook; bread don't take a back seat.

During the summer the Drill Hall is to be extended some 20 feet south, to meet the demand for enlarged recitation rooms and better laboratory facilities. We may add in closing as a proof of the growth of the Academy that in 1893 it had 28 cadets, in 1898 it has 61, a little over 100 per cent gain and the promise is in the same line.

Street Superintendent Nolan had three pair of horses and a crew of men out Tuesday, grading down the streets and they did a good job on Hazel avenue. We followed them up on our bike and found the old rough, hubby street as smooth as a floor. The only fault we found was they did not "smooth off" the bridge!

WINCHESTER-PUTNAM.

The marriage of Miss Annie Harrison, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Winchester, to Mr. John Abel Putnam of Chicago, took place at the residence of the bride's parents on the Sheridan Road, Wednesday afternoon at one o'clock, the ceremony being performed by Rev. A. A. Pfanstiehl, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Only the immediate families of the contracting parties were present, it being strictly a home wedding.

The rooms were beautifully trimmed with wild Alabama smilax, which makes a most excellent decoration for such purposes, while the flowers were sweet peas and pansies. We are happy to add that all these decorations were furnished by our local florist, Fritz Bahr, and they exhibited rare taste and skill.

The presents were numerous and elegant and better still, valuable for service. Thus, the groom's parents sent out a couple chamber suits, brass bed, dresser, chiffonier etc, everything complete and ready for use. The office force of clerks in his store sent Mr. Putnam a very large and elegant jardiniere containing a choice palm. The value of such a present is not in the dollars it cost, but rather in that it shows what "his help think of John." Then there was table silver, toilet-sets, fancy work, pictures etc, in great variety and quantity from local friends and especially from Mrs. Winchester's old friends, who wished to honor her daughter. The groom rendered some little act of kindness a year or two ago to a workman and his family, and a notice present from them showed they had not forgotten his kindness. Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and other states were represented among the presents, last, though not least of which were two cheques to the bride from her father and her brother Fred, of five hundred dollars each. We fear every bride don't have such a brother as that. Mr. Winchester had just returned from an extended trip to South America and Europe, laden with photographs of the historic places.

Mr. and Mrs. Putnam after a wedding breakfast, took the afternoon train for a three weeks trip to New York and other eastern cities, after which they will occupy the Winchester home in this city, for the summer at least, while Mr. and Mrs. Winchester will spend the summer in New York.

Baptist Anniversaries --- Rochester, N. Y., May 16-24, 1898.

The Nickel Plate Road is authorized to sell tickets to Rochester, N. Y., and return at one fare and one-third for the round trip, on certificate plan, account above meeting. Tickets good on any of our through express trains leaving Chicago from the Van Buren Street Passenger Station at 10:35 a. m., 2:55 p. m. and 10:15 p. m. Vestibuled sleeping-cars and unsurpassed dining-car service. Colored porters in charge of the day-coaches. You will save time and money by patronizing the Nickel Plate Road. For further information, call on or address J. Y. Calahan, General Agent, 111 Adams St., Chicago, Ill.

The annual meeting of the Highland Park Bible Society will be held next Sunday evening, May 1st, in the Baptist Church at 7:30 o'clock. The usual business will be transacted and addresses made by the pastor,

Rev. W. M. Vines, Rev. A. A. Pfanstiehl and Rev. G. W. Colman of Lake Forest.

BRITISH SYMPATHIES.

Through the thoughtful courtesy of our friend, W. O. Hipwell, we have been permitted to read the abstract of a sermon, recently delivered in the Pembroke chapel in Liverpool, by its pastor Rev. C. F. Aked, on the Cuban question. No abler, more patriotic discourse has been delivered in an American pulpit than this celebrated preacher gave his English audience. Speaking of Spanish rule in Cuba, he said "Torture and massacre by wholesale has been the rule for years. The settled policy of starvation which had been adopted by Spain had produced undecipherable horrors and had piled the land with death. Moderate estimates figure of a million deaths by famine, by disease, by torture and violence." Then turning to the position of this country he said, "This condition of things the people of the United States were determined to end. They had borne long, with a patience noble and apparently exhaustless." But he thanked God that they were determined to bear no longer. These wrongs must cease. If they could be stopped without war, so much the better; but stopped they must be. Seventy millions of free men were in the mind to break the yoke and let the oppressed go free. If that could be done without war—good; but pen or sword or dynamite, it had to be done. We don't wonder Mr. Hipwell's brother, having heard the sermon, sent him this report.

ENLARGED.

Here is our old friend Burke of Antioch, just elected President of the Lake County Press Association, and publisher of the county tax list, has gone and enlarged his paper, the Antioch News, to a seven column quarto sheet and the new sheet looks as nice as could be desired; the press work is excellent, his make up to our liking and we wish some of the Waukegan sheets would go over into the "Lake region" and take a few lessons in journalism.

When Mr. Burke began over there a few years ago, we allowed him five years to go under, well he went under his task with pluck and hard work and made a triumphant success in every respect and his paper is a credit to the journalism of Lake or any other county in the state. We don't see how anyone could have done better in that field, and we wish to add, to their credit, that the business men of Antioch stand by him nobly and to their profit, for they have all helped in building up a live and prosperous town as well as an excellent local paper.

We have just read in a late issue of the Utica, N. Y., morning Herald, about a three 24 inch column report of the observance of "Patron's Day" at Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y. It has a special interest for us as the report, a good piece of newspaper work too, was prepared by Herbert F. Evans, the son of our mayor and one of the former proprietors of the News. Then the chief address on the occasion, a rarely sensible production, was by Pres. Nathaniel Butler of Colby University, formerly the popular and efficient head of the old Highland Hall school of this city.

NEWSLETS.

Buttericks patterns for sale at Miss Erskine's.

Mr. W. H. Emerson and family have returned from Chicago, where they have been spending the winter.

A teacher of piano, from Chicago would like to organize a class in Highland Park. References furnished; for particulars inquire A. H. Dannemark.

Miss Maud Stewart of the High school is in attendance at the convention of the Northern Illinois Teachers' Association being held in Rockford. Professor Wilson intends going tomorrow.

Dale Sweetland is fixing up his little cottage just east of the Requa residence, in fine shape for his own use as a perpetual home. It is entirely reconstructed and re-fitted as well as much enlarged.

If Supervisor Fletcher gets up a company of "Cannucks" for the freedom of Cuba, it will contain beside himself, Alderman St. Peter, Joseph Rioux, Frank C. Clark, the police judge and several other prominent men. "Parley vous Francaise? We?"

HIGHWOOD HAPPENINGS.

Nelson Mowers will move Saturday, into his old home on Highwood avenue.

Miss Julia Moore is spending her weeks' vacation with her brother, who is in school at Milton, Wis.

Mrs. Capt. Humphreys will move into her home on Port Clinton ave., lately occupied by W. W. Denlow.

It is reported that David Morren has obtained a second lieutenancy in the I. N. G. and is headed for Springfield.

Mrs. H. S. Cooper and mother, who have been living for the past four months at H. L. Harvey's, moved to Chicago Wednesday.

Dr. George Turner and Mr. M. S. Pettit left Thursday and Wednesday respectively, for Chattanooga, Tenn. to join the troops. Mrs. Pettit will remove to Chicago.

A team attached to Huber's pop wagon from Highland Park, while standing in front of Welch's saloon, became frightened at the electric car and tried so hard to get away that they broke the tongue and evened off the wagon. This is the first instance of any serious damage from frightened horses, although there have been several narrow escapes.

PRESIDENT EASTON.

At the late organizing meeting of the county supervisors, our neighbor Cassius B. Easton of Deerfield, was elected president by a unanimous vote, a rare compliment and one well deserved. Mr. Easton not only represents this end of the county, but he represents the people. He has no "set" to placate and put in fat places, nor is using his position to push his own political interests. He is of the A. W. Waldo and Strang kind of men, looking for the interests of Lake County.

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