

The M. A. C. Record.

VOLUME I.

LANSING, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1896.

NUMBER 39

State Board of Agriculture.

We present our readers this week with a cut of the state board of agriculture as at present constituted. The likenesses are all good, and as the changes in the board during the past few years have not been numerous, the faces will come to many of our alumni fraught with kindly memories. All our readers will be glad to look upon the faces of the men who for so many years have gratuitously given their time and their best thought and energy to the upbuilding of the M. A. C.

The office of member of the state board of agriculture is appointive, and the term of office is six years. The number of such appointees is six, but the governor of the state and the president of the College are *ex officio* members and raise the total membership to

board for five years before his appointment in 1893 to his present office of secretary.

From a previous cut our readers will readily recognize on the extreme left the features of our able, energetic, and successful young president; a man who is doing a remarkable work for Michigan in widening and deepening the work and influence of the Michigan Agricultural College.

Art Exhibit.

Those who visited the art exhibit given by Mrs. E. M. Kedzie, Mrs. P. J. Hammell, Mrs. A. L. Westcott and Prof. W. S. Holdsworth, at the residence of Dr. Kedzie last Friday afternoon and evening, were abundantly repaid. It was by far the finest exhibit of the kind ever made at the College,

than is given in one short evening, and more space than is contained in one of these columns. So we hope to be pardoned if instead of attempting a detailed description we give only a general idea of the four exhibits.

In the parlor Mesdames Kedzie, Hammell, Westcott and Holdsworth received the guests after which the latter were shown about the rooms by Miss Pearl Kedzie and Misses Lillian and Fay Wheeler.

In the parlor was Mrs. Westcott's fine collection of embroidery and china painting, daintily arranged in rich settings of roses, chrysanthemums, maiden-hair ferns and palms. Evidences of the handiwork of Mrs. Kedzie were present in this room as everywhere else, but the principal attraction here was the delicately wrought embroidery work of Mrs. Westcott's. A center

Going into the dining-room, we find the large dining table covered with Mrs. P. J. Hammell's china set of 90 pieces, upon which she has been working three years. All of the designs are original, and are taken from a great variety of subjects—Florida sea shells, orchids and seaweeds; violets, ferns, sprigs of hemlock and hops, and violets, roses and other flowers from our own campus. The effect was heightened by the presence of several dainty bouquets of roses and smilax and a full set of nicely embroidered doilies.

Mrs. Kedzie's studio contained the best collection of her own artistic work, and was devoted to her part of the exhibit. The decorations of roses, smilax, maiden-hair ferns and chrysanthemums made a setting with which the delicate tints of Mrs. Kedzie's china blended to produce very pleasing



eight. The secretary of the board has no vote, but is in all other respects a member.

Of those whose "counterfeit presentments" are before the reader the oldest in point of service is Mr. Wells (24 years on Jan. 1, 1896). He has served as president of the board since the death of the Hon. H. G. Wells in 1884. Mr. Chamberlain has been appointed to this office twice, with an interval of two years between the two terms of office. Mr. Garfield is the next in age, with ten years of service in this position. Mr. Moore's official age is the same as that of the governor, who appointed him four years ago. Messrs. Monroe and Boyden have served on our board only two years, yet they have already made for themselves warm places in the hearts of residents at the College.

Mr. Butterfield, the earnest and indefatigable secretary of the board and of the College, held a position on the

and that is saying a good deal when we remember those given by Mrs. Kedzie and others in former years.

One hundred and fifty invitations were issued to Lansing people for the afternoon, and from 2 o'clock until 5 ladies from the city were coming and going at the Kedzie residence. It is safe to say that fully 150 people saw the exhibit, for nearly all who received invitations came, and many brought friends with them.

In the evening from 7 o'clock until 10, the faculty, instructors, and students of the College visited the exhibit. In many respects they were fortunate in having this time given to them, for portions, at least, of the exhibit lent their beauties to the mellowing effect of the lamplight, as they would to no other light.

To give anything like an adequate description of the exhibit one must needs be an artist and a master of English. Then he must have more time

piece with roses, and a lunch cloth with carnations, both so real that one almost stooped to catch their perfume; another center piece with strawberries one could almost taste; dainty doilies, dreamy lamp shades, delicate china decorated with artistic floral designs—We leave our sentence incomplete for want of words to express our appreciation.

In the sitting room, on the walls and on easels, were arranged Prof. Holdsworth's collection of water colors, about thirty in number. These include a wide range of subject—early morning and sunsets, brilliant flowers and somber ruins, birches of the Traverse region and live oaks of Florida. Among the favorites are the Red Cedar River views, and probably best among these is "Early Morning," with its peculiar hazy atmosphere and faint outline. Prof. Holdsworth's latest productions are from the Traverse Bay region, and they include some very fine effects.

harmony. A set of four pieces just finished attracted most attention. The set is composed of a table top of beautifully painted roses, two trays and a fernery. It has been sold to a lady in Topeka, Kansas. These and a dinner set that Mrs. Kedzie is decorating for her daughter Pearl, together with numerous other pieces of artistic work, kept the visitor lingering in this room until long after the time had arrived when he promised himself to be at home.

There is considerable pride in knowing that 226 steel and iron vessels of 380,987 gross tons are owned on the lakes. But how small these figures seem when contrasted even with new ships under construction in England and on the Clyde. On September 30 last the number of vessels under construction in the United Kingdom, excluding warships, was 355 of 659,641 gross tons, of which all but 5,000 tons was steel.



At the College.

G. M. Houk, '00, was sick several days of last week.

Thorn Smith has lost a bunch of keys which he will be glad to have returned to him.

Mr. and Mrs. Young, of Saginaw, visited at Mr. Gunson's on Monday of last week.

The Hesperian society gave a Halloween party in their rooms last Friday evening.

J. M. Brown, associate editor of the *Michigan Farmer*, visited the College last Tuesday.

The students are putting up a new wire fence along the woods south of number fifteen.

Dr. Grange went last Thursday to Pickford, near the Soo, to investigate a supposed case of glanders.

Lost: On Thursday last a ladies' silver watch fastened to belt. Finder please leave at president's office.

The College corn crop this year was over 4,000 bushels, besides that used in the silo. It was all husked by students.

E. Z. Nichols, of Hillsdale county, spent Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 20-21, with his son, J. C. Nichols, '98.

The King's Daughter's desire to thank the Y. M. C. A. for the use of its rooms at the time of Mrs. Esselstyn's lecture.

F. N. Whitney, '00, returned from his home near Hillsdale last Monday. He has been under the doctor's care for two weeks.

H. J. Packard, '00, was called to his home in Toledo Monday night of last week on account of the death of his grandmother.

The farm department has purchased a shredder-head for its Ohio feed cutter and will try the merits of shredded fodder the coming winter.

W. L. Cumings, '93, returned to M. A. C. last Friday and left again for Grand Rapids Saturday. He thinks he will not return to M. A. C. again.

Nearly one hundred members of the M. A. C. Republican club went to a rally at Okemos, Thursday evening. About 20 Okemos people turned out to the rally.

"Prof. Longyear and Sec. Butterfield, Jr., had a wrestling match the other day. Prof. Longyear was so 'hot' that he used a palm-leaf fan during botany class."

The King's Daughters meet tomorrow with Mrs. Vedder. This is pound day. Text, "In His Name;" lesson, the fifth chapter of Matthew; leader, Mrs. Woodworth.

The gas machine in the Mechanical Laboratory, which was connected with the Veterinary Laboratory, has been set up in the Women's Building and a new one has been put up in the Veterinary Laboratory.

The drive in front of the residences of Professors Smith and Taft and Secretary Butterfield has been plowed up and will be sodded over. Individual drives will run back to each barn from the main drive.

Prof. Woodworth will run a lantern for the *State Republican* this evening, to throw the election returns on a screen across the street from the *Republican* building. Thorn Smith will run a lantern for the same purpose for John Peck, at the Hudson House.

Among the visitors at College last week were: P. M. Zane, Cassopolis; Norman Brown, South Bend, Ind.; R. C. Denham, Au Sable; N. Azelborn and wife and J. M. Williams, North Star; C. A. Edgecomb and wife, Traverse City, and Mrs. J. E. Falgesant, Springport.

The farm department has received as a loan from the manufacturers the following implements for use in its classes in farm machinery: From the Bettendorf Axle Co., a steel farm truck. From the Warden Bushnell Glessner Co., a champion mower. From the Walter A. Wood Harvester Co., a single-aproned binder.

A. A. Crozier and H. W. Mumford of the Farm Department have just published "Farm Rules," a neat vest-pocket store of information for the farmers. It contains valuable hints for stock, fruit and grain raisers, tells how to get rid of various pests, gives rules for filling silos, and is worth its price, 10c., for the other information it contains.

Dr. Grange has recently applied the tuberculin test to a herd of fourteen cattle near Bay City. Of these, five gave a reaction, and a post-mortem revealed the presence of the disease in all of the animals that gave the reaction. The condition of the animals was so good that the presence of the disease could not have been recognized without the test.

We have received a neat prospectus of an independent entertainment course to be given at the First Methodist Church in Lansing the coming winter. The attractions consist of J. DeWitt Miller, the Ladies' Symphony Orchestra, Chas. H. Fraser, Fred Emerson Brooks, Thomas McClary and the N. Y. Male Quartette. Season tickets, \$1.50.

The Botanical Department has just received a large lot of shrubs and herbaceous material from the region of the Appalachian mountains, in North Carolina, which will be added to the collection in the Botanic Garden. Much of the work of rearranging, resetting and dividing plants; changing beds; cleaning out weeds, and trimming walks in the Botanic Garden is being

done this fall. This is to relieve the pressure of work when spring comes.

Last spring Mr. Longyear was attacked with a mania for collecting toadstools, puffballs, mushrooms, etc. Later, Prof. Wheeler had a relapse, from last season, of the same malady. The season has been a fruitful one for all kinds of fungi; the two gentlemen have been industrious in making their collections, and, as a result, the Botanical Department has a larger and finer collection of saprophytic fungi than was shown at the World's Fair in 1893. Sixteen wooden trays, each 18 in. by 24 in., and containing smaller paper trays for species, have been filled; and it is estimated that as many more will be required. Nearly 200 species have been collected, and these present an almost endless variety of forms and sizes, from the giant puffball, weighing seven pounds, to forms so delicate that they can only be preserved in alcohol.

Y. W. C. A. Reception.

The unwary mortal who, having reached the front entrance to Abbot hall and read the inscription over the arch, "Leave hope behind all ye who enter here," had the temerity to enter and follow the mysterious beck of the white-robed ghostly figures past gaping Jack-o-lanterns and up and down dimly lighted corridors until he found himself in the large, well lighted dining room—this mortal had a good time the rest of Friday evening.

Each of the 175 guests represented, by some peculiarity of dress or token worn, some book; and being provided with paper and pencil, proceeded to guess the names of as many of the books as possible. Prof. Noble succeeded in guessing the largest number, 42, and was presented a fine bunch of roses; and Mr. Wells, '00, received the consolation, a Jack-o-lantern.

The guessing contest over, the guests divided their time between looking over the well ordered experimental kitchen above and participating in various amusements that had been provided. Apples, nuts and popcorn were served. All unite in saying that the ladies in their first reception presented a novel and interesting entertainment.

Farmers' Institutes.

Up to date twenty-four farmers' institutes have been arranged for November and December. The dates and places are shown in the following table:

Nov. 30-Dec. 1, Monday and Tuesday, Kalkaska, Kalkaska County.

Dec. 1, 2, Tuesday and Wednesday, Mancelona, Antrim County.

Dec. 2, 3, Wednesday and Thursday, Harbor Springs, Emmet county.

Dec. 3, 4, Thursday and Friday, East Jordan, Charlevoix County.

Dec. 4, 5, Friday and Saturday, Traverse City, Grand Traverse County.

Dec. 7, 8, Monday and Tuesday, Cope-minish, Manistee County.

Dec. 8, 9, Tuesday and Wednesday, Benzonia, Benzie County.

Dec. 9, 10, Wednesday and Thursday, Sherman, Wexford County.

Dec. 10, 11, Thursday and Friday, Lake City, Missaukee County.

Dec. 15, 16, Tuesday and Wednesday, Scottville, Mason County.

Dec. 16, 17, Wednesday and Thursday, Chase, Lake County.

Dec. 17, 18, Thursday and Friday, Hersey, Osceola County.

Dec. 1, 2, Tuesday and Wednesday, Midland, Midland County.

Dec. 2, 3, Wednesday and Thursday, Gladwin, Gladwin County.

Dec. 3, 4, Thursday and Friday, Rose City, Ogemaw County.

Dec. 4, 5, Friday and Saturday, Roscommon, Roscommon County.

Dec. 7, 8, Monday and Tuesday, Grayling, Crawford County.

Dec. 8, 9, Tuesday and Wednesday, Atlanta, Montmorency County.

Dec. 9, 10, Wednesday and Thursday, Mio, Oscoda County.

Dec. 15, 16, Tuesday and Wednesday, Gaylord, Otsego County.

Dec. 16, 17, Wednesday and Thursday, Cheboygan, Cheboygan County.

Dec. 17, 18, Thursday and Friday, Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County.

Dec. 15-18, Long Fruit Institute, Shelby, Oceana County.

Dec. 15-17, Long Dairy Institute, Hastings, Barry County.

The General Museum.

PROF. WALTER B. BARROWS.

A "general museum" is likely to be the result of years of gradual and irregular accumulation, often with no more definite plan at the outset than the preservation and display of every object of probable use or possible interest which comes within reach. Sooner or later some capable head and hand assort the collected materials, brings some degree of order out of chaos, and eventually the collections are systematized and we have a slightly and useful museum. A college collection is not specially different from others in its beginning, but its growth is likely to be more irregular, and the gatherings even more heterogeneous, than in the average public museum, and the assorting, blending, and revising periods need to be correspondingly near together. Our own general museum has passed through the usual vicissitudes, and after its most recent stirring up—which, indeed, is still in progress—it may be expected to settle down again into a condition of increased attractiveness and utility.

Singularly enough the writer's connection with this museum began just twenty years ago, when he selected, labeled, and packed a considerable part of a collection which the Michigan Agricultural College purchased from Ward's Natural Science Establishment, Rochester, N. Y., at a cost of several thousand dollars. Most of these specimens are still in the museum, some, it is true, somewhat the worse for wear, but giving all the more evidence of honorable and useful service, and still wearing their original labels. Probably that was the largest single accession, either by gift or purchase, which our museum ever has received, and included representatives of all the classes of existing animals, as well as fossils, casts of fossils, and minerals. Many large and important additions have been made since, and at present our cases and collections are inventoried at upwards of \$15,000, and compare very favorably, in extent and appearance, with those of any similar institution in the country. A rough summary of their contents perhaps will give a better idea of their variety and value.

There are about eighty mounted mammals, nearly half of which are of the size of a fox or larger. The largest is a fine bull moose from northern Minnesota, and other hoofed quadrupeds are the elk, deer, cariboo, prong-horn antelope, and big-horn or mountain sheep. The most noticeable gap in our series of North American mammals is the lack of a bison or American buffalo; not only have we no mounted skin, but there is literally neither "hide nor hoof," nor indeed bone, horn or tooth.

The flesh-eaters (carnivora) are re-

markably well represented; the list including a lioness and whelp, jaguar, panther or puma, Canada Lynx, wildcat, timber wolf, prairie wolf, red fox, gray fox, wolverine, badger, otter, fisher, marten or sable, mink, weasels, skunk, raccoon, grizzly, black bear, and seal. It will be noticed that every species of Carnivores found in Michigan is represented, together with several outsiders.

Carefully prepared and mounted skeletons form a feature of the exhibit, and range in size from the elephant shown in the engraving to the mole which, as usual, is out of sight. The latest addition to this department is a fine skeleton of a Michigan buck prepared at Ward's establishment from a carcass presented by Mr. Charles Davis, of Lansing.

Our collection of birds, particularly of local species, is unusually full; probably not a dozen common ones are absent, though we lack many of the rarer species. What is more particularly needed, however, is a larger number of individuals of common species, showing the changes of plumage due to age, sex and season. In all, we have over 500 mounted birds and about 800 birdskins. We are fortunate in possessing four mounted specimens

In our fish collection the rare Port Jackson shark, of Australia, is noticeable, as well as a set of Atlantic coast fishes obtained from the U. S. Fish Commission. We also have the type specimens of the Michigan grayling, which originally were sent by Dr. Manly Miles to Professor Cope to be named, and subsequently were returned to the College.

There is space only for the bare mention of the shells, crustaceans, starfish, sea urchins, worms, corals, sea-fans, and sponges which may be found on our shelves, but a good explorer with the "true scientific spirit" will make some surprising discoveries there.

The main insect collection, which is in constant use in the practical work of the College and Experiment Station, is not kept in the museum proper, but can be seen by anyone sufficiently interested to knock at a neighboring door and ask for it. In order, however, to give the casual visitor a little idea of the beauty and variety of at least one order of insects, about 400 butterflies and moths from the McMillan and Davenport collections have been mounted in Denton's butterfly tablets and placed on view in the general museum.

The systematic series of fossils prob-

and Bessemer steel; iron ore from the mines and melted knives and forks from the Chicago fire; gold nuggets and Confederate scrip; a two-headed pig and dress-stays made from split turkey feathers; peace-pipes and passover bread; mummy wrappings and modern veneerings; stumps gnawed by beaver, lead pipe, gnawed by rats, and even a penholder gnawed by the visiting public.

This last is a recent accession, correlated with a new register in which visitors are requested to inscribe their names. As an indication of the educational opportunities which the museum enjoys, it may be stated that the above mentioned register shows 3,000 names for the period from the 15th day of last May to date, and it is probable that at least half as many more visitors failed to register.

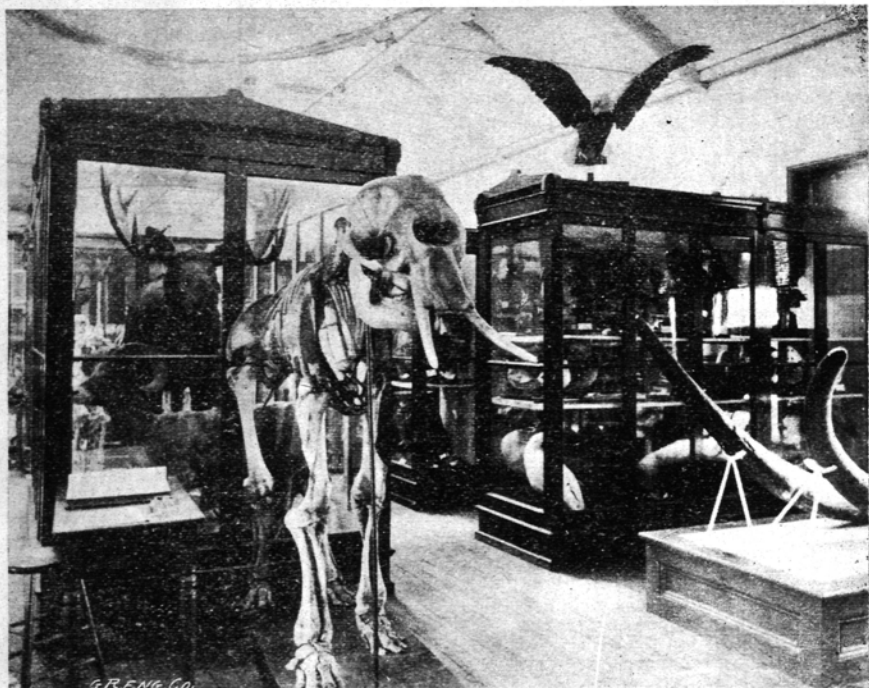
We should be glad to see more visitors at the College, and the museum helps to attract them; we need more time and assistance and money to be put on the collections and their care; but most of all, we need a new, large, convenient, fire-proof building, where ample space can be had for the effective display of our valuable collections, and where they, with our library, will not be constantly in danger of total destruction.

Department of Zoology and Geology.

Corn Husker Trial.

Last Thursday the Stevens Corn Husker was given a trial on the farm of Mr. Blake, just north of the College grounds. The machine husks in a very satisfactory manner, leaving but few husks and no silk on the corn, and the stalks are shredded so that they make excellent fodder. Aside from shelling the corn a little, and leaving a few husks on damp ears the corn could scarcely be husked in better shape. The shelled corn passes through a screen in the carrier and can be saved for feed.

The husker has great capacity, requiring two feeders to operate it to the best advantage; and during the test it husked 12 bushels of corn in ten minutes, or at the rate of 72 bushels per hour when it was not crowded in the least. The sophomores and juniors from the farm witnessed the trial.



THE GENERAL MUSEUM.

and one skin of the passenger pigeon, once so abundant in this state but now almost exterminated; a good skeleton of this bird is a special desideratum. There is a good series of eagles, hawks, and owls, the principal vacancies being the large falcons, the great gray owl, and the hawk owl. The class is weakest in the line of waterbirds, particularly in ducks, geese, snipe, sandpipers and plover. Of birds' eggs we have thousands, and nothing but lack of space prevents a full display.

Snakes, lizards, tortoises, amphibians, and fish, are shown mainly by alcoholic specimens, but a few well-mounted skins are on view. Among these are examples of our only poisonous snake, the massasauga, with its eastern and southern relatives, the diamond rattlesnake and the copperhead; an exceptionally large snapping turtle, a West Indian iguana, and a Gila monster of ill-repute from Arizona. We are much in need of samples of our less common Michigan reptiles, and students, or others, who chance to catch or kill specimens of any kind will confer a favor by bringing or sending them to the museum or notifying the curator where they can be found.

ably is up to the average for institutions situated as we are, but our location does not favor the accumulation of rich collections in this line. By purchase and gift some very valuable fossils have been secured, among the most recent being part of a jaw and six teeth of a very large mastodon in a remarkably good state of preservation, exhumed a year ago in Southern Michigan.

Our mineral shelves are being painted at present and few of their treasures consequently are visible. The collection, however, although containing many fine things, is not up to the plane of the rest of the museum, and a strong effort will be made to enlarge and improve it at once. The department of archaeology, also, including prehistoric weapons, implements, and ornaments, needs careful overhauling and rearrangement before its importance can be fairly appreciated.

It is not easy to systematize collections of such varied character as ours. They include not simply animals and plants, or parts of them, but all their various products, even to the handwork of man, besides a vast array of inorganic objects, natural and artificial. Thus we have an elephant skeleton and vegetable ivory; meteorites

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For various reasons THE M. A. C. RECORD is occasionally sent to those who have not subscribed for the paper. Such persons need have no hesitation about taking the paper from the postoffice, for no charge will be made for it. The only way, however, to secure the RECORD regularly is to subscribe.

Official Directory.

Sunday Chapel Service—Preaching at 2:30 p. m.

Y. M. C. A.—Holds regular meetings every Thursday evening at 6:30 and Sunday evenings at 7:30. S. H. Fulton, President. C. W. Loomis, Cor. Secretary.

Y. W. C. A. regular weekly meetings for all ladies on the campus Tuesday evenings at 8 o'clock, in the ladies' parlors. Meetings on Sunday evenings with the Y. M. C. A.; Miss Edith F. McDermott, President; Miss Alice Georgia, Cor. Secretary.

Natural History Society—Regular meeting second Friday evening of each month in the chapel at 7:30. H. C. Skeels, President. W. R. Kedzie, Secretary.

Botanical Club—Meets first and third Friday of each month in Botanical Laboratory at 7:30. T. Gunson, President. W. R. Kedzie, Secretary.

Dante Club—Meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 in Prof. W. O. Hedrick's office, College Hall. Prof. A. B. Noble, President.

M. A. C. Athletic Association—C. B. Laitner, President. G. B. Wells, Secretary.

Columbian Literary Society—Regular meeting every Saturday evening in their rooms in the middle ward of Wells Hall, at 7:00. E. H. Sedgwick, President. C. F. Austin, Secretary.

Delta Tau Delta Fraternity—Meets Friday evenings in the chapter rooms on fourth floor of Williams Hall, at 7:00. E. A. Baker, President. C. P. Wykes, Secretary.

Eclectic Society—Meets on fourth floor of Williams Hall every Saturday at 7:30 p. m. C. D. Butterfield, President. Manning Agnew, Secretary.

Feronian Society—Meets every Friday afternoon at 1:00 in Hesperian rooms. Miss Sadie Champion, President. Miss Marie Belliss, Secretary.

Hesperian Society—Meetings held every Saturday evening in the society rooms in the west ward of Wells Hall at 7:00. J. D. McLouth, President. R. H. Osborne, Secretary.

Olympic Society—Meets on fourth floor of Williams Hall every Saturday evening at 7:00. H. W. Hart, President. C. J. Perry, Secretary.

Phi Delta Theta Fraternity—Meets on Friday evening in chapter rooms in Wells Hall, at 7:00. W. G. Amos, President. F. H. Smith, Secretary.

Union Literary Society—Meetings held in their hall every Saturday evening at 7:00. E. A. Robinson, President. S. F. Edwards, Secretary.

Tau Beta Pi Fraternity—Meets every two weeks on Thursday evening in the

tower room of Mechanical Laboratory. G. A. Parker, President. E. H. Sedgwick, Secretary.

Club Boarding Association—I. L. Simmons, President. H. A. Dibble, Secretary.

Try and Trust Circle of King's Daughters—Meets every alternate Wednesday. Mrs. C. L. Weil, President. Mrs. J. L. Snyder, Secretary.

The Funeral of Ex-President Willits.

Ex-President Willits was buried at Monroe, Mich., Oct. 27. The funeral party arrived at Monroe at noon of that day and consisted of Mrs. Willits and her son, Hon. George S. Willits, of Chicago; her sister, Miss Mary Ingersoll; ex-Senator Sumner and his son, C. E. Sumner, '79, of Toledo.

The party was met at the train by Hon. H. A. Conant, ex-Secretary of State, and a large delegation of leading citizens of Monroe and vicinity, and by the delegation from M. A. C.

The body lay in state in the vestibule of the Presbyterian Church from noon till 2:30 p. m., and was viewed by a large crowd of neighbors and friends from a distance, such as Judge Ingersoll and son, of Marshall. The casket was covered with flowers, among which the floral offering from the College was conspicuous, with its appropriate leaves of palms and flowers.

The services at the church were conducted by the pastor of the Presbyterian Church, and at the request of Mrs. Willits were simple in character. In the review of his life's work emphasis was placed upon his successful labors at the Agricultural College.

At the close of the service his body was borne to its final rest in the beautiful cemetery.

The College delegation placed in the hands of Mrs. Willits a copy of the following paper, unanimously adopted at a meeting of the College faculty Oct. 26:

"The faculty have heard with profound sorrow of the death of ex-President Willits. The loss of one who was so long at the head of this College, who did so much for its advancement and prosperity, and who has always taken so lively an interest in everything that would conduce to its growth and usefulness, comes to us as a personal grief.

"In token of our respect for our beloved ex-President the College flag will remain at half-mast till after the funeral, all exercises at the College will suspend during the afternoon of the funeral, and a committee of the faculty will attend the funeral in honor of the dead and to personally express to Mrs. Willits and her family our condolence over a mutual sorrow."

Secretary Butterfield and Dr. Kedzie were appointed delegates to represent the board and the College at the funeral, and attended the funeral, being assigned places with the honorary pallbearers.

The following action by the Alumni of M. A. C. in Washington shows the high esteem in which he was held in Washington, the flag being at half-mast over the Department of Agriculture till after the funeral.

ACTION OF M. A. C. ALUMNI IN WASHINGTON.

WHEREAS, The alumni of the Michigan Agricultural College, resident in Washington, D. C., desire to express their personal loss in the death of the Hon. Edwin Willits, their warmest friend and wisest counselor, and their recognition of his eminent services to their alma mater, as president, in broadening its field of usefulness, strengthening its foundations and bring-

ing it into closer and more harmonious relations with the people of the state; his important work for the state as a citizen, legislator and educator; and for the nation to which he gave the best work of his mature years in shaping and directing, the scientific work of the Department of Agriculture; be it

Resolved, That we express our admiration of his high character and judicious action as student, teacher, legislator, public officer and citizen; that we commend his course in life to our young men for their study and emulation; that we deplore his apparently untimely death, occurring at a time when men of his character and wisdom are needed as counselors and friends by the rising generation, recognizing at the same time the beneficence of the All-Wise Creator, whose summons he has obeyed.

Resolved, That we tender to the bereaved widow and family our sincere and heartfelt sympathy in their hour of affliction.

Resolved, That these resolutions be engrossed and forwarded to the family, and that a copy be furnished the M. A. C. Record for publication.

DONALD M'PHERSON, '74,

President.

WILLIAM A. TAYLOR, '88,

Secretary.

Mr. Willits had been in poor health during the early summer and returned to his old home in Monroe for rest and recuperation, and spent several weeks in search of health. In fact, he had never fully recovered from the strain of his labors as Commissioner of the Quadricentennial Exposition at Chicago, in which he represented the Department of Agriculture in organizing the agricultural exhibit. After some weeks at his quiet home his old vigor seemed to return in a measure and he went back to Washington to take up once more the burdens and cares of his busy life. On Oct. 22 he was busy in his office arranging affairs for "our Michigan boys" to go home to vote, when he was seized with dizziness and nausea, and was sent home in a carriage at 4 p. m. and a physician called. The cerebral symptoms rapidly increased, and by midnight he entirely lost consciousness, which he never recovered, lying in a profound sleep with stentorian breathing, indicative of apoplexy, till noon of Saturday, when "sleep passed him over into the hands of his twin brother, Death."

He took a deep interest in the Presidential contest and had made arrangements to come to Monroe to vote on Nov. 3. He wrote to his friends: "I shall come home on such a date to vote unless I am called sooner." Prophetic words: he "was called sooner!"

Our State and National Banks.

[Read before the Hesperian Society by
E. D. SANDERSON, '97.]

The whole nation is discussing the most vital question that has arisen since the civil war. The tariff is undoubtedly one of the greatest issues that demand solution by the American people, but the question of the basis or standard and method of issue of our currency is obviously more fundamental. No matter if our tariff be adjusted to the most extreme nicety, if our currency be such that foreign capital can control it or prevent its legitimate end of being the most convenient medium for equal exchange between man and man, and the state, then, I say, our tariff will be of little avail as a source of revenue to the government. In the history of American finance and in deciding what its future shall be, the

state and national banks have been and will remain two of its most important factors. Without them the mammoth and rapid business transactions of our day would be almost impossible; in their issues of notes they have furnished a convenient form of inviolable currency; and in later years they have become of great value in promoting thrift and industry by their savings departments. Thus in view of their intimate relation to the most prominent issue of the day, a short sketch of our banking system may not be amiss. The sketch is essentially the same as those given by Judge Cooley and Prof. Waldo before the first meeting of the Michigan Political Science Association in 1892.

The first bank charter was granted by the governor and judges of the Territory of Michigan for one to be situated in Detroit, in 1805, but their power in this was questioned by Congress and was not upheld by the courts. However, from 1835, to 1837, while the territorial council was vested with legislative power, it granted eight charters for banks in some of the older towns which were in need of them. But the charters were drawn up for the incorporators and not for the state. Some provided for engaging in insurance or lumber business, and all were without any adequate provision for securing the creditors. The first session of the legislature granted six more charters also, no doubt, with legitimate purposes in view. For the first time an attempt was made to provide a security for billholders beyond the assets of the corporation and the limited personal liability. Each bank was to pay annually into the hands of the State Treasurer a sum equal to one-half of one per cent of its capital stock. This was to constitute a common fund for the security of the billholders, but when the great collapse came, it proved utterly inadequate.

At this time the emigration into Michigan was at its highest and the most wild speculations were a matter of no comment. Villages were laid out on paper in every part of the state, some in good faith, but many to take advantage of other's credulity and secure from ten to one hundred times the value of the land. Under such conditions more banks were a necessity, and there being only fifteen in the state, and as more money was needed for circulation, an act to organize and regulate banking associations was at once passed by the legislature in 1837 and under it they soon sprang up all over the state. The more essential provisions of the act required the capital stock to be not less than fifty nor more than three hundred thousand dollars; the president and directors were to furnish security, approved by the county treasurer and clerk, to the Auditor General to be held as collateral for the payment of all debts and redemption of notes of the corporation, this to consist in bonds and mortgages on real estate or in bonds executed by resident freeholders and lodged with the State Bank Commissioner. The issue of notes and bills for circulation was limited to twice and a half the amount of stock then paid in and loans and discounts in the same way. Bills were to be paid on demand, or if not in thirty days, the corporation was to be dissolved. A safety fund as in the previous provision was required. No less than forty-nine banks were organized under this act before April, 1838, when the legislature suspended the provisions of the law. The aggregate capital as given in the articles of incorporation was \$4,000,000, but in

many cases it was merely nominal. A provision for the immediate payment of 10 per cent of the capital stock was often evaded by the payment of a small sum, which was immediately withdrawn and paid in again, and so on until the required amount was made up, or when the payment had been made by one bank, the sum paid in was sent to the location of another bank and used there, and so on over all that part of the state. Thus the requirements of the law were rendered nugatory and many of the banks were rendered nugatory and many of the banks were shams, inflating the currency with worthless paper to enrich their stockholders, and when the great revulsion in the tide of speculation took place, they necessarily suspended such specie payments as they had before attempted to make and the whole system collapsed. Furthermore in 1844, the Supreme Court declared the act incorporating these bank to be null and void, and the banks now known as "Wild Cats" were swept utterly out of existence. Bank bills soon became worthless and good currency was almost impossible to obtain. The people were naturally compelled to barter, and though the losses had been great, the lesson of economy and prudence almost repaid them, and in a few years the state was again becoming prosperous.

By the constitution of 1850, any law creating a corporation or relating to banking could not go into effect until ratified by two-thirds of the electors. No legislative action was now taken till 1857, when an act was passed and approved by the electors. This differed from the former law in that the bank was not to deal in real estate; it was to deposit with the State Treasurer the evidence of public-national or state-debt, bearing interest, to secure its issues of circulating notes, receiving from the treasurer an amount of circulating notes equal to 100 per cent of the securities thus transferred, the securities in all cases to be made equal to stock of this state producing 6 per cent per annum; the treasurer, however, not receiving them at a rate above 95 per cent of their par value or above 95 per cent of their market value. But the moneyed men were slow to come forward in support of enterprises which had proved so disastrous in the past. Paper currency was therefore supplied from banks of other states. Only four Detroit banks, operating under unexpired charters, continued after this law took effect and these made no effort to push their circulation, though they had the implicit confidence of all. None others were organized before the national banking law took effect, when the Detroit banks were converted into national banks.

In 1861 an amendment to the constitution was made making stockholders and officers of a bank issuing notes or paper credits to circulate as money, liable for all debts contracted during their term of office; providing for the register of all bank bills; requiring security to the full amount of notes and bills so registered in state or U. S. stocks, bearing interest, to be deposited with the State Treasurer as collateral for such bills; that in case of insolvency, bill holders should be preferred creditors over all others of such bank; and that the legislature should pass no law authorizing or sanctioning the suspension of specie payments by any person, association or corporation. With these amendments the constitutional provisions stand as today, with the ex-

ception of the national banking law, protecting the bill holders as well in any other state or country.

It has been seen that prior to the war our financial situation was constantly more or less muddled, but the establishment of national banks secured the confidence and held the high regard of banking and financial experts. In 1861, state banks were issuing \$150,000,000 worth of notes, which was regarded as a loan from the people without interest. Therefore, in his first annual report, Secretary Chase inquired whether sound policy did not demand that the advantage of this loan be had by the government representing the people, rather than by individual stockholders. He submitted two plans for establishing a national banking system, one of which was finally adopted in 1863.

This law provides that any five or more persons upon the deposit of registered or coupon bonds to the amount of \$50,000 could receive 90 per cent of the par value of the same in bank notes, which, when signed were receivable for all government dues, except the duties on imports, and were payable on all government debts except interest on bonds. In compensation, the banks organized were required to pay a tax of 1 per cent on their circulation. Each bank must conform to state interest laws, must maintain a special reserve for its notes and deposits, and redeem circulation at the place of issue. This amount of circulation was limited to \$300,000,000. The law provided for a finance bureau, at the head of which is the Comptroller of the Currency, who has oversight of the entire system. With some amendments this is mainly the same as today.

The greatest danger of the system is in the excessive issue of United States notes, but the advantages are numerous; it provides a uniform currency, and being receivable for all government dues is everywhere of the same value; its adoption did away with the excessive losses and discounts on exchange; state banks substituted the proposed notes for their own; the rates of interest diminished, and the need of government securities as a basis of issue replenished the national exchequer through the sale of bonds when the government so badly needed war loans on easier rates than it had previously enjoyed.

As might be expected, defects were soon found in the system and so in 1864, the law was amended so that redemption was made in certain specified leading cities, coupon bonds were excluded as securities, the minimum capital was increased from \$50,000 to

\$100,000, and a provision was made for the conversion of state banks into national banks that rendered it so easy as to become a necessity. In consequence, the system immediately assumed large dimensions, and in July, 1866, 1,634 banks had been incorporated.

Originally, the most important function was that of issue, but now the deposit and discount features make national banks a necessity.

Until the resumption of specie payments in 1879, the national bank notes could be paid to or by the government whenever specie was not required by law. Though no one has ever lost a dollar through national bank notes, they have yielded the treasury over \$500,000 through their destruction and loss and the interest on circulation has amounted to over \$75,000,000. The limit of circulation has been gradually increased until now it is limited only by the desire and capacity of banking associations. The popular opposition to national banks on the ground of supposed enormous profits is without cause. In 1875 the profit was only 2 1/4 per cent more than ordinary discount at 8 per cent returned; in 1879 the extra reward for circulation was only 7-10 per cent and that year 1,005 state banks and 2,634 private institutions were content to forego the favor of issue profits; in 1883 with 4 per cent bonds as security and 6 per cent interest rate, there was but \$46 profit for a bank issuing \$90,000 in notes; and the continued decline since 1882 is sufficient proof that the reward from circulation is small.

Therefore, if the requirements underlying circulation are not changed, it will be only a matter of time when national bank notes will be of the past, but such a condition is not to be desired and various measures are now before Congress to prevent it. But if safety, convertibility, and uniformity are attributes of a perfect system, ours need not be changed.

In presenting this sketch, the purpose has been to present simply a brief statement of the origin, structure, and workings of our banking institutions, and if, in so doing, it has aroused an interest in our currency's future, the paper will have accomplished its sole end.

M. A. C.

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News From Graduates and Students.

R. B. Pickett, '93, visited the College last Wednesday.

John W. Toan, '90, is attending the Detroit College of Medicine.

H. L. Fairfield, '98m, has reached Phoenix, Arizona, with his family, and gone to keeping house.

N. M. Morse, '96, was one of those examined for the Indian service at Grand Rapids the 24th ult.

W. L. Rossman, '89, and W. J. McGee, '96, took the special civil service examination in chemistry at Jackson, week before last.

Among marriage licenses recently granted in Hillsdale county, the *Litchfield Record* notes that of Charles H. Alvord, '95, Camden, and Lotta L. Hicks, Hudson.

THE RECORD has received from Gilbert H. Hicks, '92, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, a copy of a lecture on "Seed Control" delivered by him before the Massachusetts Horticultural society.

It is reported that the whereabouts of Frank E. Masson, with '99m, are unknown, and that his parents are advertising for him. It will be remembered that Mr. Masson is the young man who came here from Athens, Greece, last spring.

The *Ionia Sentinel*, of October 22, contains quite complete and complimentary biographical sketches of the three M. A. C. men who are on the republican ticket in Ionia County. They are Grant M. Morse, with '75, for judge of probate; C. I. Goodwin, '77, for register of deeds, and W. K. Clute, '96, for circuit court commissioner.

Miss Hattie McKenzie, with '95, died at her home in Plainfield, October 23. She attended this College two terms, leaving at the end of the summer term in '92 to attend school at Albion. After one term at Albion she returned to her home in Plainfield, where she has since resided. The news of her death was a surprise to her friends here, as nothing was known of her ill-health.

To those who knew Henry G. Reynolds, ex-secretary of the M. A. C., no excuse is needed for these few words expressive of the thorough enjoyment his visit to the college on Oct. 24-25, short though it was, gave his many friends. How much the California climate has done for him! He left us a physical wreck; he comes back a strong, hearty, energetic man—the same man who in the "Auld Lang Syne" used to set the pace for us all in zeal for work and breadth of accomplishment. He came all unexpectedly, but in a very short while the word flew around the campus, and soon he was surrounded with friends old and new,—for the fame of him had gone abroad among the new men, and they would know what manner of man this might be. And then we talked—of the men of the olden days (none were forgotten), now scattered to the four winds of heaven; of what we had done or had hoped to do; of what the future still had in store for us; of the meaning of life underlying it all. And the cheerful laugh played hide-and-seek with the earnest word, and the moments flew past with winged feet, and the hour for parting came. There was the warm pressure of the hand, the kindly smile on the face, the cheerful God speed! and the bright little episode belonged to the past. This is written for those who will know what such a visit from Henry Reynolds means and who will, as they read, instinctively wish they had been there; and the lesson is:—friends, life is short; come ye and do likewise.

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Self Government for Armenia.

[Delivered in Chapel, Oct. 20, 1896, by T. A. Chittenden, '97.]

Situated in the northeastern part of Asiatic Turkey lies Armenia—a plateau of about the same size as the state of Iowa—being about sixty thousand square miles in area.

This country by its industry, resources, and genius, once supported a population of over 30,000,000 souls. Yet since it was brought under Turkish rule, its natural resources have remained undeveloped, pasture and arable lands have been abandoned, rivers choked up, roads blocked and broken, so that the country today is but sparsely inhabited. Verily, a land "flowing with milk and honey" has now become a vast desert, wherein all the fiercest passions of which brute humanity is capable are free to roam about unbridled and unchecked. Public interests are in the hands of whoever can lay hold on them. Warfare is pitiless. Every man save the Christian goes armed and every weapon is tolerated. Dissimulation, fraud and trickery are all permitted for the purpose of corrupt ends. In short, Armenia is in a condition today that is a disgrace to the civilized world.

How is this state of affairs brought about? Is it because this people have become less thrifty? Has the soil ceased to give its increase, and the mines their yield? No! It is because of the misgoverning tyranny of the Turk.

The Armenians are generally known as being bright, practical, industrious, and moral. They are of a very peaceable disposition and know not the use of firearms. The very fact that the Armenian stock exists at all today, after so many years of massacre and oppression, is proof of its wonderful vitality and excellent quality.

Why does the Turk oppress the Armenians? Because they are Christians. Because of their lack of conformity with the Ottoman religion. Turkey is not to be regarded as a state, nor judged by the code which pertains to civilization. Its organic laws are not legislative enactments, but they are derived from the Koran. Hence it is not a state; but a congregation of religious enthusiasts, whose highest aim is the propagation of their faith and not the welfare of the people. And since the Koran, from which the organic law of the land is derived, inculcates such principles, viz., in substance—that war is enjoined against all Christians and that every opportunity shall be taken to extinguish them—how is it possible for the Turk not to be barbarous? They are far from being a political body. Even the Sultan himself is not a sovereign; but a pontiff, whose edicts must all conform to the laws of the Koran. Such being the facts, then, Turks they are and Turks they will remain—savage, bigoted and averse to all civilization.

Turkey has been little less than a land of butchery for the last 75 years. Its red record has grown with every decade. In 1822, we find the Turk making an attack upon the Greeks in which 50,000 were massacred. In 1850, 10,000 of the Nestorians; in 1860, 11,000 of the inhabitants of Lebanon and Damascus; in 1876, 10,000 of the Bulgarians, and in 1894, 12,000 of the Armenians fall victims to this great assassin. Making a total of 93,000 Christians swept from the face of the earth in the course of 72 years; under the orders of that ferocious and blood-thirsty fanatic—the Sultan.

And still it continues—massacre upon massacre, until several thousand

more souls have been added to Armenia's martyr roll in the past two years. And as long as any revolutionary outbreak or pretense at outbreak can be found to serve as an excuse to hoodwink the civilized world, the organized massacre of innocent Armenians will continue.

How have the Christian nations regarded these actions? True it is, some of them have sent a joint note protesting against the massacres. But what is back of the note? Absolutely nothing! Not a single Christian nation has dared to utter a word of threat. Each nation has its dispatch boats ready to take on board their own subjects in case of any serious outbreak; but not a word in behalf of the Armenians. They are hunted like dogs through the streets and from house to house, and no government—English, Russian, German, French, Austrian or American—utters a word of positive protest. Show me another instance in history of the greatest and strongest nations of the world standing by in silent compliance, while the weakest and most corrupt massacres by the wholesale a nation whose only crimes have been its faith, its industry and desire for advancement.

Things have reached a critical point—a point where the powers of Europe with America can, with very little trouble, place eastern Asia-Minor under a Christian viceroy; and thus relieve the civilized world of this awful curse.

This is what we wish to advocate—a system of self-government for Armenia—a government by which they can elect their own officials, and levy their own taxes. A government that will give them freedom of the press, of thought, of speech, and above all, the right of a standing army.

Why have the Christian nations not done this? It is because of the selfish principle which underlies the peace of Europe. Europe has refused to lift a finger lest one country should get some political advantage over another; and America stands equally silent, leaving that inhuman monster to do as he pleases.

It should no longer be considered a question of political gain; but should be considered, what it has been rightly called, a question of "common humanity, Christianity, and civilization."

How can this change best be brought about? By the united action of the six great Christian nations. Let them unite under one flag, and under the one common idea of humanity and the Turk will submit at the first request. He dare not do otherwise. He must submit. May the interest already aroused move the Christian nations to immediate and determined action! They did it for Lebanon, why not for Armenia? By their united action,

Crete and Samos were freed from the yoke of Turkey, why not do the same for Armenia? It is no more than right. Surely a nation that has produced and can produce such men as Prince Melkon, Persian ambassador to England; Nubar Pasha, prime minister of Egypt; Prof. Cheros, of King's college, England, and a host of other distinguished statesmen, financiers, scientists, and men of every trade and profession may justly claim the right to be allowed, at least, to look after its own local affairs in a civilized fashion.

How rapidly would they advance along every line were their conditions changed! It is in the hope of such a change that we make this appeal. May the Christian nations not disregard it. May they be worthy of the name of Christianity. In the words of the poet, may they remember—

"He's true to God who's true to man; wherever wrong is done To the humblest and the weakest, 'neath the all-beholding sun, That wrong is also done to us; and they are slaves most base Whose love of right is for themselves, and not for all their race."

Home interprets Heaven. Home is Heaven for beginners.—*Dr. Parkhurst.*

The mother asked little Dot to go into the next room and see if the clock was running, for she had not heard it strike all the afternoon. Dot came running back, put her curly head into the door, and exclaimed: Why, no, mamma, de clock ain't a-runnin'. It is des stanin' still and a-waggin' its tail." —*Ladies' Home Companion.*

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FOR THE WINTER**

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