

Poem,	Frank Hodgman, '62
Music, Carnival Quadrille,	<i>Strauss</i>
Oration,	John P. Finley, '73
Music—Song, "Twenty Years Ago,"	Frank Hodgman, '62

The "History" by Henry A. Haigh, Esq., '74, was in part a touching tribute to the memory of the graduates who have died since the alumni gathering of 1879—George W. Eaton, Dalston P. Strange, John W. Porter, William K. Kedzie, Robert F. Kedzie, George W. Long, William A. Henderson, Lyman Mason, Charles L. Jackson, and Henry E. Owen—graduates endeared to those who knew them by great excellencies of character, whom the College could ill afford to spare.

NECROLOGY.

The necrology of the graduates has not been written, and the idea of doing so occurs to me too late to do much more than to give a brief notice of each, and to insert, as I have the permission of the secretary of the Alumni Association to do, the portion of Mr. Haigh's address on this subject:

The class of 1861, the first graduating class of the college, hastened, all but one, to join the army. They had their likenesses taken in a group, and the painting now adorns the reading room of the College. Of this class was Henry D. Benham. He came from East Winsor, Eaton county, on the day, I believe, of the opening of the College, May 13, 1857, and entered into the second class as they were then divided. The first class should have graduated in 1860, but was dispersed by a shortening of and radical change in the course of study, a change which lasted but one year. Mr. Benham was graduated at the age of 21 in 1861. He was 1st lieutenant of 1st Michigan 102 U. S. Colored Infantry; died of disease at Beaufort, S. C., July 3, 1864. He was a good scholar and of most exemplary character.

Gilbert A. Dickey, son of the Hon. Chas. Dickey, of Marshall, came to the College in the winter of 1857. He was considered by the officers the model student. He was never absent, never late, scarcely ever less than perfect in lessons. His work was done as regularly and well as his studies. He seemed to be conscientiousness itself. He was graduated at the age of eighteen in 1861, and at once entered the army. After the battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863, he was found, killed at the head of all the slain, before a place that had been stormed. He was second lieutenant of the 24th Michigan Infantry, and well merited the praise given him in the volume, "Michigan in the War."

Mr. William A. Hardy came to the College from his father's farm about two miles north of the College in Meridian, in the spring of 1861, was graduated in 1864, and made Master of Science in 1867. Consumption carried him away, after months of deceitful hope, in 1869. Mr. Hardy was much beloved by officers and students for his unobtrusive, kindly ways, and substantial worth.

Mr. Daniel K. Gunn, of Ionia, entered the preparatory class in 1866, and was graduated in 1870 at the age of 29. He then became a fruit culturist in South Haven. Mr. Gunn came to the College with but one arm, having sacrificed the other on one of our country's battle-fields. He suffered from his wounds throughout his college course, and sank into his grave in 1871. He left an excellent record behind him as to moral worth, and as fair a one for scholarship as could be expected of one out of health.

The other graduates who have died are all so kindly mentioned by Mr. Haigh, the historian of the Alumni, that I transfer that portion of his history to my report:

"The historian of nine years ago told you of four deaths that had occurred; the historian of six years ago made record of no more; nor did the historian of the last reunion have other names to add. Those four were all: Dickey and Benham, who died in the army, and Hardy and Gunn, who died early in the days of this our brotherhood. The wing of the death-angel left thus but few pages of our earlier histories darkened with the black margin. For eight years prior to the last meeting there came no death message to our numbers. To-day I must open a sadder chapter. Our death roll numbers fourteen now. Ten deaths have darkened our portals since we met, and the shadows from the cypresses fall on fair names endeared to us by fondest association.

"The historian feels justly privileged, at the expense of possible tedium, to dwell upon these young lives—so early ended—with such detail consideration as from the meagre data furnished him he is enabled to.

"Scarcely had we reached our homes after the last reunion, when the first of this long roll of those departed was called to meet a tragic death at the hands of pitiless murderers on the distant, sun-parched plains of Colorado.

"GEORGE W. EATON, of the class of 1869, was killed by the Ute Indians at White River Agency, Colorado, on somewhere about the 29th of September, 1879.

"Eaton was born at Ridgway, Lenawee county, in this State, June 16, 1845. He entered this college with the class of 1869, and he is remembered kindly by his classmates as a hard-working and faithful student—not over brilliant it may be, but one of those fellows who may be depended on,—a quality better than brilliancy. On the 28th of April, 1870, a few months after graduating, he started for Colorado as a member of the famous 'Union Colony,' which founded the now prosperous and beautiful town of Greeley in that State. He remained there engaged for the most part in farming until September, 1879, when he was engaged by Indian Agent Meeker to go to the White River Agency to assist him in teaching the Indians how to cultivate the soil. The Indians rebelled against this idea, and without further well-known cause arose in force and massacred the members of the agency with, it is believed, but one exception. The bodies of those murdered were stripped but not treated to further indignities. Eaton's body was found by the soldiers of General Merritt's command near the agency on the 11th of October. It was denuded of all clothing and held in its hand a package of dispatches. A bullet had pierced the left breast. This massacre is regarded as one of the most cruel and uncalled for of any in the history of our treatment of the Indians. No punishment has ever been meted out to the Indians for this crime. Poor Eaton's body lies buried near the spot where it was found.

"On the 3d of February, following, Dalston P. Strange, of the class of 1871, died at the home of his childhood, in Oneida, in this State. He was born Oct. 1, 1850, and entered this institution in 1866. Those who remember him in his College days can but cherish pleasantest memories of his kindness and gentility, his good will and his warm heart. Gentle as a woman, he was faithful to a lofty view of life. He graduated with the class of 1871, and in the same year, when only twenty-one years of age, was appointed Professor of Agriculture in the University of Minnesota. He remained two years in this position, after which he went to the Boston Institute of Technology to pursue his studies in his chosen specialty—chemical physics. He later developed a proficiency in this line which presaged well of future usefulness. Failing health compelled him to relinquish his studies in the following

year and return to his home; but his health afterward so far recovered as to enable him to pursue his studies at *Ann Arbor* during the winter of 1876-7, and to spend the following summer at *Grand Rapids* assisting his old friend and classmate, *Peter Felker*, in producing '*The Grocer's Manual*,' a book of no inconsiderable importance. The winter of 1877-8 he again spent at *Boston*, pursuing his special studies, but was compelled to relinquish them in the early spring by disease, which developed into pulmonary consumption. Travel in the distant west failed to restore him to health, and he returned to his home in August, 1879, to spend his last days amid scenes endeared to him by early and long association, and surrounded by those whom he loved dearest and best. He died February 4, 1880. Strange was a good, true man. We liked him well. Gentle, kind, pure as his high ideal of life, faithful, resolute, and with a noble purpose in his soul. We liked him well.

"Less than a week after the death of Strange, *John W. Porter*, a member of the same class, a man of somewhat different stamp, yet in whose life there was much that was good, much that was of the best, died of the same disease at *Greeley*, in the State of *Colorado*. The details of his early life I have not been able to gather; replies to inquiries sent to various sources not having yet been received. He was earnest and steadfast in his student life, and honest to a high and liberal endeavor. For some years after graduation he was engaged in the sale of a publication known as the '*Illustrated Atlas of Michigan*,' and afterwards was similarly interested in *Wisconsin* in a like publication concerning that State. These enterprises it is understood were successful in a business way, but a harsh stroke of fate prevented their continuance. The dread disease, consumption, compelled its victim to seek a more congenial clime. In the spring of 1878 he went to *Greeley, Colorado*, where he resided until his death. The details of his life there also the writer has not yet been able to ascertain. A clipping from the *Colorado Sun* of Feb. 14, 1880, four days after *Porter's* death, serves to give an idea of the esteem in which he seems to have been held in that community. The clipping is hereto attached, portions of which it seems fitting to read as a part of this history:

"'Died in *Greeley*, Feb. 9th, *John W. Porter*.

"'Nearly two years ago *Mr. Porter* came to our town from *Michigan* to seek a season of rest from arduous work, and try the effects of the climate of *Colorado* upon his health, which for a year had been delicate.

"'He at once made a deep impression upon those who formed his acquaintance, not so much by his gentle courtesy, winning manners, scholarly bearing, and wonderful personal magnetism, as by a certain simplicity and directness of mind that must needs convince one that he loved and pursued Truth with his whole might, and was loyal to her with all the earnestness of his generous soul.

"'It is a sad thought that his intellectual stores are, in a measure, lost to us; stores accumulated through fierce strugglings with early poverty and small opportunity. Let no young man or woman despair of success so long as he remembers this example of one who, though lacking opportunity until of age, so used his observation and his time as to secure a collegiate education, and to wring a true success from what might have been the barren field of defeat.

"'Let us hope that that power which decrees that no atom of matter and no impulse of force shall ever be lost, but shall still exist somewhere in the universe, has also decreed that no part of that crowning gift to man, the soul, can ever become extinct, but shall follow the law of its development, and

live and expand in the universe, never growing old or weary, recognized and recognizing other souls forever and ever.

“Upon this stupendous problem of immortality, Mr. Porter spoke with his usual modesty. Said he, “We should not make ourselves unhappy about this matter, but be willing to accept what has been prepared for us. If it is best for us to live again, we shall do so. I go to try the future without fear. If we do not wake again, it will be one long sleep, and we have no right to complain.”

“During his long illness he never was heard to complain, and when he saw that death was inevitable, made every preparation for it with great resignation. For those who, misusing the gifts and opportunities of life, die in the midst of a round of follies and sins, we may well drop the bitter tear. But for such as he, who, loyal to the right, strove each day to become more and more like his ideal man, we should offer no vain tears, but proceed on our journey, thankful for the bright example, and hoping and believing that somewhere, at some time, we shall encounter again his radiant smile and cheerful greeting.

O. H.’

“William K. Kedzie, of the class of 1870, died April 14th, 1880, and his brother, Robert F. Kedzie, of the class of 1871, died Feb. 13th, 1882. These are mentioned together, though they do not so occur in order of time, because they so often come to our minds in the same thought. They may well be regarded as true sons to our Alma Mater, and brilliant examples of what, under the best conditions, she can produce.

“The leading events of their short lives are somewhat strikingly similar, yet in character and disposition they in many respects quite widely differ. Both were students of this college under nearly identical circumstances; both completed the course with the highest honors; both were engaged after graduation as assistants in the chemical laboratory; both pursued advanced courses of study in their special lines at eastern institutions; both early received important professorships in agricultural colleges; both discharged arduous duties excellently well; both were most enthusiastic in the study and promulgation of natural science; both were true Christian gentlemen of the highest honor and noblest bearing, and both met with untimely and lamented deaths at nearly the same age.

“William K. Kedzie was appointed Professor of Chemistry in the Agricultural College of Kansas in 1873. He brought to the irksome duties of this new position all his characteristic zeal and energy. Yet amid his many tasks he found time for valuable outside work. Among labors of this sort was a practical work on the Agricultural Geology of Kansas, a work which has been highly praised, and which gave him a reputation as a chemist and practical scientist which many a man much older in the profession might well be proud of. He visited Europe in 1875, and while there made careful study of German chemical laboratories, with a view of adopting their best qualities into a plan for a laboratory at the Kansas Agricultural College. Upon his return he prepared and presented such a plan. It was adopted, and the building constructed under his direction. In 1878 he accepted the professorship of chemistry at Oberlin University, which position he held until his death.

“A most interesting phase of his character was his untiring devotion to the advancement of science. His first independent efforts in this line were exerted here and for the benefit of this College. They were varied but always of value and successfully accomplished. He was one of the founders and most enthusiastic and efficient of the first members of the Natural History Society

of this College, which has since proved so prosperous and useful an adjunct of the institution. Work in this line was continued during the remainder of his life. At the Kansas College he founded a Science Club, patterned somewhat after the fashion of the Society here, which proved prosperous and useful.

“Will. Kedzie was brilliant, quick as the lightning’s flash, yet always composed, dignified, genial, kindly, generous; a brilliant man, yet none the less a true man; and one whose short life has brought to this, his Alma Mater, no small measure of credit and respect. He was but twenty-nine years old when he died. Few lives make such a record in so short a time.

“Prof. Kedzie was married in 1876 to Ella M. Gale, daughter of the Professor of Horticulture at the Kansas Agricultural College, by whom he had two children, who, with their mother, survive him.

“Robert F. Kedzie graduated in 1871, and for a short time thereafter turned his attention to fruit culture, but afterwards became connected with the chemical department of this College, where he labored efficiently during most of the time for seven years. Among his labors while thus engaged is not a little which will prove of permanent value to our State. For instance: he made analyses of over thirty different samples of soils from different parts of the State, the results of which work are now on exhibition, for the use of all who have need of them, in the office of the State Commissioner of Immigration at Detroit. Also twenty different samples of corn and mill stuffs, to determine their relative food value; forty-two samples of wheat, to determine proper time for cutting—so far as that can be determined by chemical analysis; also many samples of milk, honey, superphosphates, marls, etc., for various purposes. He seemed peculiarly efficient in this work—the result, doubtless, no less of his own persistent faithfulness than of the long and valued training which he received from his father and from Professor Johnson, of Yale, and Dr. Storer, of Harvard.

“In 1880 he went with his friend, Prof. Frank A. Gulley, to the newly organized Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi. It was an enterprise, as many of us regarded it, in the nature of an experiment. It proved to be but a short one for poor Robert Kedzie; but it may have been very far from unsuccessful. The duties of his new position were perplexing and arduous. The Chair of Chemistry, to which he was called, had no accessories, no aids to instruction. He started in with nothing, but within a year he had succeeded in organizing, it is said, the best laboratory in the Southern States; this, too, beside conducting his classes in chemistry and physics, and doing drudgery in mathematics. Yet, withal, he had the energy and pluck to show himself of value in the public economy of the State by making useful analyses of fertilizers used in the South, and of mineral waters, marls, specimens of soil, and other things of the sort. Then, too, he founded in that new institution a scientific association, patterned, as was his brother’s in the West, somewhat after our own Natural History Society—an institution which thrived while he lived, but—like many fond hopes and bright anticipations—died when he died.

“Full of high hope and happy under fairest prospects, Prof. Kedzie came north, last Christmas time, to marry the girl he loved. Returning with his bride to a happy home in the sunny South, he was seized a week later with a nervous fever from which, despite his strong constitution and stronger will, he died Feb. 13, 1882.

“He had been in the South but a short time, but he seems to have won

respect and esteem on every hand. The public press of Mississippi, almost without exception, made mention of his death in terms of sincerest regret. Notably the Jackson Clarion, the leading organ of the State, referred to it as well nigh a public calamity. There is something peculiarly touching in the sentiment thus voiced, suggesting quietly that this bright life, so fair in its promises of good, so early taken from the ample fulfillment of those promises, may have had in it a deeper meaning and a nobler mission than even its possessor knew. He went not with the olive branch, it is true, but his life may have been none the less a peace offering, pointing as it did to that still nobler emblem, the Wreath of Laurels.

"George W. Long, a graduate of the class of 1874, died at his home in Dearborn, on the twenty-ninth of October, 1881. He was a young man, genial and true, and beloved by many friends. His life was exemplary in character and fair in its promise of good.

"For several years after his graduation he was engaged in bee-keeping at his Dearborn home, and at this he gained considerable success. He was twice awarded the first prize for excellence in this line upon his exhibits at the fairs of the State Agricultural Society. During these years, also, he devoted his spare time energetically to the study of music, in which art he attained a proficiency which a professional might envy. It is to his credit that he entered with zeal into the public affairs of his community, and was on several occasions honored with local office, serving for two or three terms as superintendent of schools in his native township.

"But he was laudably ambitious, and under these employments he was restive and unsatisfied. He wished for a field, as he imagined, of wider opportunities for advancement. To this end he began the study of medicine, and in 1879 entered the medical department of the Michigan University, from which he graduated in 1881. Immediately afterward he formed a partnership with an established physician in Vassar in this State, and assumed from the outset professional labors which severely tried his strength. During his course of study he had applied himself very closely and continuously, and his standing among his fellow students was exceptionally good. Entering upon new and more laborious duties without needed rest, his health became impaired. Still he continued confidently and faithfully at his work long after one less ambitious would have relinquished. He was taken with typhoid fever during a visit to his home, whither he had gone to attend the wedding of his sister; and from this he died but two weeks later. His remains were buried in Woodmere cemetery near Detroit.

"William A. Henderson, also of the class of 1874, died on the 18th of January, 1881. We used to call him 'Old Jack,'—poor fellow—and there was something about him that made most of us like him. The grip of his hand was firm and the inside of his heart was warm, and in his soul was a pretty good rugged sort of honor.

"He was born at Dayton, Ohio, August 15, 1848. In early life he seems to have roved around pretty much all over the country; but he landed up in 1869 in the old preparatory class of this College, and he graduated with the class of 1874. In 1876 he purchased a fruit farm at what is known as Peach Plains, a few miles out from Grand Haven; and here, from all that the writer can learn, he seems to have worked with great zeal and effectiveness. He built a commodious and pretty house, almost entirely with his own hands, for he was one of those fellows who can do anything from playing a guitar to

fighting a duel—and he planted his farm to fruit trees which bore their first fruits in the year in which he died. He was married May 18, 1877, to Miss Ella R. Bemis, of Ionia county, by whom he had three children, one of whom has since his death been adopted by his old college friend, Ransom M. Brooks, of 1873. It is greatly to his credit that he seems to have been esteemed in the community in which he lived, and that he was several times placed in public office. He was elected Vice President of the Ottawa County Pomological Society, and twice elected Township Superintendent of Public Schools.

“Poor Jack was a most appreciative lover of all that is beautiful in nature and art. More fortuitous circumstances might have developed in him the rare qualities of the best manhood.

“Lyman Mason, of the class of 1869, died suddenly July 16, 1881, while engaged in his professional labors in extending the survey of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw railroad, at Gaylord, in this State. He was born in Owosso, February 14, 1847. He pursued his primary studies at the Owosso High School, entered this College in 1865, and graduated with the class of 1869. Two years later he graduated from the Scientific Department of the State University with the degree of Civil Engineer, and in 1876 he reached the degree of Master of Science from this College. He was married Dec. 24, 1872, and resided up to the time of his death at his native place, Owosso. He was very successful in his profession, having been engaged in a number of extensive and important railroad surveys, and at the time of his death was at work on the extension of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw railroad. He was an active member of the State Association of Surveyors and Engineers, which body adopted befitting resolutions concerning his death, and published his biography in their annual report. He was four times elected County Surveyor of Shiawassee county, and for many years was City Surveyor of his native city. It is said of him that “he was a fine and thorough student, an accurate surveyor and engineer, an industrious and successful man, and in every sense a most worthy citizen.

“Charles L. Jackson, of the class of 1870, died at his home in Midland sometime during the year 1881. The exact date of his death, as well as exact knowledge concerning the details of his life, the writer regrets that up to the time it was necessary to prepare this history he was unable to ascertain. Enough was learned, however, to warrant the saying of many good things about him. Mr. John Harvey, druggist of Detroit, with whom he was engaged for some six or seven years after his graduation here, referred to him in terms of highest commendation, saying that he was one of the most efficient, trustworthy, and valuable men he had ever had in his employ. Mr. George F. Beasley of Detroit, classmate and friend of Jackson, when approached concerning him, said: ‘Jackson was a good fellow, real, solid, and substantial.’

“He seems to have been possessed of good and commendable ambition, for in 1877 or 1878 he severed his connection with Mr. Harvey and established himself in the drug business in Midland on his own account. Here he was apparently succeeding, and the prospects ahead seemed fair; but he was not permitted long to enjoy them, for in 1881 he died.

“Yet one more death remains to tell you of, my friends, ’ere this sad part of your history is complete. Henry E. Owen, of the class of 1878, died March 22, 1881.

“Bright, gentle Harry Owen, who loved the flowers so dearly, and who loved his friends so well. His happiest moments were spent in making others

happy. Quiet, retiring, meek and mildly mannered; such character he had as it is a relief to meet. Poor boy! he lived only to enjoy the morning of life, but all the world was beautiful to him as a maiden's dream.

"He was born in Adrian, Michigan, on the 21st of August, 1856. His parents were English people, natives of Kent, but had long lived in America.

"He very early evinced a great delight in the beautiful things of nature, the flowers specially, and the shrubs and trees and streams and the big woods. This trait was his leading characteristic.

"He received his early education in the schools of his native city, entered this college in 1875, and after his graduation with the class of '78, pursued a post graduate course in his special studies, which included botany and horticulture. He was appointed assistant in these branches at this institution in 1880, which position he held but a short time until his death, which occurred in March of the following year.

"He was as dearly loved as any of our dead, and by the later members of our brotherhood is perhaps most sorely and most sadly missed.

"These, then, dear friends, are our brothers who are gone,—our mother's sons, whom she might well have held out as her jewels; and your historian has mentioned each thus fully as he well could, because each seemed worthy of all that could be said. They were among our brightest and our best; singularly so it seems to me. Not one of them but had rare merits, not one but left fair memories behind. Not one—so far as information upon the subject has been received—but that laid down this life in the hope and fair expectation that he would take up another and better existence in the life to come. It may be that poor Long's sweet melodies—which mightily pleased many of us who knew him well—still re-echo with even softer harmony; and it may be that gentle Harry Owen will gather sweeter flowers in the greener fields whither he has gone."

The banquet was very enjoyable. Hon. Charles W. Garfield, class 1870, acted as toast-master.

The following were elected officers for the three years ending with the close of the reunion of 1885: President, S. M. Millard, class 1864; Vice Presidents, Benj. T. Halsted, '73, Frank A. Gulley, '80; Secretary and Treasurer, Prof. R. C. Carpenter, '73; Orator, Prof. E. M. Shelton, '71—alternate, W. K. Prudden, '78; Historian, President C. L. Ingersoll, '74—alternate, E. Davenport, '78; Poet, O. A. Angstman, '75—alternate, W. R. Hubbert, '81.

STUDENTS.

There should be added to the list of students given in the catalogue for 1880-81 the following names:

Resident graduates: E. B. Patterson, B. A. (Oberlin), Elyria, Ohio; W. C. Latta, B. S., '77, Mason, Ingham county; G. F. Failyer, M. S., Kansas Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kansas.

Juniors: L. H. Bailey, Jr., South Haven, Van Buren county; F. C. Snyder, Greenville, Montcalm county.

Specials: Frank F. E. Lodeman, Ypsilanti, Washtenaw county; Erwin F. Smith, Ionia, Ionia county.

The following names of students are to be added to the catalogue of 1881-82: W. M. Babcock, Taunton, Somerset county, Eng., special in Entomology; H. H. Harrington, senior in Mississippi Agricultural College, special in Chemistry; Fitz Roy Osborn, Parkville, St. Joseph county, Freshman; Ella Sher-