

THE NORMAL BADGER.

VOL. I.

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NO. 2.

THE NORMAL BADGER

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—BY THE—

NORMAL ATHLETIC CLUB.

—STAFF—

Editor in Chief, - - - W. F. Lusk;
Literary Department, - - Marie Murphy;
Locals, - - - - - Sever Saby;
General News, - - - - - Oliver Neeham;
Business Manager, - - - J. D. O'Keeffe.

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THE NORMAL BADGER,
River Falls, Wis.

After the long summer vacation with the rest from brain work which it brings the student we present the second number of the **NORMAL BADGER**. Let us hope that the vacation has brought strength and energy to those students who went home last June wearied with the efforts of the year's work that they may begin with renewed vigor their labors in preparing themselves for teachers. Too often the hard working student spends his vacation in studies preparatory to his labor of another year. He will not in the long run, gain by it as in most cases he will begin the year in a condition that does not enable him to bring a clear brain to bear on his studies, and in consequence he leaves his studies at the end of a term or year without getting what he should from them.

Our subscription list does not show the names of as many of the school's graduates as might be expected. Should not every one who has gone out from the school to put into practice the precepts he has learned here, and who teaches on a license granted on the recommendation of its president, retain enough interest in the school and its doings to subscribe for and read the paper published by those who are following them? There should be in their hearts a love and loyalty for the school where they have spent at least one and some four years in work which



STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, RIVER FALLS, WIS.

has its effect at the present time. One's college life is generally something that is looked back upon with pleasure and the fresher one can keep the memories of it the greater will be the pleasure of them. The knowledge of the present movements in his old school will bring to the mind of the graduate those which he participated in when in school. Let us hope we may have tangible proof from the graduates of this school that they feel an interest in it whose benefits they have received by seeing their names on the list of subscribers before many more numbers are issued.

We believe that the readers and patrons of the **NORMAL BADGER** and those interested in its success should patronize those whose advertisements appear in its columns. Were it not for their patronage the paper could not exist and we think those interested in its success should show their appreciation of the help we have received in that line by dealing with these merchants. To many of them special credit is due as they gave us their advertisements in a pure spirit of philanthropy before the paper was started and perhaps

with many doubts in their minds as to whether it would ever be a success.

The Literary Society begins work this year with the nucleus of a library of books of a class especially useful in its work. The school library possesses very few books containing pieces suitable for declamations, recitations, or readings. So few were the suitable selections that whenever a member chose something from the library books it was generally the case that the older members of the society had heard the same selection from the society platform more or less times before. Some of the members of the society started a movement to remedy this which ended in the purchase of fifteen of the latest books of elocution. The society expects to add to these each year as new books of the kind are published thus supplying material the need of which the society has long felt.

During the summer vacation many new books have been added to the reference library. We note with pleasure the names of the best of the standard novels including many of those published dur-

ing the last five or six years, on the backs of the books in bright new bindings which fill many of the formerly vacant shelves. We should all find time during our school years to read a good book occasionally out side of our regular work. A few chapters of a standard novel will act as recreation to the mind after it has been dealing with dreary problems in mathematics, science, or logic. Our impression is that there is very little reading of this nature done by the students of this school. The many new books of a nature adapted to this kind of reading added to the library will afford a good opportunity for those who are inclined to read in this way.

Most of the members of the Literary Society seem to regard the business meeting as something which does not pertain to their part of the societies' proceeding. The work of the business meeting is something that would be of value to them if they would attend and take part in it. It requires a beneficial mental effort to master the rules of parliamentary practice and there is no better training of quick judgement than comes from the decision of how these rules should be applied in the different cases which arise in almost every meeting. And again there are a few movements which might result in the advancement of the society which are not carried out because those few who attend the business meeting do not feel that they should alone assume responsibility which would fall to them without hearing the opinion and having the vote of more of the society's members. We hope the members of the society will show more interest in the business meetings this year and turn out in greater numbers and on time at each meeting.

The officers of the Athletic Club for the fall term are as follows: President,..... W. F. Lusk; Vice-President,.... Elmer Waite; Secretary,..... Peter Tsecharner; Treasurer,..... J. D. O'Keeffe.

One Ship that Passed in the Night.

We are going to the lecture on Savonarola. It is an ideal spring evening and the air is heavy with the perfume of lilacs and honeysuckles. Long before the appointed hour the church is filled and the walks are lined with persons eager to get in the gay throng within. Every chair is taken and the standing space is full.

From a side door emerges a man with the confident, self-possessed air of one long accustomed to going before an audience. His brow is wide and high and the gleam from the chandelier glistens on it. He walks erect and casts a glance from his dark eyes over the assemblage. As the pastor leads the way to the pulpit the hum of voices in light conversation ceases. A word of introduction is spoken and the tall dark man steps forward smiling like a genial man of the world, while the noise of gloved hands continues, and as it dies away he sends out a quick glance saying that the cordial greeting has pleased him.

There is no affectation in his manner. No one would suspect from his bearing that he comes from the great "Dream city" and was one of the prominent men.

The room is very quiet as he begins to speak. It is not like a lecture but like a conversation. He speaks in forceful and simple English, preferring the rough Anglo-Saxon words, and by his faint foreign accent giving them a life-like humorous sound.

He begins about the preachers of the age of Savonarola and by making himself one of them he aids the impression which has been growing upon us from his first appearance, and from this time on, we do not listen to the great lecturer but we are listening to Savonarola himself, Savonarola as he stood before his great congregation in far-away Florence and by the tones of his voice or a mere gesture, raised them to highest hope and exultation or lowered them to the depths of self accusation and remorse.

His voice becomes almost caressing as he mentions the name of Savonarola and speaks of that brave struggle to be true to his convictions. The audience is rapt in attention while he tells how Savonarola by his unrelenting honesty and faithfulness to his convictions changed the subsequent history of the world.

They are taught a lesson as he shows that had Savonarola been less determined or energetic, had he allowed the remonstrances of parents or friends, the love of peace or the fear of men to turn him from his stern devotion to duty and conscientious loyalty to what he deemed right; even Savonarola, with all his training in the hard school of realities, might have failed to be the reformer the world was waiting for.

With few words as with brush strokes he paints picture after picture. Now Savonarola is a boy defiant and firm, refusing to walk in the procession of the duke of the city. Now he is a young man and a lover of a girl much his superior in rank, but far below him in character. Now he is the great preacher and reformer, day after day standing before his people and in his winning way showing them the truth which was to make them free. And last of all the sad picture, sadder on account of the ingratitude it expresses, of Savonarola, a martyr to the cause of truth and freedom.

As the man speaks the audience is wholly in his power. He moves them at will from the contemplation of highest and most ennobling thoughts, to their application to the social and political problems of to-day, and then at some humorous turn the audience is laughing and applauding, only to be raised again to a little higher and more beautiful plane of thought.

He shows life as a dream, a duty, a deed. Every gesture, every word, every swiftly changing expression of his face, makes the word pictures he paints real and life-like so that not for one moment does the interest and attention of the audience waver.

He ceases to speak. For a moment the rapt crowd is very still; but only for a moment. Then there is a long drawn breath, the storm of applause bursts forth, rises, continues, dies away, and the lecture is ended.

The man with his words of enthusiasm and eloquence passed forever from our lives. He was only one of those

"Ships that pass in the night
And speak each other in passing,
Only a light and a voice,
Then darkness again and a silence."

Over the ocean of life the voice came to us from the great world out side our environments. We heard the message and in the light of the inspiration which it brought, how vivid the dream of life seemed, how clear and unimpeded the path of duty and the doing of life's work seemed so easy and so promising of success.

But what was it that the speaker put into these thoughts that filled them with the breath of long life? that makes them linger in the minds of us all, until by constant half-unconscious repetition we come to know them by heart? Certainly no striking originality in their theme which was as old as the ages; nor was it a mere felicity of expression drawing our attention from the matter to the manner. It was rather the fusion of thought and word and form into one harmonious whole, clear definite, final, with the art so well concealed as to seem no art at all. The word-pictures breathed with the very spirit of the very scene and action.

It is not only what this lecture has done for us but what it has

enabled us to do for others which makes it valuable.

Through this example we learn that in order to render what we say attractive, we must possess that touching and effective language which addresses itself to the heart and which inspires confidence.

Instruction which is the most permanent is that which is presented in a simple, clear and agreeable manner so that it comes within the reach of all minds. Success in teaching will be largely measured by our ability to throw ourselves into the work, letting our individuality mark every act of our lives.

Not one of us who listened to this lecture will ever have quite the same ideals of life and living which we had before. Why was it we were touched and influenced so much by this one person? Was it not because, from his first words we felt that his was a spirit which was "touched with the feeling of our infirmities" and with such sympathy was capable and ready to give according to our needs? And did we not say in our hearts, "We know that thou art a master?"

In our contact with others we may never be able to exert the wide influence which this man as a great speaker, now wields, and yet if the dream of life be definite and vivid, lighted by pure and heartfelt inspiration; if the duty of life be clear and loyally performed, then we may certainly know that others will be influenced for the better, for

"We are, of all we meet, a part,
It has been truly said,
And each of us from each
Will bear a trace of mind and heart."

MISS BERNICE ROBERTS.

The Kinnickinnic Valley.

One of the most attractive portions of the Mississippi Valley lies in western Wisconsin. It is a beautiful level tract of country extending northeast from the southern part of Lake St. Croix, embracing the northwestern part of Pierce Co. and the southwestern part of St. Croix Co. This valley, for such it is, which is almost fifty miles long and from two to twenty miles wide, was known to the Indians as Kinnickinnic, but that name has been restricted to a township in the upper part of the valley and Kinnickinnic Valley substituted in its stead. The valley is bordered on both sides by long ranges of hills which are irregular in form, and diminish in height as they near the lower end of the valley, and which give the valley an air of seclusion and security. The Kinnickinnic River flows through the valley, at first

but a small winding stream, then as it is joined by many brooklets it becomes wider, deeper, and straighter, forming a very pretty river which flows into Lake St. Croix about ten miles above its junction with the Mississippi. Just south of the Pierce-St. Croix Co. line the river dashes over several rocky ledges, forming beautiful falls and furnishing means for abundant power to the manufacturers of River Falls—a pretty little city built upon the banks of the river at this point. This city is a city of homes, fine houses, trees, walks, factories, churches, and schools constructed and arranged after careful plans that make the city very attractive. A State Normal School is located here which adds very much to the attractiveness of the city. Prescott is also an attractive town—located on the east shore of Lake St. Croix just below the mouth of the Kinnickinnic river. In former days it was known as the "head of navigation." Here was located the headquarters of the famous "Diamond Jo" steamboat line and before the introduction of railroads it promised to be our northwestern metropolis. Although dwindled somewhat in size it still retains its "Negro Town" and other features of a Mississippi River town. The valley is very fertile and large fields of grain and herds of cattle, sheep and horses abound on every side. Near the river the land is low and in places marshy and was originally covered with alder and willow, but this land is now used for pasture and meadow purposes and but a narrow ridge of alder along the river bank remains. Back from the river are found some sandy patches which were covered by a shrub, the Kinnickinnic, whose leaves were smoked by the Indians and early white settlers as a substitute for tobacco. Back on the hillsides the ground is clothed with the original vegetation, oak, poplar, soft maple, and birch grow in abundance and their fine symmetrical forms looming up one behind the other are suggestive of a large amphitheater while underneath grows a variety of flowers—the delight of many a botanist. The valley shows many geological formations and very plainly shows the results of the glacial period. Huge boulders from the Lake Superior region are strewn about, lime stone and igneous formations are revealed,

Continued on page 3.

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THAYER'S

"27"

TROPICAL.

Etta M. Myrick of the class of '92 goes to Minneapolis this year.

Will Lusk says those Stillwater fellows had an old fashioned willow bat and he could "crack-em-out" with it every time, sometimes.

How would it be to have another tennis tournament? It would put more spirit into the game and afford a chance for those who wish to excel to meet each other.

Our athletes are eagerly awaiting cooler weather, when they can don their foot-ball costumes. Profiting by the blunders of last season and the assistance of an experienced critic, we hope to put up a much more scientific game this year.

The game of ball played by the Hastings and River Falls nines was an easy victory for the former team. Mullaney's curve was an enigma for our boys, while Conrad was an easy mark for the "Willow Swingers" of Hastings and among the sand and sand-burrs our boys were defeated by a score of 8 to 21.

The game of ball played here September 2d between River Falls and Stillwater resulted in a victory for the home team. The game was characterized by errors, but had a few redeemable features. Both nines were weak behind the bat and fielding on both sides poor. The features of the game were a double play, Johnson to Keniman, and the pitching of Gibbs. Our boys found Sutton, the Stillwater twirlers at their pleasure. They got 17 runs and would have got more had it not been for stupid base-running, one man being cut off while attempting to steal third and two being caught napping at first. The Stillwater boys sent 6 men across the plate. Batteries: Gibbs, Murphy and Jensen, for River Falls, Sutton and McClure for Stillwater.

The following are the officers of the Literary Society for the ensuing term:

President.....J. C. Thompson.
Vice President.....Ethel Grant.
Secretary.....Marie Murphy.
Treasurer.....Wm. Ruediger.
Sergeant at Arms...Chas. Oltman.
Usher.....Leonard Stroebel.
Second Member of Board of Councilors.....Mary Stapelton.
Third member of Board of Councilors.....John Brnight.

Personal and Local Mentions.

A. E. Brainard has accepted a position at Richland Center. He has been rustling for the A, B, C's during vacation.

Subscribers will do us a favor by notifying us promptly of change of address. This is necessary to insure prompt delivery of the paper.

G. A. Rogers, our former Editor-in-Chief has been elected principal of the schools at Cartwright, Wis. He is much interested in the welfare of the BADGER.

A. T. Lees of the Elementary class of '94 has secured a position in the schools at Alma. He sets his fellow graduates an excellent example by his subscribing for the BADGER.

D. E. Cameron, a former graduate of this school, has been engaged as principal of schools at Cumberland, Wis. He is among the few high school principals who were employed upon the force of institute conductors the past season.

The BADGER will soon present a series of articles addressed to the Alumni of River Falls Normal School. We are anxious to get the support of this large body of ex-students and hope to present a line of thought which will bring this organization into closer union. Let us here from you, members of the Alumni.

One of our most fortunate boys is D. L. Hennessey. He is a thorough scientist and believes in the law as substantiated by experiment. He had three schools in St. Croix Co. this year and after satisfying himself that he could occupy only one place at a time he doled out his surplus to some less fortunate brethren.

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MUSICAL

INSTRUMENTS.

and "pots and kettles" are numerous in the northwestern part of the valley. One would naturally expect from the excellence of these environments a class of model citizens, and it is indeed so. They are progressive and enlightened, surrounded by every indication of prosperity. Good homes, churches, schools, railroads, telegraphs and all modern conveniences and comforts are found here. The citizens are very zealous for the welfare of their High and Normal Schools which are doing much for the community. Students come from all parts of the valley to attend these schools, and here, where such excellent opportunities offer, make excursions with their teachers into the surrounding country and study nature in her own realm. The people are alive to the vital questions of the day and they handle them with marked intelligence.

CHARACTER.

Character is one of the most powerful agents that take part in the formation of character. To prove this true, let us look around the circle of our every day life. No teaching of literature, science or art can influence us like the personal character of individuals in the intimacy of social relations. The character of our mother or father, or of our teacher, or of our intimate friend, has more influence upon us than all the specific abstract lessons that can ever be imparted to us. It thrills every nerve as it comes to us in modulated tones and varied vibrations of their voices. We read it in the lineaments of their faces, in their smiles and frowns, and in the manner in which they discharge the many little duties that make up the aggregate of life. Various influences are requisite for the symmetrical development of character. If you grow a plant in the shade it will lose all its beauty of hue and form. If you remove it to the sunshine but withhold the nourishing earth, or the dews of heaven, it will wither and die. Thus it is with characters. Not one, nor a few, but many influences are needed for their strong and vigorous development. Not the least important of these influences is the influence of character upon character. It is a potential cause that produces substantial results, and still it is too often underestimated in the practical solution of

the social problem. Everyone knows the great truth underlying these thoughts. The loving and thoughtful mother recognizes it when she guards her little ones from the companionship of bad boys and girls. The wise father recognizes it when he protects his sons and daughters from the society of weak men and bad women. Part sunshine and part shadow seems to be the law for development in the physical world; so I think sin has its mission in the moral world as well as righteousness. Hatred of iniquity is as essential a part of a Christ-like character as is the love of truth. Some, catching a glimpse of this great truth, do not stop to study it in its true relations, and hence place no restraint upon the young entrusted to their care, but give them loose rein. I heard a father remark: "I would rather my son would go to the saloon than to Sunday school. Let him go and see the world and learn to be a man and resist temptation rather than to be made a baby by hiring him to do right." The same perverted idea leads some parents to admit the billiard table, the card pack, and the dance, etc., into the sacred precincts of home. Mistaken and short-sighted mortals! "What ye sow that shall ye also reap." The object of sin in this world is not that we shall partake but resist; but develop strength of character through resistance, as the physical man is built up by healthful exercise, or as the young oak is made strong by withstanding the stormy blasts. No, if you would have your children good, see to it that they have good association. They will fall under the influence of wrong doing sufficiently for trial, if you protect them all you can. But do it wisely, if possible; 'tis a hard thing to do. Above all things, do not commit the criminal offence of sowing, or allowing to be sown, when you can prohibit, the seeds of evil. It is impossible, under the laws of being, for an individual to sustain an independent existence. We affect, and are affected, by our every surrounding. How essential, then, that we should be surrounded by good characters, and that our characters should be good, since we form a part of others, and others a part of us. Jean Ingelow well expresses the thought in the following stanza:

"Oh, let me be myself! But where, oh, where,
Under this heap of precedent,
this mound
Of customs, modes and maxims,
cumbrance rare,
Shall the *myself* be found?"

—Exchange.

Erecting a Smoke-Stack.

Carlyle says that man is a tool-using animal, and no one would dare to contradict who had taken sufficient interest in the recent developments on the south side of our school building to watch the wonderful display of Yankee ingenuity by which the men accomplished their various difficult jobs.

One of the most interesting sights was the practical mode of raising the several sections of the iron chimney to the top of the building for erection. The contrivance used was the invention of Mr. Robt. Johnson, who had the work in charge. No ready-made machine being at hand, he erected a stout mast on the top of the building and stretched a strong rope from this down to a windlass on the ground. This rope served as a track. A second rope, hitched to the mast, was now brought through a pulley, fastened to the pipe and taken back through another pulley up at the mast and again brought to the ground through a guiding block and stretched around a roller. This roller was turned by an 11-ft. sweep, which in turn was propelled by hand-power.

The sections raised weighed, respectively, about 800 lbs., but were lifted to a great height with comparative ease and safety.

The tin sheeting, removed from the roof, was also taken down with the same ingenious contrivance, reflecting much credit on the inventor B. S.

We wish every member of the Athletic Club would subscribe for the BADGER. There will be no assessment this year and you can certainly do this much. Not only this, but try to secure subscribers from outside the school for us. The greater sociability which we hope to bring about by means of this organ can be materially promoted if you will all enter into this work with the proper spirit.

The BADGER has moved into temporary quarters in Room 10 until the regular office can be fitted up, which will soon be done as the repairs are nearing completion.

The River Falls boys, aided by Jenson and Henderson, the Annapolis Academy battery, went up to Hammond on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 14, to play the second nine of that village. The Hammond ball-tossers felt scared but flattered on facing the "crack" battery, but a few arcs of the wagon-tongue demonstrated to them that Henderson was not invincible, and just for fun they would touch him up a little. For the Hammonds, Jacobs' slow out was very effective, while their fielding was almost perfect, Pape especially putting up a great game. River Falls, not having their regular field, did not exhibit any remarkable article of field-playing. The game was very close throughout, River Falls taking the lead at first but Hammond making it even in the 8th, score 6 to 6. Both sides made 2 in the 9th. In the 10th, River Falls failed to score, while 2 of the Hammond boys crossed the rubber, making the score 10 to 8.

KINNICKINNIC, Wis., Sept. 10.

Miss Mary D., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Gray of this place, was married today to Mr. Owen B. Playter of Rice Lake, Rev. W. J. Gray officiating. The ceremony took place at the home of the bride's parents and was witnessed by many relatives and friends. Following the ceremony the company was served a very sumptuous dinner which in turn was followed by a social good time.

The bride will be remembered as a graduate of this school and a successful teacher in several city schools in this state.

The BADGER extends its best wishes.

We have our opinion of the ladies? who will lead a pug dog around wash, comb and kiss the brute, eat and sleep with the miserable cur, and then go to the theater wearing a hat big enough for a gypsy family to camp under, thereby compelling decent folks to lose the entertainment for which they have paid.

Students who wish to take Zoology during the latter half of the year are expected to make collections this fall for that purpose. Alcohol will be provided at the laboratory for the preservation of insects, spiders, crayfish, etc.

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The New Normal.

Many changes have been made in the State Normal School building at River Falls during the summer vacation that cause old students to experience a feeling akin to that felt by the new arrivals. They miss the once familiar flight of stone steps, and look "strange" as they enter the lowered doorway into the corridor, down the short flight into the basement, to deposit their wearing apparel, needed only on the street, in the wardrobe to the right, as directed by the old janitor, then across the west corridor and up to the first floor by way of the old janitor's stairs. How many of the old boys and girls will remember escaping down these stairs and out the back basement door which is now no more, to escape meeting the "terrible" uncle Thomas who always locked the doors on time, and generally "blew up" the luckless student who was in the building afterwards. Now however every body "goes out by the basement." The first floor looks natural to the old student except that the end of the north corridor is cut away and leads to the entrance door by a short flight of stairs, and he notices, too, that the "little bedroom" is now fitted up for the worship of Apollo, and that the old music room is used for the preparatory grade. A casual glance shows no change on the second floor but the student is astonished to find on entering No. 5, where so many important and momentous class meetings have been held, that he is tall enough to inscribe, with a pencil, his name on the ceiling. Hurrying to the stair that leads to the third floor he sees a door opening from the landing into a room similar to the one just left. The Latins and Germans still occupy the lower room; the upper room is "to let." His old south wardrobe is a "box" recitation room; the north wardrobe is used by the faculty. A door connects the text and reference book libraries and woe be-tide now the unlucky student who hopes to carry home a reference book with out having it recorded. The third floor shows no change beyond the great air shaft in one corner of the auditorium. That shaft reminds him of the great air-box that fills the upper parts of the south and east basement corridors

so down he goes to investigate. He finds that the old south hall has been enlarged and connected by brick walls to the main building, and within he finds two two-hundred horse power boilers that are to furnish steam to heat the building and to drive the twenty-five horse power engine that will keep the supply fan in the engine room and the exhaust fan in attic in motion. These fans belong to the ventilation system. The ten-foot supply fan, making one hundred seventy-five revolutions per minute, draws the air thro' a box of massed steam coils where it is warmed somewhat, and drives it into a pipe four feet square from which it is lead thro' sheet-iron pipes, and flues, to the various rooms in the house.

The steam radiators in each room, which complete warming the air are controlled by automatic pneumatic diaphragm valves which will keep the room at approximately a constant temperature so relieving the janitor from an irksome duty which he has faithfully performed for twenty years. Ninety tons of coal will however probably keep him busy thro' the winter. The old student notices that new floors of Georgia pine are being laid in the basement as has been done on the first and second floors. He sees that the room under the grammar department has been sunk four feet, and is told that the gymnasium is to be there and that the two rooms on its north are to be bath rooms containing tub and possibly shower baths. He is told that the room on the left corridor as you enter the building, where the steamfitters are now at work, is to be another wardrobe, and that the room beyond, under the primary room, where the tinner's hold their daily noisy chorus, is to be the lyceum room where will gather the spirits who edit the **NORMAL BADGER** to hold solemn council and take measures to prevent the downfall of the nation. Long may these spirits live and may improvements in the building, both temporal and other-wise, forever continue.

THE COLONEL.

If you are not a subscriber for the **BADGER** send in your order and keep in touch with the spirit centered about the Normal. If you are a subscriber send us in an order from some friend or former student.

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Which veil the sky in golden-tissued shrouds
Till cometh night with shades of darker hue.

The magic hour of twilight steals away,
And angel hands in silence have unrolled,
The purple curtain hanging o'er the world
Imprinting stars wherever their fingers lay.

And in the silent stillness of the night
Enthralled I gaze upon God's canvas there,
On which is painted with loving care
All heavenly glories for our souls' delight

Oh would that we might always watch the
sky

Where myriad stars in splendor sparkling
dream;

And of the power beyond it ever dream,
Till earthly days have slowly fitted by.

Argon and Its Discoverers.

Argon was discovered a year ago last July by Prof. Ramsey and Lord Raleigh, celebrated English chemists. The fact that natural nitrogen—that is, nitrogen extracted from the air—was found to weigh perceptibly heavier than manufactured nitrogen led to the discovery. What its uses, virtues and properties are and the part it performs in the economy of nature remains to be answered. All that is known of the gas at present is that it forms 1-125 of the bulk of the atmosphere and that it is monatomic and exists wherever the atmosphere exists. Whether it is a mechanical mixture or a chemical compound is yet to be learned. The symbol for air now reads $N_2 O_2 A_1$ instead of $N_2 O_2$.

C. O.

Placer Mining.

A party of River Falls people who visited Colorado this summer had the pleasure of witnessing the operations, on a small scale, of placer gold mining. This was in California Gulch at Leadville, where gold was first discovered in this interesting locality.

A miner simply shoveled up a panful of gravel from the bed of a stream which he washed by dipping up water and shaking the mass about, continually removing the upper portions until but a small amount of material was left in the bottom of the pan. From this he permitted the interested spectators to pick out numerous small fragments of gold, amounting to about forty cents worth.

Harnessing the Sun.

When we sit in front of a coal fire and enjoy its generous warmth, do we realize that the heat and light of the burning coal are really sunshine that has been stored up for ages? Such is the fact. Cen-

turies ago the sun shone on the earth, and plants and trees grew, fell and grew again. They were covered by geologic deposits and acted upon by great heat and pressure, until in the course of years or ages these broad layers of organic matter were transformed into coal. The coal thus represents the work done by the sunshine years ago, and when it is burned the imprisoned solar energy is loosened again.

Our system of power production depends upon this presence of energy. But coal is a wasteful source of energy. Even the best engines do not utilize over 10 per cent. of the calculated energy of the heat of coal, and besides this it is an inconvenient thing in many ways. It has to be mined, freighted and stored. Can we not find some more economical way of using the sun's energy?

During the last few years the great progress in electrical science has enabled man to utilize the solar heat in a thriftier way. During its day's work the sun draws up a large amount of water from the oceans and the damp earth. By the action of its rays plant life flourishes, and plants draw from the ground and evaporate into the air large amounts of water. Thus an oak tree of average size, with 700,000 leaves, lifts from the earth into the air about 123 tons of water during the five months it displays its foliage. This evaporated water, sooner or later, falls as rain, and by the action of gravity begins to flow downward. Thus the great rivers are fed. Round and round incessantly goes the water lifted by the tireless sun, to fall when deserted by him, and again to be lifted, and again to fall and run seaward as long as it may exist upon this earth.—North American Review.

America's Odorless Region.

"In that country once known as the 'Great American Desert,' embracing a portion of Texas and Arizona, there are no odors," said a citizen of Dallas to a reporter. "There luscious grapes and many other fruits grow, especially near the cross timber country, but there is no perfume; wild flowers have no smell, and carcasses of dead animals, which in dry seasons are very plentiful, emit no odor. It was always supposed to be a treeless plain, upon which no plant could grow or breathing

thing could live, but a large part of it is now successfully cultivated, and, but for the rarity of the atmosphere, causing the peculiarity I have named, and the mirages, which are even more perfect than in the Desert of Sahara, no one would look upon it as a barren country now. Another singular feature common to the desert land is that objects at a great distance appear greatly magnified. A few scraggy mesquite bushes will look like a noble forest; stakes driven into the ground will seem like telegraph poles."—Ex.

It's thawing some these days, as many a student can testify.

A new supply of chemicals has just been received at the school.

Remsen's Chemistry has just arrived, for use of the Senior Class in that subject.

Students in chemistry succeeded in burning air in an atmosphere of hydrogen the other day.

A member of the Elementary class of '92 wonders why that class letter never reached him.

Henry Bruenn, of the Elementary Class of '95, is employed in Taggart's drug store for the coming year.

The steepest grade on the Pike's Peak Railroad is a 25 per cent. grade. That is, the train ascends one foot in going four feet.

The voice of conscience is so delicate that it is easy to stifle it, but it is also so clear that it is impossible to mistake it.—Mme. de Staël.

"You should live near heaven," said the preacher to the editor.

"I know it," replied the editor, "but these mountain lots come so high."—Atlanta Constitution.

The Freestone Bros. of Menomonie, photographers, have located in River Falls. We are personally acquainted with these gentlemen and know them to be first-class artists. See their ad. in another column.

Among the elementary graduates who are back to school this year are, Miss Ethel Grant of River Falls, Charles Seiler of Alma and W. A. Clark of Menomonie, of the class of '95; Hugh Gallagher of Cataract, '91; Leonard Strabel of Barron, '94; John J. Enright of Arcadia, '93; Miss Foster of River Falls, '92 and W. F. Lusk of River Falls, '95.

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Sever Saby is compelled to leave school on account of sickness.

Hugh Gallagher (class of '91), who has been engaged in teaching for four years, has returned to the Normal this year and is pursuing 4th year work.

A valuable addition has come to the reference library in the form of a set of the Standard Dictionary. It is the best bound set made and is among the finest books in the library.

The class in Third Year Physics is using Gage's Principles, a new book just issued. The book is more comprehensive than the one previously used, and the matter is newly arranged in accordance with recent advances in the subject.

The old tube of the school barometer, which was defective, has been replaced by a new one. This has been tested by a standard barometer and is presumably accurate, so that we may now note the correct barometrical readings at any time.

The horse and cattle exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair was very fine. A Herford exhibit of fine, white-faced, beefy looking animals, with polished horns, was particularly attractive. These came from Missouri and one of them weighs 2,600 lbs.

Boys, do not monopolize the use of the tennis courts or other means of sport. Remember many are personally—by which we mean financially—interested in the club property and in justice to all, the rights of others must be constantly thought of. Join the club and then you will have a substantial interest in our sports.

The members of last year's Elementary Class are located as follows: Maggie Ashton, Oconomowoc; Maggie Anderson, Sparta; Amy Chapman and Hermie Pratt, Eau Claire; O. L. Fuller, Pepin; Laura Flint, River Falls; Charlotte Grant, Minneapolis; Anna Kane, N. Dakota; P. A. O'Keeffe, Stanton; D. J. O'Keeffe, Erin; Rose Thelan, Stillwater; Jesse Soper and Amanda Thorson, Rice Lake; Nelson Varnum, Eau Galle; Agnes Walsh, Ashland; John Hale, traveling for J. H. Moore & Co., while Ethel Grant, W. A. Clark, W. F. Lusk and Chas. Seiler are doing advanced work in the Normal.

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