

VOL. IV, NO. 4.

JANUARY, 1899.

THE NORMAL BADGER.

*Be noble, and the nobleness that lies
In other men, sleeping, but never dead
Will rise in majesty to meet thine own.—Lowell.*

RIVER FALLS, WIS.

THE NORMAL BADGER.

Published monthly during the school year by the Normal Literary Society.

VOL. 4. RIVER FALLS, WIS., JANUARY 1899. No. 4.

Editorial.

Phantom Social.

A very unique party was given to the students of the Normal school Friday evening, Dec. 16, in the Normal Gymnasium, by the teachers of the first floor and kindergarten.

It was called a Phantom Party. The costumes consisted of a sheet, a pillow case, and a cheese cloth mask. There was a large attendance, nearly all the members of the faculty were present, though not in *full dress*.

The program of the evening was as follows:—

1. Identification March.
2. Goblin Song (by female ghosts.)
3. Peter Gray (by male ghosts.)
4. Skipping Game.
5. Tucker.
6. Transformation Scene.
7. Refreshments.

The Identification March was the leading amusement of the evening as well as of the program.

Each ghost had a number pinned to his robe, and was given a card upon which to record the names of all departed souls whose ghost he recognized,

The ghostly forms and ether-

eal voices seemed to mislead many and they did not "know each other there."

Among those who were conspicuous in the Identification were Mrs. Thatcher for her ability to recognize ghosts by their voices, and Miss Smith for her complete failure to recognize any one by any means whatever.

Prof. Ewing was a prominent actor in the skipping Game. He was asked to "skip" with many an airy form, but hopelessly failed to recognize even to what family the creature belonged, although he is given credit for being expert in classifying the ordinary inhabitants of our mundane sphere.

Refreshments were served in Miss Shultes' and Mrs. Thatcher's recitation rooms. Much taste was shown by the ladies who prepared and served the refreshments as well as by the ghosts who had been "transformed" and fully appreciated the substantial, delectable, repast.

Everything was a complete success and all who were privileged to attend came away fully grateful to the teachers of the first floor and kindergarten for the pleasant evening of entertainment and they hereby wish

to extend, through the columns of the Badger, their many thanks to—

Miss Shultes,
Mrs. Truesdell,
Mrs. Thatcher,
Miss Fleming,
Miss Terry,
Miss Laura Peckham,
Miss Lucy Peckham.

To the Subscribers:

We find it necessary to adopt a new regulation in the business management of the Badger, viz., to limit the term of subscriptions to the *Badger year, or school year*, making them expire with the July number.

This will assist in reducing the financial embarrassment of the Badger during the months of September and October as it will call in the subscriptions during those months and give the managers a much better basis upon which to lay the plans for the year. We can also testify that this system will greatly facilitate in the keeping of the accounts of Subscribers, as all subscriptions will be due in September and the subscribers will need no notice from the Business manager.

Many of the present subscriptions expire at various times during the year. When these are renewed we will be pleased to have the subscriber ask for a statement of account and the amount of the subscription for the remainder of the year, and

remit the necessary amount to clear him upon our books to Sept. 1899 or Sept. 1900.

We will say also, that we are always glad to correct any errors in accounts, for they may sometimes occur from the inexperience of the new Business manager and his unfamiliarity with the news-paper business.

Address communications concerning the above to—

JOHN E. HALE,
Business Manager,
River Falls, Wis.

The Literary Society has passed a new exclusion act more rigid than the one passed last year inasmuch as it excludes all persons not members whether members of the school or not.

There are several reasons for this action of the society. One of these is to remove the feeling that the great aim of the society is to entertain. Members of the society refuse constantly to appear on the program because they feel that they can not make an entertaining speech and members of the school refuse to join the society for the same reason. With the major part of the meetings closed to the public it is hoped that these objections will be removed and a more ready response received from those who have been slow to respond before.

An occasional open meeting will be held when those who have gained sufficient confidence

Normal Students and Teachers can have their eyes examined

in themselves will be given an opportunity to appear before a larger audience. An especial effort will be made to make these open meetings as entertaining as possible and it is hoped that the friends of the school will not be offended if the doors of the society are closed for the meetings in which practice and drill are the chief aims.

As was expected, the society has already increased its membership by nearly fifty per cent. The old members are taking hold with a new enthusiasm and an interesting and beneficial year's work is expected.

The Following is One of the Letters that We Like to Receive.

—
2445 Prairie Ave.

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 15, '98.

MANAGER BADGER,—

Please accept inclosed order in payment for subscription to Badger. It may be of interest to your readers to know that I saw Beddall formerly of our school play a star game at left guard Saturday Nov. 12, in the U. W.—U of C. game. Saby and Ruedeger were also down.

Fraternally

G. K. Purves.

For one week in December, one hundred thirty-four pictures were on exhibition in the gymnasium.

These were large fine copies of famous works of art, among

them being three which rank with the twelve great masterpieces, Raphael's Sistine Madonna, Murillo's Immaculate Conception, and Guido Reni's Aurora.

This exhibit gave the students a good opportunity to become acquainted with the styles of the different painters, as well as with the individual paintings, as in most cases the artist was represented by more than one of his works. Among the artists were Raphael, Murillo, Andrea Del Sarto, Reni, Millet, Landseer, Rosa Bonheur, Corot, and others of equal note.

The photographs of famous pieces of statuary, and of famous buildings did not, apparently, receive as much attention as did the other pictures, perhaps because the latter are the less often seen.

During the exhibit, interesting talks relating to the pictures were given during the morning exercises; Misses Pardee, Gilfillan, and Shultes, having had the pleasure of seeing some of these in the original, shared that pleasure with the students by pointing out to them the beauties of different pictures, and by describing, as well as words can, the coloring, the lack of which is the greatest loss in the reproduction.

"All I have to give" may not be much, but be sure that no matter how small it is, it will bring joy to some heart.—Ex.

free by W. W. Taggart, Optician, River Falls, Wis.

LITERARY.

Origin and Development of Christmas.

The first traces of this festival are found about the time of the Emperor Commodus.

At this period there was no appearance of uniformity in the time of celebration among the early churches, and it is almost certain that the nativity of the Savior was not on December twenty-fifth; for at that time the rainy season is at its height in Judea and the shepherds would not be out in the fields watching their flocks at night. Among the causes that worked together in the fixing of this period as the proper one, was that all the nations regarded the winter solstice as a very important part of the year; that being the time of the renewal of life.

The Dionysia of the Greeks, the Saturnalia of the Romans, the Twelve nights of the old Norse men and the Teutons, all celebrated the coming of the winter solstice.

In the Dionysia the representative figure was the aged, cheery, and disreputable Silenus, the chief of the Satyrs and the god of drunkards. In the Saturnalia it was Saturn; in the Germanic feasts it was Thor, both long bearded and

white haired gods like Silenus.

The inhabitants of the village of Konz, on the Maselle, were in the habit on St. John's eve, of taking a great wheel wrapped in straw, to the top of a hill and letting it run down all afire; (typifying the sun in his wheeling or turning back at this time of the year. The word yule, meaning the winter solstice, also carries out the same idea).

The wassail bowl of England, always a necessity at a Christmas merry-making, was the vessel out of which our Saxon ancestors took such "potions pottle deep" that legislative measures were adopted with a view of enforcing temperance.

It was an ancient Saxon custom to begin the year by sending presents to each other. On the Twelfth Day Eve, the wassail bowl of spiced ale was carried round from house to house by maidens of the village, who sang songs and wished every one a "Happy New Year." "Wassail is an old Saxon word meaning, "Be in health."

The Christmas breakfast in Russia is made on boursh, the national soup or broth. In the house of the well-to-do Russian there is also found on the table a roasted pig dressed with boiled buckwheat. This pig is raised

and killed especially for this day and never weighs more than seven or eight pounds. At many a Christmas dinner at the present day, the boar's head is served up in order to give expression to the abhorrence of Judaism.

England was always famous for the celebration of Christmas, at which season, sports and pastimes not known in other countries were practised.

Plum puddings are emblematical of the offerings of the wise men, and mince pies with pieces of paste over them in the form of a hayrick, commemorate the manger in which the Savior was first laid.

Perhaps in no other part of the British Islands have so many old customs and superstitions lingered as in the Highlands of Scotland. The first person here to open the door of a house on Christmas morning is regarded as particularly lucky, and his success in the coming year is assured. Many people sit up on Christmas eve in order to be able to open the door as soon as midnight is passed.

It is usual in many parts of Scotland to place a table in the doorway of a house on Christmas morning. It is covered with a white cloth, and plates containing bread and cheese are put upon it. Students of folklore, trace the custom back to the time when sacrifices were offered to Yule, on the thresh-hold of the

house.

The name of Santa Claus, as known in America is the Dutch pet name for St. Nicholas. The name "Kris Kringle" by which he is known in England is a corruption of "Christ Kindlein," or the Christ Child. But the festivities that distinguish Christmas existed long before Christianity, and a jolly god of good cheer appears as the personification of the period, from the earliest pagan times. Some one has said that the Santa Claus of today is simply that jolly god, sobered up, washed, and purified.

Thus do we see that the Christmas—the coming of the sun of heaven to renew the life of nature,—the coming of Christ to renew the spiritual life of man had its origin in the far off dawn of human history.

Beginning in the worship of the sun it secured so firm a foothold in the heart of man, that the fathers of the church that saw an attempt to eradicate it would be useless. So they shrewdly located the birthday of Christ at the same time as this heathen festival, and little by little the significance of the sun worship was lost, and little by little the worship of the Christ child grew until it had superseded its healthier prototype.

But heathen or Christian, the deeper meaning of this glad celebration has always been the same; "Peace on earth; good will to men."—BY RUBY SCOTT.



KINDERGARTEN.

Music in the Kindergarten.

Martin Luther says,—“Music is the fairest gift of God.”

In thinking of music in the Kindergarten we must keep in mind two things,—first the child's nature, second, the real aim of the kindergarten.

We all know that a little child is very sensitive and receives impressions readily.

He is receiving his first impressions in this department and each day these form the basis of all future musical tastes, therefore both vocal and instrumental music should be of the very best class.

The purpose of the kindergarten is to develop the child physically, mentally and morally. We may show this in our song,—“Fly little Birdies.”

Fly little birdies!

Fly little birdies!

Fly in the sunlight,

So far away!

High o'er the houses,

Green fields and hill-tops;

Only fly home at the close of
the day.

First the little ones are chosen as birds. While we sing, the children get the thought and are filled with the sentiment

that the words of the song express. We can not only tell by the actions of the children, that they are little birds but the happy expressions on their faces tell us that there is within them the spirit of birds.

The children learn from this simple but sentimental song, the love for these creatures. This song is one illustration of the many songs taught in the kindergarten that teaches the children the love for animals.

Bright cheerful songs are sung and also soft, quiet ones. The songs we teach the children are simple, not long and each contains one central thought, so that it may be easily understood. A child should learn only those songs that he can understand.

In our “Family Song we have the Mother, Father, Brother, Sister and Baby. In every verse we see that love is the central feature.

This is mother, kind and tender,
Loving all the children dear.
This is father, strong and faithful,
His kind smile is full of cheer.
This is brother, brave and merry
Growing up so straight and tall.
This is sister gay and happy,
Playing with her dearest doll
This wee finger is the baby,
Dearest, sweetest, best of all.

We all feel and realize the love of the family and so it is with the

little child, he believes the whole world to be related, thinks every one knows him and is surprised to find that all are not acquainted with his uncle and grandmother.

Loud harsh tones, with words, should never be heard. A child is little benefited by that kind of music.

From experience we see that it makes children rude and possibly bold.

Bright music makes happiness; many times when the children are singing their little songs as "Jack Frost," at once we see the happiness that is revealed by the light that shines in their faces.

Oh, Jack Frost is a merry little elf,
And a merry little elf is he;
He calls for his coat,
And he calls for his brush,
And he calls for his paint-pots, one,
two, three,
And he calls for his paint-pots three.

When the children come in from their play and each child is seated quietly at the table, a soft sweet lullaby is sung and involuntarily all the little heads drop on the table, and for a few moments the room is filled with a sweet repose, this surely showing just what the music says to the little ones.

Often times a lullaby is played and the words omitted, the music alone strengthening the impressions of the words.

The season before Christmas is the most interesting and beautiful time of the year in the Kindergarten, for the children are

busy making gifts for their parents. The main thought now is loving and giving.

In a corner of the room hangs a large stocking—Into this the children drop their little presents which are to be given to poor children whom Santa Claus can't visit.

Among the visitors in the Kindergarten this month were, Mrs. Stone of Menomonie, Wis., Miss Grace Lusk, Mr. and Mrs. Chris. Wiger, Mrs. Sims and her sister, Miss Englehart and Mrs. Weld.

Friday Dec. 23, was gala day in the Kindergarten.

Science.

During the last year or two a great deal has been heard of wireless telegraphy. A knowledge of results of great discoveries in the past makes the discovery of the principle involved in such telegraphy seem but a prophecy of far greater practical applications of that principle. Already these prophecies seem about to be fulfilled. Who can say what will be the results of the two recent achievements of the noted electrician, Nicola Tesla. One of these inventions, which gives promise of great practical applications is a device by which electrical currents of almost unlimited electromotive force may

be generated, and then transmitted any desired distance without the use of metallic conductors. The other of these devices above referred to is an instrument of warfare over which the inventor seems to be very enthusiastic, not so much because of its great power of destruction but because its great destructibility will make war impossible. It is of the nature of a floating torpedo which, by means of various electrical contrivances contained therein, and by the employment of apparatus similar to that used in wireless telegraphy, the operator on shore may direct against any hostile fleet and blow it up before it comes within range of the guns of the harbor. "With this apparatus," the inventor declares, "the weakest nation can protect itself against the combined naval forces of Europe."

Exchanges.

How We Study the Languages.

"Vir, a man; gin, a trap; virgin, a man trap."

How thrilling Latin Poetry is?

Cicero pupil (trying to decipher the Latin) Why, I thought "I" was a "j".

One of the German students says that she is learning "Ein Deutsch zu sprechen."

Teacher (in Latin class): "Give principal parts of 'possum.'"

"Pupil: Head, legs and tail."

A Dresden paper, the Weidmann which thinks that there are kangaroos (beutelratte) in South Africa says the Hottentots (Hottentoten) put them in cages (kotter) provided with covers (lattengitter) to protect them from the rain. The cages are therefore called lattengitterwetterkotter and the imprisoned kangaroo lattengitterwetterkotterbeutelratte. One day an assassin (attentater) was arrested who had killed a Hottentot woman (Hottentotennutter), the mother of two stupid and stuttering children in Stottertrotteln. This woman, in the German language is entitled Hottentotennutterstottertrotteln, and her assassin takes the name Hottentotennutterstottertrottelnattentater. The murderer was confined in a kangaroo's cage (beutelratte lattengitterwetterkotter,) whence a few days latter he escaped, but fortunately he was recaptured by a Hottentot, who presented himself at the mayor's office with beaming face.

"I have captured the beutelratte," said he.

"What one?" said the mayor. "We have several."

"The attentater lattengitterwetterkotterbeutelratte."

"Which attentater are you talking about?"

About the Hottentotennutterstottertrottelnattentater."

Then why don't you say at once the Hottentotennutterstottertrottelnattentater."

C. F. Heinrich, First-class Grocery, Teas, Coffees and Fruit.

terattentaterlattengitterwetterk-
otterbeutelratte?

Pupil in Latin.—“Versa pulvis
inscribitur hasta”—“He wrote a
verse in the dust.”

Miss H. (in Zoology): What
animals are characterized by
their big heads?

Pupil; The seniors.

The cars were piled in fearful
wreck,

The stranger roared with glee.
He pushed the Pullman off his
neck,

“Which down was that?” said
he.

Pupil in Zoology—“Fishes are
a phosphorescent food.” Too
bad, to make light of them that
way!

Meeting of the Elity.

We are pleased to announce in
this issue, the very noted gather-
ing of people who met on the
evening of Dec. 27, at Mann
Valley.

The party was called together
under the name of the Y. W. C.
A. of the S. N. S., but the prime
instigator was a direct descend-
ant of the Huguenots.

When ways and means were
discussed, there volunteered one
of the line of Nathaniel, the spy.
Through this notable personage
the service of a near relative of
John C. Calhoun and a grand-
nephew of Joseph Smith were
solicited to collect and convey,
respectively, the grand party to

their place of meeting.

We may say that, aside from
the attractiveness of the place
and the significance of the name
it was selected as a place of
joviality, being in near proximity
to the home of our late American
humorist, “Bill Nye.”

Our space in this issue will
not permit us to give a detailed
account of the evening’s pas-
times. In brief let us say that
speeches were given by descend-
ants of Edward Everet Hale, Sir
Edmund Burke, and John C. Cal-
houn, and reminiscences by rel-
atives of Capt. Francis Cook,
Peregrine White, and the Spy,
interspersed with verses by
representatives of the families
of Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Sir
Walter Scott.

They were disappointed some-
what in not having a represent-
ative of the Nye family, however,
they came “within one of it.”
Nevertheless in our annals to be
written later we shall record the
presence of a cousin to that not-
able personage.

A very interesting person
present was the Mann Valley
dwarf whose name is Richard
Henry Thomas Thumb Swanson.

We feel honored in having the
privilege of recording the account
of this gathering and also in being
able to state that all present
were students of the River Falls
State Normal School.

Pres. Brier attended the W.
T. A. at Milwaukee in vacation.

Dr. J. N. Kirk, Office on Main St., open day and night.

Entered at the Postoffice at River Falls, Wis every month as second class matter.

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Kindergarten,.....Pauline Coggeshall.
Locals,.....{ Harry Pratt.
 { Elsenia Meade.
Science,.....{ Walter Leonard.
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THE NORMAL BADGER,
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Local.

Miss Julia Johnson who has been away teaching has returned to school.

Ed. Mooney was pleasantly surprised one evening last month by a number of his friends.

The young men and young women have each formed a glee club which meet once each week.

Miss Minnie Pettet, who has been teaching near Spring Valley, has finished her term and returned home.

John Shaw, Ex-Supt. of Pierce

Co. has purchased the Ellsworth Gleaner. John is a hustler who is sure to meet with success.

New seats have been ordered for the assembly room. The school is growing.

Sidney Emery was a visitor at the Normal School just before the holidays. Sidney is a student in the State University.

Prof. Bratberg Sen. '95 has secured the principalship of the Arkansaw schools in place of A. J. Ingli, Supt. elect of Pierce Co.

The basket ball apparatus has been set up in the gymnasium and teams have been organized among the students in each of the classes of the school. Some exciting games are looked for.

We are informed that Ex-Pres. W. D. Parker has accepted the appointment as High School Inspector. The friends of Mr. Parker are glad to know that he is to be with us once more.

The N. A. C. expect to give a Dickens entertainment sometime after the Christmas vacation. It will consist of pantomime illustrated by readings from the Pickwick Papers.

The faculty and students of the school joined in showing their affection for Miss Caldwell by sending her a Christmas present. The kind thoughts and good wishes of all accompanied the gift.

Dr. J. N. Kirk, Office on Main St., open day and night.

Y. W. C. A.

Let us begin the new year with good resolutions.

1. To attend the Y. W. C. A.
2. To be on time.
- 3 To look up something beforehand on the subject.
4. To make people believe that we do not think it a duty to attend.
5. To make the singing an attractive feature of the meeting.
6. To be in less haste to go after the meeting is over. Our meeting should be a means of getting better acquainted.
7. Never to come to the meetings alone.

If I were told that I must die to-morrow
That the next sun which sinks should bear
me past all fear and sorrow

For any one,

All the fight fought, all the short journey
thro,

What should I do.

I do not think that I should shrink or
falter

But just go on,

Doing my work, nor change nor seek to
alter

Aught that is gone;

But rise and move, and love and smile, and
pray,

For one more day.—Selected

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