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THE HERALD

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PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

"A Peep Into the Past."

[The following oration was delivered at the high school commencement by Miss Purdy, one of the graduates.]

We come before you to-night, dear friends, not as the Seven Wonders of the world, the Seven Sages of Greece, or even the Seven Sleepers, but as the Seven Sisters of modern history.

You are all familiar with the mythological story of the Pleiades, and we claim a peculiar and fitting resemblance to those Seven Sisters.

Not on account of our great beauty, however, nor our determination to never marry a mortal. Neither do we say that our thoughts are so far above your thoughts, nor our ways above your ways; but like the Pleiades we are distinguished for our mutual affection, and each one has a certain high aim in life—high as the stars of heaven.

Can we claim resemblance to a better object in nature than the constellation of the Pleiades, which twinkles constantly in the great dome of the sky filled with myriads of glittering stars?

As we gaze on those far off lights the tenderest sentiments of the heart are aroused—a feeling of respect and admiration, of softened melancholy, mingled with the thought of God awakens within us.

In life we will not fear the darkness of adversity, but we will remember that the stars shine brightest on the darkest night. Although clouds hide the stars from our view, yet they constantly shine as bright as ever, so we will endeavor to make life's pathway bright, even if the clouds of misfortune compel us to live in obscurity. We remember that

"The woman who seeks but one thing in life and but one, May hope to achieve it before life is done, But she who seeks all things wherever she goes, Only reaps from the hopes which around her she sows, A harvest of barren regrets."

But, having been chosen as the class historian, I will now give you some information about the class which may enlighten you and be valuable to some struggling author of "The Coming Woman."

It is plain to be seen that the "coming women" will soon take the lead in everything as they are beginning to do already, for where are our brothers who at one time outnumbered us? They have all disappeared, but we do not grieve over their absence, as we have a Mann in the class who is more agreeable than all the boys.

The members of the class not only represent several religious denominations, but also two political parties; the class being composed of six republicans and one democrat. We have heard it whispered that if the proper inducements were offered, one of the class might be persuaded to join the farmers' alliance.

The nativity of the class is as follows: one Buckeye, two Hawkeys, four Big-brothers, and we are happy to say, no Lone Stars.

The age of the class is one hundred and twenty-four years, nearly one and one-fourth centuries, or older than our great republic itself, and strange to say, none of us are afraid to own it.

The average age of the class is seventeen and five-sevenths years, that of the youngest, seventeen years. Not so very old in years, but almost gray-headed in experience.

The combined weight of the class is eight hundred and eighty-seven pounds, thus making the class worth \$21,750.97, for, of course, we are worth our weight in gold.

Aside from our resemblance to the Pleiades, we claim another remarkable singularity. The magic letter which has so many charms for us is the common "M." We assure you that it is a very appropriate M-bien, and to us means much more than magnificent mansions, mischievous maidens, or men and matrimony.

For fear you might misconstrue the meaning in our monogram, we will say that it merely stands for Mabel, Mae, Myrta, Manota, Mathews, Myrtle and Mann. This "M" is surrounded by a chain of seven links, which represent the "Seven Sisters" united by bonds of love and loyalty.

Long will we cherish the memory of our happy school days, and let fate do her worst there are moments of joy, bright dreams of the past which cannot destroy.

They come in the night time of sorrow and care, And bring back the features that joy used to wear, Oh, to go back our hearts with such memories like a vase in which roses have once been distilled.

You may break, you may shatter, that vase if you will, But the scent of those roses will cling round it still!

Let us now take a "peep into the past" and see what the "Seven Sisters" were doing a tenth of a century ago.

This young lady always won the love and respect of her companions by her stately dignity and pleasant ways, which were noticeable in every thing she did, from the sly passing of notes in school to the acceptance of the position of President of the class.

Just behind her was a quite blue-eyed little girl, who is generously dividing an apple among her school mates. 'Tis Alice, who is so well known for her kindness and generosity.

Sitting with Alice is the model girl of the class as far as studies are concerned; and who, always remembering that time is money, has been making a fortune while the other members of the class have been bewailing the fate of poor school girls. 'Tis Myrta, our Latin orator, whose very name tells us of her loving disposition.

Let us next give our attention to two fair little girls with golden hair, who, on account of their model behavior, have been placed in seats near the teachers' desks, and are now busily employed, one in chewing gum, the other, in writing poetry. They are Mabel and Mae, our orator and poetess, whose leading characteristic is cheerfulness, and who have been the delight of our class all through school life.

With the exception of the historian, of whom I will leave you to judge for yourselves, I have spoken of all but Manota Eikenbary, who came to us last year and won the love of all by her quiet demeanor and loving sympathy. If any man is ever fortunate enough to win her, he can truthfully say, "I can bury all trouble now, as my note will never be due."

With no intentional boasting the history has been written of the "Seven Sisters," whose success in school life is not owing entirely to their own industry and perseverance, but to their patient, helpful teachers. It was their kind and encouraging words that made many a difficult task seem easy, and from their good advice, kindly given, we have learned to make the best of life.

The past and the present of the "Seven Sisters" is now known, who can tell what the future will be? We behold the foot-prints of Time as marked by the pencilings of decay, in the scenes of the past we behold a type of the future, so let us remember that

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths, In feelings, not in figures on a dial, We should count time by heart-throbs, Not by the dial's hand, Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.

The Juvenile Operetta. An ovation was tendered the superintendent and his little folks at the opera house last night in their juvenile opera and other performances. Scarcely an empty seat could have been found in the entire house from pit to dome.

The first number on the program, a rainy day song, was sung by a dozen of the cutest, sweetest little tots to be found in the town. They all came onto the stage, twelve little girls with gossamers on and carrying raised umbrellas; their singing was in accord with their dress and was more than good.

The wand drill, by pupils from Miss Searle's room, was very fine and showed much patient training. "A Play of the Seasons," by pupils from First and Second wards, was a rollicking dancing party with sprightly music. Much training had been lavished upon them, which the actions of the little mites showed had not been in vain.

A dumb-bell drill by a large class of girls from Miss Wilson's and Mrs. Halsey's rooms was the next production and showed a wonderful proficiency in the drill. THE HERALD is a firm believer in calisthenics, and notes with much pleasure the interest taken in the subject by Superintendent McClellan and his corps of teachers.

The last number on the program was "Cobwebs," the juvenile operetta in which more than seventy children took part. The King and Queen Bluebottle were well represented by George Guild and Claire Drummond, who sang their solos sweetly and in the proper spirit.

Little Edna Petersen as Princess Firefly was very cute and sang better than many of the older ones. Prince Grasshopper, a lover of Princess Firefly, was represented by Leon Pepperberg, a diminutive little man dressed in a snug fitting suit of bright green of the most fashionable cut. Leon carried himself like an old hand at the business and brought down the house with his method of love-making.

Spidero, the enchanter, was enacted very creditably by George Sherwood, while Anna Bibby, as the first lady in waiting, sang a very pretty solo. Lloyd Wilson made a capital page, and carried out the wishes of the king to the best of his ability. The play was full of pretty solos and charming choruses that were delightfully rendered.

Miss Lou Simpson skillfully presided at the piano, which added much to the merit of the entertainment.

Disaster Court. Court adjourned tonight until after the Nebraska City term is closed which begins Monday. The jury was discharged last night.

The case of Annie F. White vs the B. & M. was a suit for \$100 insurance which the relief department refused to pay. The case was fought by J. B. Stode and Byron Clark for defendant, while Matthew Gering represented the plaintiff. After an all day trial a verdict was rendered for the full amount in favor of the plaintiff.

The McNamara vs. Haubens & Shelton appeal was dismissed. Albert Bauer was discharged by Judge Chapman for the reason that the indictment was bad and would not stand the test. Ellen Greeson vs. Clark Greeson, divorce granted as prayed for.

Mrs. Fred Murphy came in from Cedar Creek, this morning. Mrs. Lute Bodiker returned home this morning after a visit of several days with friends at Louisville.

Geo. Shoeman, prosperous farmer of Louisville precinct and one of the stalwart German republicans is in the city to-day. Miss Grace Wiles departed this morning for Cotner University to attend the commencement exercises. From there she will go to Beatrice to attend the Sunday school institute as a delegate from this city.

The T. K. Quartette are in the habit of singing for commencement exercises all over the state but they aver that they have not attended anywhere so successful and pleasant a commencement as the one held at Plattsmouth Thursday night.

A new law firm has opened an office in the Wetenkamp block by the name of Graves & Wickham. Mr. A. J. Graves is well known in the city and will do well. Mr. Wickham is a young man, old in the law, and will do his full share of the work.

Prof. Chaburn reports a big fruit crop in Southern Nebraska. He says a man by the name of Russell, living near Wymore, claims he will have 5,000 bushels of peaches, and a man of his acquaintance near Humbolt has over 300 bushels of cherries.

Several window frames are set and one corner of the first story of brown stone on the court house will be finished today. The stone looks very pretty and will make a fine appearing building. The brick will probably be Kansas City, pressed brick for the outside course.

The town of Bennett has been afflicted for several days with two or three well defined cases of small pox. The dread disease has now broken out at Nebraska City and unless extra precaution is taken it may reach this county. People can't be too careful about exposing themselves to this dreadful disease.

Miss Myrta Porter received a life membership in the Fremont business college and Miss Myrtle Purdy received a life membership in Tabor college for their good work during the past school year.

Miss Purdy also received a handsome gold watch at the hands of her father and brother.

Nebraska City's base ball prospects have again gone glimmering. Their man by the name of Crawford has sloped and the Cityites are disconsolate. The Press says the local ball players are innocent of Crawford's "sculdoggery" what ever that is and will continue to try and organize a nine. They will probably get one in time to play next year.

Mr. Messersmith picked 143 quarts of strawberries Wednesday, making 70 this season, off of his patch consisting of about one-sixth of an acre and he thinks he will be able to pick about 200 quarts more. At that rate he would get 5,400 quarts to the acre, which, at the price netted him this season, 12 1/2 cents per quart, would make for a full acre the neat income of \$675. Who can beat it?

Wedding Anniversary. Charles Harris and his estimable spouse were taken by surprise yesterday afternoon when several of their friends unannounced came in upon them to celebrate their 20th anniversary. Charley had forgotten he had been married that long, but concluded he was taken in, and made every body as comfortable as possible. Plenty of provender was taken along yet Mrs. Harris pantry was invaded and by dint of a little work a regal banquet was furnished that all parties did ample justice to. Among these present were O. H. Ballou, A. B. Taylor, J. C. Eikenberry, S. A. Davis, A. N. Sullivan, J. B. Meisinger, and their respective wives and F. M. Richey, A. E. Todd, and Ed. K. Todd.

CAN the character be read from the handwriting? Most assuredly it can. Character-reading from handwriting is a fascinating study; and if you wish to learn all about it you must read the excellent and profusely illustrated article, "How to Read Character by Handwriting," by Prof. Nelson Thorpe, published in the July number of Demorest's Family Magazine, and you will be still more interested in the subject. In the same number is a splendid article on "Chili" which is particularly apropos at present; "Foes Afield: Plants Poisonous to the Stomach" is quite as seasonable, and everyone can recognize the plants from the accurate illustrations; in "Summer Outdoor Games: Lawn Tennis, Badminton, Colors," they are clearly described; and the amateur china-painter may rival the professional by following the directions given in "The Use of Matt Colors." Besides, there are stories and poems, and over two hundred illustrations, including a superb water-color, a French costume study under the empire, and the numerous departments are full to overflowing with valuable matter. Briefly, this number fully maintains the justly earned prestige of being the model family magazine, and it is published for \$2 per year by W. Jennings Demorest, 15 East 14th St., New York.

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