

## ALUMNI AND FORMER STUDENTS.

'88.—The following is an extract from a letter recently received by Professor Bessey from J. G. Smith:

ZURICH, SCHWEIZ, Feb. 18, 1891.

\*\*\* I stayed at Berlin about two weeks and saw a few of the many fine museums and public buildings of the German capital. Mr. Frankforter went with me to the botanical institute where we met Dr. Schwendener and were shown through the laboratory and work rooms. I also attended two of the Doctor's lectures, although I could not catch very much of the language. Professor Engler gave me a permit to visit the botanical museum at the botanical gardens, so I dissipated by spending a whole day there, and got a great many valuable ideas. There were eight or ten Welwitschais and a number of the cones lying loose on top of a glass case, put there, I suppose, for the purpose of trying the souls of kleptomaniacal botanists. Yet the thought occurred, how long would they stay there if in the United States, with no one near to watch them. \*\*\* From Berlin I came direct to Zurich, making no worse mistakes in transit than getting aboard the wrong train and being put off therefrom at the first station. The brakemen and conductors along that part of the route will no doubt pass the fact down to posterity, that Americans are lunatics. Unless the character of immigration changes the "powers" will be obliged to prohibit the landing of American riffraff on European shores. Professor Schroeter gave me a very cordial greeting, and though I came in the middle of the semester, made arrangements for me to hear all the botanical lectures at the Polytechnicum. He speaks very good English, while Professor Stabler, of the seed control station, neither speaks nor understands it. The Polytechnicum corresponds to the state university, except that they only give the bachelor's degree. \*\*\*

There are some things that I like better in the U. of N. style of teaching than here; for one thing, the students here are not allowed such free use of the laboratory, herbarium library and collections. \*\* Again, I think it is the better plan to have both lectures and recitations. Lectures, only, makes it too nearly optional with the student whether he learns anything or not. Judging from what I have seen already I should say that a large per cent of the students are students simply because it is a very easy way to spend a few years and have a good time. At the university you may hear lectures, one semester or a dozen, and stand for a degree when you get ready. Of course it enables the man who is so inclined to do some hard digging, but it will ruin a fellow of my easy pattern. What I want is some one to stand over me with a club to keep me in motion and in the right path and not wandering all over the pasture, figuratively speaking, with no more definite purpose than to kill time. \*\* After having spent two and a half years in out door work, the confinement necessary to study is rather trying and I am afraid I will not be able to stand it. My eyes are too weak for good microscopic work. \*\* The plan you suggested of tramping around through the different agricultural regions will be the best one, though it will seem a pity to turn another cynic loose in Europe. "The woods are full of them" already. Please excuse the slang. It is such a rest after talking bad German all day to relapse into "American as she is spoke." Professor Schroeter set me at work making drawings of the seeds of *Poa trivialis* and *pratensis* to show in what respect they differ, at least that was his intention but it has already been demonstrated to the satisfaction of all concerned that, according to my drawings, they are identical. \*\* My address is Postgebäude III Universität, Oberstrasse, Zurich.

FRANKLIN, NEB., March 9, 1891.

Editor Alumni Department, HESPERIAN:

I doubt my ability to write a letter of general interest to students and alumni. However, since you ask it, I will make the attempt, though your request finds me in the midst of examination work and very busy. I cannot speak from experience, as Mr. Fifer does, but am certain that college editors have no spare time. Since last September I have been teaching here in Franklin academy, devoting my chief energies to the intricacies of Greek and English. Franklin academy, as many of you know, is located at Franklin, on the B. & M. R.R., in the Republican valley, about 150 miles southwest from Lincoln. The school is preparatory in grade, and was founded some ten years ago under the care of the Congregational churches of the Republican valley. It is a growing institution, and I can see great changes for the better since I graduated here nearly five years ago.

As you see, we are in the drouth-stricken part of Nebraska. But, notwithstanding the failure of crops, our roll runs above eighty, and our graduating class numbers thirteen. I have looked forward to teaching as a profession for some years, being particularly interested in preparatory schools, and like the work as well as I expected to. To be sure, it is not all delightful. As all that have tried it know, school life as a teacher differs much from the same life as a student. The student has his work marked out, while the teacher has the responsibility of laying out his own work and that of others—a thing not so easy and pleasant as some college students seem to think. The pleasure of developing an idea new to others is in part offset by the few blank faces that follow your best explanation. There are also those that lack interest and waste their opportunities. But to watch the development and in developing an earnest, enquiring mind is a pleasure to make up for many unsatisfactory things. And those that are to be teachers, may, it seems to me, congratulate themselves on the nobility of their profession.

I thank the university frequently for methods, matter, and drill and am glad of the opportunity to get so much of each. Long live the U. of N. But I must not take more of your space, so with confidence that the alumni department will keep up, I offer my heartiest good wishes for THE HESPERIAN and its supporters and give place to the next.

FRANK C. TAYLOR '90.

'89 '90.—BIGELOW MOCKETT.—Married at the residence of the bride's parents in this city, on the evening of March 4, M. I. Bigelow to Miss Edith Mockett. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Charles B. Newnan. After April 3 they will be at home to their friends on Thirty-first and N streets. The groom is manager of the Bigelow electric light company. Their many friends wish them a long and happy life.

'89.—Mrs. Lincoln Frost has resigned her position as teacher in the city schools. She expects to take some special work in history next fall under Professor Howard.

'84.—Jesse H. Holmes, as a graduating thesis at Johns Hopkins, submitted a dissertation on Paraxylenedisulphuric acid. Mr. Holmes sent a copy to his former instructor, Prof. Nicholson.

'87.—Luke H. Cheney, who has been practicing law in this city, left recently to try his fortune at Stockville, Frontier county.

H. S. Martin, of the class of '89, called at the university the 7th. Mr. Martin is teaching school near Waverly.

Lee Edwards, formerly of '94, who has been studying medicine at Omaha, is home for vacation.