

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

The Palladian Hall of Early Days.

The following is an extract from a paper read before the Palladian Society May 29, 1885, by Dean T. Smith, '87.

Some who are now active members of our society commenced their Palladian life in a no more auspicious place than the medical room down stairs, the present armory. Here the Palladian society began its existence in the fall of 1871. In this room the monotony of plastered walls was unrelieved by picture, paper or painting. The bare pine floor responded heartily to the tramp of feet, while the arrangement of seats and the little furniture that the room possessed gave a stern and intellectual air to the whole surroundings. Through the kindness of the faculty a rostrum had been erected across the north end of the room, on which was a table extending nearly across it. Behind this table the class for the evening, including the debaters, were arranged and remained during the whole of the exercises, not even coming out to recite—an arrangement that had some good points, as awkwardness and shaking knees were not quite so conspicuous. Besides this long table there were two desks in the room, one for the secretary and one for the critic. These were bought by the society.

But that which shows the character of the early Palladian more than anything else, was the seating. The seats were long benches which were brought in from the recitation rooms. They were arranged in two rows, one on the east side facing north and extending from the door to the rostrum, the other a single row of seats placed end to end extending along the west side and facing east. The boys occupied the east row, the girls the west row facing them, and each held to his or her domain as strictly as do the sexes in a country church.

The first step in the way of improve-

ment was the purchase of a carpet for the rostrum and a strip of matting extending down the middle aisle to the door. A couple of years later a carpet for the whole room was secured. This year also marks the first move in the way of ornamenting the hall. The ornament was "Joe," who was accepted of that branch of the co-ed's society which joined the Palladian after the breaking up of their own organization. If you want to know who "Joe" was, ask some old Pal. Next was the securing of some pictures. Some were bought, others were donated by members. I might add here that nearly all the pictures in our hall have been given to the society by members.

In 1875 the society's first big purchase was made. This purchase was an organ worth \$150. It was afterwards exchanged for a \$225 instrument. Later, when the Adelprians—present Unions—bought a \$250 organ our folks traded their organ for a piano.

In the summer of 1880 we moved, so to speak, but the fact of the case is there was little except the Palladian spirit to move. Some furniture, a few pictures, and "Joe" were about all that were carried over to the new home. The whole hall had to be fitted and furnished. But the Pals. were equal to the occasion. They paid, or promised to pay, \$150 for chairs, \$150 for a carpet, and \$100 for painting, curtains, etc. But so judiciously was the money, or credit, used, that the new hall had really a fine appearance, and when I entered school in the fall, after eight or ten years of familiarity with sod houses and dugouts, the Palladian Hall seemed to me about the finest place I had seen.

In the fall of '82 the society bought the big chandelier for \$80 and paid \$100 for curtains, fixtures, etc. In '83 the hall was wholly remodelled and brought to its present appearance. The expenses were a new carpet, \$350, papering and decorating \$200, extra curtains, small chandelier and sundries \$60, in all \$610.