

FAIRFIELD'S FOLD.

The Work of the Past Year Reviewed for the Regents.

Every Department in a Highly Satisfactory Condition.

Larger Appropriations Necessary to Increase its Usefulness.

The Methodist Beg for Representation in the Faculty.

Correspondence of This Bee.

LINCOLN, December 21.—The board of regents held their semi-annual meeting at the chancellor's at 2 p. m., President Chas. A. Holmes in the chair. The following regents were present: Adam of Dakota, Field of Kearney, Holmes of Tecumseh, Persinger of Central City, and Carson of Brownville. Regent Gannett, of Omaha, was understood to be in Colorado.

Being present at the meeting by invitation, I am able to give you some items, not only of interest, but important to the public to understand. The university belonging to the people of Nebraska, it becomes them to know the efficiency or deficiency of the institution.

The chancellor's report was an able, clear-headed and exhaustive statement of the affairs of the institution, from which it appeared that while its success and development were most encouraging, for that reason there were corresponding drawbacks; that is, the university has grown so rapidly that her want outstripped her facilities, and necessitates new demands in order to improve her efficiency.

I will take up a few points of the report and the needs of the university will suggest themselves.

THE STUDENTS. The number on the new catalogue is two hundred and sixty-nine against one hundred and ninety eight last year, which also was an advance over the previous year. Thus, while the appropriations were made by the legislature two years ago on the then basis, the students have increased fully fifty per cent, and such has been the demand for increased facilities at every point that the funds are inadequate, and the university, which ought to be sustained well if sustained at all is suffering and will suffer still more at vital points unless the growth of the institution is met by appropriate help.

THE CHEMICAL DEPARTMENT. Indispensable in this age of the world, was in charge of the lamented Prof. Collier, a choice man who lately died. His place has not been filled, and the chancellor made a sad report of the inadequacy and unsafe condition of the laboratory rooms owing to their want of proper ventilation, and he recommends their present disuse, as they were detrimental to the health of the students, intimating that Prof. Collier's death may have been hastened by the use of chemicals in a confined place. It seems that the chemical apparatus belongs to Prof. Collier's family, and the chancellor recommended that they be purchased by the state and the whole thing be put upon a basis worthy the institution.

LEAKS. It seems that the Church contract for roofing the university at the time of the scare of insecurity three years ago was poorly filled, the roof leaks at every point; the conductors do not carry off heavy rains which consequently flood the cellars and undermine the walls, neither are the cisterns supplied, and it turns out that there is no water in case of a fire, neither is there any insurance on the building or contents. The regents opened their eyes. One of them told me since that he supposed it devolved upon the governor to insure the public buildings.

THE FACULTY has changed during the year by the retiring of Principal Palmer, of the Latin department, and the death of Prof. Collier. Prof. Woodbury, who took a position on The Nation during the '79 term, has resumed his place as professor of rhetoric and English composition, and Geo. N. Little was appointed as tutor in chemistry and mathematics.

THE MUSICAL DEPARTMENT has been put at least on an incipient basis by the appointment of a director of the music conservatory. This is filled by S. B. Holman. The office has no salary, but the time seems to have come when it is indispensable that a competent department of music be established.

THE LADIES' HALL. A handsome three story building was put up by a private company to accommodate the many lady students who come here, but while that number is increasing rapidly, the hall does not yet fill the bill, because it cannot be properly conducted until a responsible and competent matron is appointed to have charge of the department of the young ladies. At present there is an unavoidable loss for want of some proper overseeing authority. It is now proposed to turn this hall over to the state, at a fair price, that it may be put upon a proper basis—a consummation devoutly to be wished—for it seems absolutely indispensable to have ample additional accommodation for the ladies who are flocking to the university in large numbers.

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT, under Lieutenant J. T. Webster, is showing great efficiency and enthusiasm. The cadets have, under Mr. Webster's lead, got up a first class military band, and their drills always call out crowds of spectators.

On the whole the chancellor's report was very encouraging as to the condition and prospects of the university. While it was evident to a looker-on that the institution is crippled for the want of a liberal policy on the part of the legislature in the appro-

pritation of funds. It is a case where a cheap policy is a dear one. I believe the people themselves who pay the taxes for the benefit of this school of learning will second a very liberal policy. The report of the chancellor develops a large amount of work on the various committees of the regents, and the session will have to hold over most of the week.

The Methodist denomination of the state present at the regents a memorial signed by six hundred prominent men praying for the appointment of Prof. George W. Peck, of Heading college, Ill., to fill the chair vacated by Prof. Collier. It seems there is no representative of the M. E. body in the faculty, although there are two among the regents. Prof. Peck is a fine looking young man, and full of the western spirit. J. W. A.

STERLING ADVICE.

ROBERT COLLYER TO YOUNG MEN.

If you want to do well, keep well, if you possibly can. Do not let even your education rob you of your health. It is about the worst thing you can do under the whip and spur of a noble purpose, and it is what large numbers do to their life-long regret. When a fine painter took the butcher to see one of his pictures, he said, "Aye, Maister Maydon, it's a grand picture, but I doubt whether you could have done it if you had not eaten my beef." And I think there was a grain of truth in the remark. They say base-ball is getting into the hands of the gamblers, and that young men are shy of it of a good breeding. I'd be very sorry to think so. It is the handsomest game that was ever played and one of the healthiest. Play base ball, and pull a boat, and get your chance in vacation at long tramps and hard beds and rough, wholesome fares, eat well and sleep well; be as clean all through and all over as you are in a drawing-room, and then you will not only be able to do your day's work in this world like a man, but when the years bring their inevitable burden you will be able to say with Adam in the play: "Justly I look old, yet I am strong and lusty."

For in my youth I never did apply Hot and rebellious liquors to my blood; Nor did I with unsharsh forehead woo The means of weakness and debility; Therefore my age is as a lusty winter, Frosty, but kindly.

Remember this, too, that with health and strength to back you, life means hard work, and hard work on long lines with active ability and good conduct means success. I will venture to say that this, as a rule, we can trust, is always the story of the young man who begins life with no position or patronage, and makes his way to a good place. He gives his heart to what he has to do, not half the time, but all the time, not grudgingly but willingly, and not merely for the sake of the salary, but because he loves to be at it, and makes the work in great measure its own reward. I shall come to pass, if you take hold like this, that men will say you are a genius for what you take in hand. But you will know that one of the fine qualities in a genius for anything is an absorbing love for it, and the power of intense application by which every other power is set to its finest edge and directed to the one great purpose the man holds in his heart and brain. You may set this truth in whatever light you will, of business, of work on the common levels, or work in the loftiest heights, to give your hearts to it is one of the grandest secrets of success. It might seem to you that a great many men go from the bottom to the top of the ladder at one jump. It is not true. It is never true. All the men I know who have made a real success of their life are hard climbers. The other way is like the monkey toy of the children. You go up swiftly over the top and come down head first to begin again.

From the day I left the old cottage to the day I came to New York, my life divides itself into two sections of nearly equal length. Twenty-one years at the mill and twenty-one at the west, and in these there is no break except that I made to get from the old world to the new. And now I see that these forty-two years all belong together, and in every year something was done for those that were still waiting. In some of latter years in the shop, I could not but feel that I was the equal as a preacher of a good many men who done nothing else, and would wonder whether I should be as my father did at the mill. But then we'd a houseful of children, and my hammer was a capital weapon to keep the wolf from the door and keeps things fair and true, so not one step would I go until that light shone clear and I knew I was on a sure adventure.

There is one world. When you get through with the college, and take hold of your life's work, do not think of making a fortune as the one grand aim of your life, but of serving out a home, finding a good true woman for your wife, and raising, please God, a good family. I do not cry down money. I think it is a good servant and a good friend, but it is about as cruel a master as ever used a whip. A shrewd farmer said to me once, "Never marry for money, my lad, marry for love; but if thou finds a good girl that has money, try to love her." I would not say that to you, but this: If you find the nice girl, some such match as my mother was for my father, and if you love her, marry her, if she will have you, though she has not a dollar to her name. This is a sore evil under our American sun, that there should be such mishap and disaster in the wedded life. It lies in this, in the most momentous thing we can do, we so often use the least judgment. Hear Story's description of the Girl of the Period:

"She is perfect to whirl in a waltz. And her shoulders she will on a soft divan, as she lingers at night and shows her silk, and plays with her bracelets and furs her fan. But is it the thing for a mother and wife? Can she ever grow on such barren rocks? Is this the companion to take for life? You might as well marry a mouse boy."

We who have had our turn want the young men of your birth and breeding to raise a generation of nobler and better type, boys and girls strong of arm and sure of foot, deep-chested, sunny-hearted, full of faculty, and wholesome to the innermost nerve, and to do this you must do two things: give them noble mothers, and don't "linger shivering on the brink and fear to launch away," but when you know you can take care of a home in

a simple, wholesome fashion, go right to work and do it.

Shall I close with this little poem? Speak thou the truth, let others fence; And trim their words for pay; In pleasant sunshine of pretence, Let others task their day. Guard thou the fact, thro' clouds of night Down on thy wat'ry flower stoop; Though thou shouldst see thy heart's delight B' rine from thee by their swoop; Face thou the wind, though safer seem In shelter to abide; We were not made to sit and dream, The safe must first be tried; Show thou the light, if conscience gleam, Set not the tushel down, The smallest spark may send a beam O'er hamlet, tower and town. We unto him on a duty bent, Who creeps from eve to youth, Failing to grasp his life's intent Because he fears the truth, Be true to every inmost thought, and as thy thoughts, thy speech, What thou hast met by striving bought Press on and thou shalt teach. Then each will part the mist shall clear We now see darkly through, And justified at last appear The true, in Him that's true.

PEPPERMINT DROPS.

The man who makes unseemly jokes at her breakfast table Mrs. Pretzel calls a boarder ruffian.

A Nevada critic speaking of a harpist said, "We never before knew there was so much music in a grid-iron."

"Why," said the deacon, "do you put so few oysters in the stew?" "The milk is sour, and it might spoil the oysters."

Many a man after the Christmas holidays will wish he was a western newspaper, and could afford himself a patent inside.

The Philadelphia Times learns that a New York boarding house fire went out, soon as it reached the pantry, for want of fuel.

"An Exploded Gas-Bag" is the title of an editorial in a Buffalo paper. The bereaved family of the deceased journalist have sympathy.

The quickest way to find out whether a gun is loaded or not is to blow down the muzzle. If it is not loaded you will live to do it again.

The worst about kissing a Pittsburgh girl is that you can carry the mark of coal dust about your nose and other features till you reach the nearest pump.

Not everybody will be able to see the Natchez girls, but everybody can get a pretty good idea of their dance by putting two horns down the housemaid's back.

When worried about what to buy for Christmas presents for your little family just think of the poor Mormons who have to please the tastes of fifteen or twenty wives and or three hundred children, more or less.

Arkansas men are loud sleepers. One of them went to sleep in a Pullman car, and when he began to get his work in people turned out under the impression that a shooting affray was in progress.

He was a fine-looking man, and he proudly strutted down the sidewalk with the air of proprietorship in every movement. "Beg pardon," said a stranger as he stepped up to him, hat in hand, in almost humility. "Do I have your permission to remain in town over night?"

A new clerk in a drug store was discharged the other day because he did not know how to look wise, roll his eyes, and say "twenty-five cents" without turning red in the face as he handed out a little powder that had cost the concern two cents and a fraction. Emotion and business don't jingle.

Girls, if there is one thing more than any other that holds young men of our day back from matrimonial ventures, it is the disheartening spectacle so often presented them of your own dear papa and mamma walking into church glorified respectively by a \$12 ulster and a \$30 bonnet. That is what scares the boys.

Tom Marshall was using quite abusive language, and the judge, after one or two reprimands, fined him \$10 for contempt. Mr. Marshall looked at the judge with a smile and asked where he was going to get the money, as he had not a "red." "Borrow it of a friend," said the court. "Well, sir," answered Mr. Marshall, "you are the best friend I have; will you lend me the money?" "Mr. Clerk," said the judge, "you may remit the fine. The state is as able to lose it as I am."

EDUCATIONAL.

The University of Virginia has reduced its bonded debt to \$30,000.

The Chicago board of education has authorized the selection of sites for three new school buildings.

Of the 34,915 recruits recently examined for the Prussian army, 1951, or 2.30 per cent, had received no school education.

The new college in Atlanta, Ga., for colored students—Clark University (Methodist)—bids fair to rival Atlanta University.

The Russian government expended \$365,000 on the Siberian university before the foundation stone was laid. Its library already numbers 35,000 volumes.

There is no school tax in Alabama, the only revenue arising from the poll tax, which amounts to only two cents per capita of the school population.

Lincoln University has graduated 133 students from its collegiate department, and has sent from its preparatory 400 young colored men to the south as teachers or preachers.

Superintendent Howland, of Chicago, reports: Total enrollment, 53,400; average membership, 49,093; average attendance, 46,440; per cent., 94.6. Evening schools—Total enrollment, 2,789; average attendance for last week, 1,192.

In the schools of the Methodist Freedmen's Aid society, the past year, there were 2,460 pupils, classified as follows: Biblical, 372; law, 23; medical, 85; collegiate, 90; academic, 220; normal, 1,100; intermediate, 217; primary, 392. Since the work of the society began it has trained 63,000 persons. It employs 80 teachers, and has property worth \$250,000.

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