

THE Normal Pointer.

Stevens Point, Wis.



1896.

CONTENTS.

LITERARY.

The Queen of the Year	Page 105
Christmas Greeting	" 105
Scenes About Lake Champlain.....	" 105
The Match Game at Oak Park.....	" 106
Word Pictures	" 107
Brilliants	" 107

EDITORIAL.....Page 108

LOCAL.

General.....	" 109
Personal.....	" 110
ATHLETICS.....	" 111
EXCHANGES.....	" 112
MODEL SCHOOL.....	" 113

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THE NORMAL POINTER.

Volume II.

STEVENS POINT, WIS., DECEMBER, 1896.

Number 4.

LITERARY.

THE QUEEN OF THE YEAR.

When suns are low and nights are long,
And winds bring wild alarms,
Through the darkness comes the Queen of the Year
In all her peerless charms,—
DECEMBER fair and holly-crowned,
With the Christ-child in her arms.

The maiden months are a stately train,
Veiled in the spotless snow,
Or decked with the bloom of Paradise,
What time the roses blow,
Or wreathed with the vine and the yellow wheat
When the moons of harvest glow.

But, oh! the joy of the rolling year!
The queen with peerless charms,
Is she who comes through the waning light
To keep the world from harms,—
December fair and holly-crowned,
With the Christ-child in her arms.

EDNA DEAN PROCTOR, in *The School Journal*.

CHRISTMAS GREETING.

"Joy bells are ringing on Christmas morn!
The angels are singing that Christ is born!
Friendliest greeting, mirth and good cheer,
Sorrows are fleeting, and Christmas is here!"

Centuries have detracted nothing from its charm; fresh and sweet, year after year its subtle influence pervades the world, brightening the clouds of sorrow and disaster, comforting the worn and weary-hearted, cheering those who gaze steadfastly yet despairingly at the far off shining goal of their ambition, and shedding the warmth and light of love and joy over millions of happy homes.

Whatever else fades with time's fingering, Christmas, clustered with beautiful legends, sparkling with love-lit eyes, rippling with joyous laughter, merry with dancing feet, and bubbling over with mirth and jollity, is as new and beautiful to-day as it was a thousand years ago.

But Christmas will soon be passed, and wreathed and garlanded the New Year will soon be waiting at the door.

The New Year cometh as the snow flakes fall,
Hiding the Old Year's foot-prints from our eyes:
Oh! may he visit you with sweet surprise!
And the sure changes that he brings to all.
Be changes from lights to lights as change the skies.

Phantom-like, the memory of sorrow and vexation lingers in the lengthening shadows of the dying year, and the hosts of noble purposes stalk behind us in the

gloaming. Cherished hopes lie prone and shattered, while far over our heads float the standard which we fain would grasp, but cannot.

The Old Year, fraught with sorrow, or laden with joy and thanks-giving, is almost gone; and the New Year, with cheery smiles and friendship's kindly greetings, bringing fresh hope and courage on its golden wings, welcomes us cheerfully into its vague and unknown realm. Waiting at its threshold, dear readers, we bid you God speed, and give you glad greetings of the holy, merry Christmas, and the joyous, happy New Year.

E. F. PRIEST.

SCENES ABOUT LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

My cousin's home, where I was spending a week, was in a mining town in the Adirondack mountains about five miles from Lake Champlain. There was to be an excursion on the lake the following day, and a party of six was hastily planned. The boat was to start at 7 a.m. and in order to drive the five miles and reach the boat in time we were obliged to start early.

The morning was bright and clear, my cousin's wife prepared a bountiful lunch, and we were on our way at 4:30. We drove directly east and down the mountain and through great forests of evergreens, now and then putting on the breaks to avoid pitching forward, or narrowly escaping the great rocks which stood by the road. Emerging from a dense forest we saw a narrow strip of level road running at right angles to ours, and beyond was the lake. Such a sight! There was just enough wind to cause faint ripples over the milk-white water, and the sun, just creeping above the Green Mountains on the Vermont side, shed a most glorious red light over all, making the water glitter and sparkle until we were forced to turn our eyes from the scene. For nearly four miles this north and south road lay near the lake. It seemed each mile traveled was more beautiful than the one before, for the sun rose higher and higher until it rested upon the mountains. There was the glorious sun highest of all, and just beneath, the snow-capped mountain-tops, and then the green foliage, and below the valley with its well marked farms, and at our very feet the lake!

We spent the day on the boat, and as we were returning at night another beautiful scene came to our view.

Our party were in the bow of the boat, the sun had sunk behind the Adirondacks leaving the eastern side of them in partial darkness. The foliage appeared to be of several shades and tints of green, all blending one with the other; the water was calm, and all nature seemed to be getting ready for a night's repose. Suddenly we rounded a high promontory. To our left were four beautiful islands, and to our right were the Adirondacks. The mountains at this point are very high and irregular; some with sharp, well defined out-

lines, others round and merging one into the other. They appeared almost black against the bright red hack-ground, and above them all was the sun, which had been hidden from our view for nearly half an hour. Down the sides of the mountains were numerous small, quiet villages from which, as we passed, we heard the ringing of bells.

The morning scene was bright, dazzling and full of hope, but the evening scene was one of quiet and repose, and brought to my mind the closing scene of a human life; wild, and rugged, and dark for a time, but when the last promontory is passed our Father's kindly face appears, illuminating the whole and giving perfect rest and peace to the weary soul.

MABEL MCKEE.

THE MATCH GAME AT OAK PARK.

In the western part of Wisconsin is the small town of Lawn Bridge, which is noted for its many beautiful summer residences. One in particular attracts great attention. It is the handsomest place in Lawn Bridge. The summer visitors used to say it was "real English!" The place had been purchased at a sheriff's sale by Mr. Bancroft, who had made great improvements.

Mr. Bancroft, who was a bachelor and of a very sociable disposition, announced that he should be delighted if we would use his lawns for tennis, croquet, or any game we wished to play.

Of course most of us had good grounds of our own at home, but they were not to be compared with the courts at Oak Park. There were two courts, one turf, and one clay, and both were kept in the best of order. They were shaded by trees, so that in the afternoon when we always wanted to play the most we were not wilted by the scorching sun.

To say the least we were all fairly good players, but of course there were some who could play better than others. Mr. Bancroft would often say he liked to watch Guy Graham and me play a good game. Guy Graham was one of our neighbor boys. We had both played tennis daily all summer long.

One afternoon, when we had finished an unusually close game with two of the other boys, Mr. B. said, "I'd like to see you two beaten once, just to find out how you would take it."

It was then suggested by some one that a match game be prepared between us and the Benshan boys, who lived in a little town thirty miles distant. We knew we should have our hands full to beat them, for they had the name of being champion players. Mr. Bancroft became very enthusiastic over the idea at once.

"I'll offer a prize of a silver cup, have a supper served, and we will make it the event of the season," he exclaimed.

"We will be ready for them," we both replied.

Of course considerable correspondence was necessary before the date, and other matters could be settled upon; but finally the last Saturday in July was chosen. Every one was interested in the game, and when the cup arrived, interest became enthusiasm.

In the meantime we were on the tennis court early and late. We were determined that the cup should remain in Lawn Ridge.

Just two days before the important day, Mr. Bancroft received a letter which for a time made things look

rather dark. It was from one of the Benshan boys saying that they were compelled to be out of town, and it would be impossible for them to take part in the game. However, their cousins, Lou and Sidney Benshan, were ready to fill the place if we so desired.

Nobody had ever heard of them, but we both declared we were willing to play them. A telegram was therefore sent to Roy Benshan accepting the opponents, and Saturday noon Mr. Bancroft, Guy and I were to meet the train.

"We can tell them by their rackets," said Guy, as we stood watching the passengers alight.

But although great numbers of people got off we knew were to be spectators at the game, there were no signs of our opponents.

Mr. Bancroft looked anxious, and Guy was about to jump aboard the cars to see whether they had failed to hear the name of the station called, when a young lad touched me on the arm and said,

"I beg your pardon, but can you tell me the way to Mr. Bancroft's place?"

"There is Mr. Bancroft," I replied, pointing toward him.

"Come on! Lou and Sid." These were the words the young man who had spoken to me, addressed to two young ladies—both very pretty. Each had a tennis bag in her hand. Could it be possible? our opponents were ladies!

Guy and I were both dumb-founded! In a few minutes we were all seated in Mr. Bancroft's carriage and talking merrily over the impression their cousin had given us of them.

Now, of course, we had played with girls before and often, but when we had practiced early and late to be prepared for two renowned champions of the racket, it was, to say the least, discouraging to be put up against a couple of girls.

We did not know what to do. Should we play off and allow the girls to carry home the cup?

Guy and I wandered off to a secluded part of the yard to talk the matter over. We could come to no decision, and finally agreed to trust to luck.

At three o'clock we went to the court. Here a gay scene was before us. Flags decorated the ground, and the little city band was waiting to play. The spectators were all surprised when they saw the two girls.

Mr. Bancroft made a brief word of explanation, and the game began.

We had made up our minds to treat the girls with fair and square play, so we did not offer them their choice of courts. However, they won the spin of the racket, and set us to play with the sun in our faces and the wind against us.

I served the first game, and some how I felt nervous. The first stroke went into the net, so did the second, and Mr. Bancroft called out, "Love fifteen!" I then gave them three points by fouls, and Lou Benshaw won the fourth, making it a "love game."

So far we were unable to judge what kind of players we had to deal with, but the next game gave us an idea. Sid Benshaw served, and we found her strokes quite puzzling. When we did make a good stroke, Lou proved to be an expert catcher.

We lost the second and third games. The spectators seemed quite amused over our uneasiness, and Mr. Bancroft smiled rather satirically.

After the third game we began to do a little better, we were getting over our nervousness, and the fourth game was a victory for us; but our opponents had got too good a start and they won the first set by six to three.

Then we changed courts, and the sun and wind were in our favor. We thought we should surely win the second set, but we failed.

We had agreed to play the best of five sets, and if they won any of the next three the final victory would be theirs, and the cup would be lost.

The third set was a close and exciting one, but we won two more games and the set. The fourth was also a victory for us, ending with a score of 6 to 2. It was growing late in the afternoon and all around there was little difference in the courts. When the fifth set began, we took the first game and soon stood five games to three. Every one was watching in great attention. We were doing fairly well but knew that we should not come out with very many laurels. It was Guy's turn to serve, and he won the first two points in fine style. He tried to get the fourth but succeeded in serving twice into the net, and this seemed to startle him. Mr. Bancroft called the score, "thirty-fourty," and we were within one point of losing the game. What happened next I well remember.

Guy served for the left hand court and got in a hard stroke which seemed to say success, but Lou Brenshaw took it easily and returned it down the right hand side of the court nearly out of my reach. I succeeded in getting it but my return was poor. I sent the ball just over the net. Lou Benshaw saw the chance and quick as a flash sprang forward, caught the ball on the volley and sent it flying down between us with such speed that we could not take it.

We stood and stared at each other. We had lost the game and—the cup.

EMMA CARPENTER.

WORD PICTURES.

One November evening about five o'clock; after the people had nearly all left the streets, I saw a lone boy standing as if waiting for a friend. He was a tall boy for one of his age, and his arms and legs were longer than they had any right to be. His clothes bought for him the winter before, were far too small.

The wind blowing down the street struck him as he stood on the corner, but instead of moving back against a building he stood at the outer edge of the sidewalk. As the wind blew harder and colder he turned up his collar and thrust his hands into the small pockets of his short trousers. The coat sleeve and pocket did not meet, and the unprotected wrist began to grow purple. The blood had long before left his uncovered ears, and the muscles of his face contracting gave him a sharp pinched look. He stood with his feet close together, his shoulders crouched over and at the same time hunched up as if they were being used as ear muffs. He waited patiently for a time, and then began to grow impatient as people hurrying home to supper passed him. At last giving his shoulders a little more of a hunch and thrusting his hands a little deeper into his

pockets, he walked down the street, I hope in the direction of a fire.

A. T. PRAY.

Mr. Chas. Quodely is a squarely built man with a yellow wrinkled face and a pair of eyes about as expressive of kindness as those of "Old Nick" himself. He usually has his face twisted up in a way intended to resemble a smile, though it never impresses any one as betraying any considerable degree of jollity. His wife has left him three times, once obtaining a divorce. The wonder is that she can live with him at all. It may, perhaps, be accounted for by the supposition that she herself does not possess a very amiable disposition. When once aroused, the fury of Mr. Quodely is so great that he immediately proceeds to demolish every thing he can lay hands on. At such times members of his family make it a special point to keep out of his way. He very seldom allows a week to pass without a violent fit of rage and the accompanying havoc in garden or house. His home is such an unpleasant place that all his children leave as soon as they are able to do for themselves; and it has acquired such a reputation throughout all the country round that it is called "the battle ground," and he is "the warrior."

STUART MUTCH.

He was a tall, slim, feminine-looking youth of about eighteen. His face, round and plump, was surrounded by curly black hair. He had a well-formed Roman nose, and a pair of dark blue eyes which sparkled with kindness and innocence. His appearance was graceful; his manners courteous; and his delicate soft white hands and pale cheeks showed no signs of the hard toils of life. When he spoke it was always in that low, weak soprano tone which had won for him the nickname of "Piping Willie." He was always fond of chats such as bring the conversers back to the same point from which they started, and would rather play a game of chess or sixty-six than enter into heavy athletic sports. Altogether he was what we called an all around "nice" man.

HARRY J. MORTENSON.

BRILLIANTS.

It must oft fall out
That one whose labor perfects any work,
Shall rise from it with eye so worn, that he
Of all men least can measure the extent
Of all he has accomplished.

ROBERT BROWNING.

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore;
There is society where none intrudes—
By the deep sea—and music in its roar.
I love not man the less but Nature more,
From these our interviews, in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the Universe, and feel
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot
All conceal.

LORD BYRON.

"The withered leaf is not dead and lost. There are forces in it and around it; though working in inverse order, else how could it rot? Despise not the rag from which paper is made, or the litter from which the earth makes corn."

CARLYLE.

THE NORMAL POINTER.

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EDITORIAL.

If you are interested in your school you are interested in your school paper. If you are interested in your school paper you will give it your aid and support. A school journal is the most difficult thing in the world to manage, and needs all the help it can get. It often happens that those who grumble the most at its management and cast the most slurring remarks at its managers, are those that do the least to make criticism unnecessary. They think that when they have elected a staff of editors their business with the paper is at an end—for what are the editors for, if not to run the paper? All very good, but though the editors appreciate this honor and confidence, they cannot run the paper alone with any degree of ease and success. They must have copy, subscriptions, "ads." And not least among their needs are sympathy and encouragement.

Now, we have had all these to a certain extent; but like the much-quoted *Oliver Twist* we want "more." Can you help us? If you can't give us copy, give us your subscription. If you can't do that, get us an "ad." If that is impossible give us your encouragement. If this is beyond you, keep still, and we will do the best we can.

Seriously, we need your help, and we must have it. How long shall we be forced to wait for it?

We have become so accustomed to the annual Christmas celebrations that we rarely think of their origin.

The first assembly, of which we have any record, that gathered to commemorate the birth of Christ, met in the city of Nicomedia about the end of the second century; and from a small beginning the anniversary of Christ's birthday is now almost universally observed throughout the Christian world.

The manner of celebrating these anniversaries has been constantly changing under various influences

from simple prayer and worship to the different customs we see observed to-day. Although we associate Christianity with all our Christmas customs many of them are of Pagan origin, based upon some ancient legend.

The Teutonic tribes of western Europe, when first visited by the Christian missionaries practiced various religious rites, some of which were so deeply rooted in their natures that when these tribes adopted Christianity they retained many of their old customs, but changed them to conform to their idea of the new faith. From these Pagan sources we obtain three of our most popular Christian observances, the burning of the yule log, the Christmas tree and the hanging up of the mistletoe. The custom of burning the yule log is derived from the ancient Scandinavians who were in the habit of celebrating a mid-winter feast called "Juul" at which large fires were kindled in honor of their god Thor. As this feast was usually held in the latter part of December we can see how our Scandinavian forefathers could easily change the date to conform to our Christmas.

The hanging up of the mistletoe like the burning of the yule log is based upon Scandinavian mythology; but the burning of the yule log was always accompanied by a great feast of rejoicing where rank and enmity were forgotten and all met on a social equality, while the gathering of the mistletoe was a solemn religious rite. The time of gathering the mistletoe was at the winter solstice; the priests and people marched in solemn procession to the forest where only such vines as grew on the sacred oak were selected. They were cut down with a golden knife kept for the purpose and divided among the people, who imagined the mistletoe possessed the power of preventing the evil spirits from entering the house in which it was hung. During these religious ceremonies a white bull was burned on the altar at the foot of the oak from which the mistletoe was taken; but human sacrifice was sometimes resorted to in order to appease an angry god.

For the Christmas tree, that most beautiful of holiday customs, we are indebted to the imaginative minds of the Germans. What relations the Christmas tree maintained in the early religious ceremonies is not definitely known; but the Germans like their Scandinavian brethren celebrated the winter solstice, at which time a green tree was decked with nuts and fruit to show their faith in the goodness and power of this sun god to clothe the earth again in green and load the tree with fruit.

Thus we see there was a mutual exchange between Paganism and Christianity. Christianity inspired Paganism with higher moral and ethical ideals, while Christianity gained many customs which did much to promote the pleasures of modern civilization.

H. L. GARDNER.

The Polly Con class certainly felt repaid the Saturday night after the examination, for the struggles of the last fifteen weeks. Life, somehow, seemed worth living after all.

The Juniors find themselves the most entertaining of hosts and the most delightful of guests.

LOCAL.

GENERAL.

The members of the faculty helped to make the Thanksgiving recess pleasant for those students who remained in the city, by entertaining them Friday evening, Nov. 27th. The students were received in the gymnasium at 7:30 and two hours were spent in agreeable conversation and games. Promptly at 9:30 refreshments were announced, and keeping step to the beautiful march played upon the mandolin and guitar by the Messrs. Fred Olin and Henry Rivers the students were led to the first floor where the refreshments were served. The main corridor reaching the full length of the building had been converted into a dining room with tables extending throughout its length. These were loaded with apples, pyramids of sandwiches, bushels of peanuts, and cakes without number. The savory smell of steaming coffee was wafted from the direction of an adjoining room and what, with a willing faculty to distribute these bounties, could the guests more desire? After doing more than justice to this bounteous repast, the pleasantest feature of the program was still to come. When President Pray acting as toastmaster, called for the "Woes of the Day After," the beaming countenance of Prof. Culver was seen above all the rest, and of course the applause was great. Prof. Culver gave a very amusing little talk in which he established the law that the good nature of a person varies directly with his height. When Prof. Swift was called upon he did not leave the field of psychology, but appealed directly to the emotions. His humorous remarks and pleasing stories were the occasion of much merriment among his audience. When President Pray announced "Pomo et goober" as the subject of the next toast, the listeners were at a loss to know what to expect. But when Prof. Collins, with mathematical preciseness showed how "pomo" stood for apples and "goober" for peanuts, the answer was given. Then the professor taking the example of the growth of those big, rosy apples from sour crabs, made some pleasing applications to the student body. When he demonstrated that peanuts were a sign of intellect and culture he was immediately marked 100 per cent. At the close of his speech the guests were again invited to the gymnasium, where a solo was rendered by Mrs. Hunter and another selection by the sextet. Allan Pray also sang a solo with accompaniment on piano and mandolin by Miss Warren and Mr. Fruit. At 11:00 the company bade adieu to the faculty, declaring that they had spent the most enjoyable evening of the season.

And lo and behold it cometh to pass, that as he hurrieth down the main hall and glanceth into room 30, he beholdeth the whole junior class sitting around their great chieftain, holding council with one another. As he draweth near his heart filleth with the anticipation of sandwiches, coffee, cakes and ice cream, for of a certainty they lay plans for their first reception. Louder and louder grows the clamor as they appoint committees and name a day for the great re-union of all Juniors. His thought flieth forward to the time

when he shall be with them, eating, drinking and making merry; but then he remembereth that he is but a Senior and such joys are not for him. So, closing the door, he walketh onward and leaveth the Juniors in the room alone.

The work in library reading has now begun in real earnest. Miss Warren has charge of the work in which every member of the school is supposed to take part. For convenience, the school has been divided into six sections which meet in regular order, one section each day. Miss Warren has spent three years at the Armour Institute in preparing herself for her work, so an exceptional opportunity is offered to learn the best methods of library arrangement. Our library, although it contains only four thousand volumes, is arranged, and the books are catalogued, on the same plan as all the larger libraries of the country. If we learn how to make the best use of this one we will not be "lost" in any library, even though it contain seventy-five thousand volumes.

Prof. and Mrs. Sanford entertained the members of the Political Economy class at their home Saturday evening, Dec. 5th. One of the features of the evening was a guessing contest. Drawings representing common terms in economics were distributed in various parts of the house and the guests given cards upon which to write the term that each drawing represented. Miss Myers won the honor of guessing all correctly and Mr. Frohmader was equally successful in winning the other honor. Refreshments were served during the evening and music and story telling followed. The entire class veted the occasion a happy closing of fifteen weeks hard work in Political Economy.

One of the most pleasant occasions of the year was the entertainment of the students of the drawing classes and sketch club by Miss Tanner, Thursday afternoon, Nov. 26th. They were received in the art studio, which had been decorated for the occasion by reproductions of paintings of the great masters and sketches clipped from leading magazines and the work of the drawing classes. Refreshments were served during the afternoon, following which a musical entertainment was given in the assembly room. A novel feature was the competition in the illustrating by an original drawing of the titles of noted books. Mr. Barker received first prize and Miss Nelson second.

The new, noiseless engine, which was put in lately, is now in use. The engine was made in Syracuse, New York, and was set up by Mr. Cook, manager of the Cook Iron Foundry of this city. Although no one would suppose it to be a noiseless engine to hear the workmen putting it in, yet it runs almost without a sound. It has been tested by Mr. King, the state inspector of Normal school machinery, and pronounced a success.

A large number of students are busy at work getting ready for the mid-winter athletic contest. A class for club swinging has been organized, which meets for practice on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Entries have been made for vaulting, standing and running broad jump, high jump, kicking, etc.

The Forum held an unusually profitable meeting Dec. 4th. The purpose was to learn how county con-

ventions are conducted and the members learned by doing. A county convention was duly called, delegates elected by the several towns of the county and on that occasion they organized a county convention and nominated candidates for county offices. Great interest was shown and much profit was derived from the meeting.

Preparations are being made for the local oratorical contest to be held soon after the holidays and which is to decide who shall represent our Normal at the inter-Normal contest. Prof. McCaskill recently addressed those who were interested in the subject and much interest was shown. If we are to judge from the present indications there will be about ten contestants at the local contest.

At the beginning of this school year the time allowed for Political Economy, Civil Government and U. S. History was changed from twenty to fifteen weeks. As a result those studies ended in the middle of this quarter and final examinations were given Friday, December 4th. The final examination was given in professional grammar at the same time.

An evidence of the interest in the geography work is the informal club for nature study that is in operation in this department. It was originated by the students themselves, who invited Mrs. Elliott to direct their researches.

Basket ball is becoming quite a prominent feature in the athletics of several of our neighboring colleges. Our school has three football teams, several battle-ball teams but no basket ball player.

Four preparatory classes are being taught this quarter by practice teachers. H. L. Gardner has the grammar class, Chas. Boles history, Allan Pray reading and W. Nicholas arithmetic.

Have you noticed the large number of students who wear glasses? Probably twenty-five per cent. of the whole number in attendance are troubled with weak eyes.

PERSONAL.

Miss Edith Hamacker has re-entered school.

Miss Mary Latham was a visitor at the school recently.

Mr. Wight, of Eau Claire, was a visitor at the school Nov. 28th.

A number of new slate black-boards have been placed in Room 10.

Several of the Senior girls have appeared with the class colors.

Several new tables have recently been added to the library furniture.

Miss Burns, teacher in the city schools, is a frequent visitor at the school.

J. E. Hanzlik, '97, has withdrawn to teach school at Casinovia, Richland county.

A. L. Larkin was unable to be at school Dec. 2d and 3d on account of sickness.

Mrs. Spaulding and Mrs. Curran visited the various departments of the school Dec. 1st.

Chase will have a fine line of toothsome sweets for the holiday trade. Fine box goods a specialty.

Challis Carr attempted to stop the engine by main force and as a result is carrying his hand in a sling.

Student.—“Don't most people jump at conclusions?”

Professor.—“Yes, every one jumps in a measure.”

A certain fact was doubly impressed by the teacher when she declared that it happened that way 99 times out of 10.

Representatives of the River Falls Normal school, and the Superior Normal, are to have a debating contest before the holidays.

The psychology club held an interesting meeting Dec. 1st. Mr. Blencoe was leader, and the topic for the evening was “The Automaton Theory.”

Wanted by the Senior girls—A stenographer to keep the minutes of their meetings. Must be without nerves, and able to take down 5000 words per minute.

Professor.—“You can get the text book librarian to show you the book.”

Student.—“Which one, the librarian or the assistant?”

Joseph Baker, elementary class '96, who is principal of the school at Auburndale, spent one day of his Thanksgiving vacation in visiting the Model Departments.

The board of Normal School visitors was here one day last month inspecting the building and appliances. They will report at a meeting of the board to be held Dec. 22.

President Pray recently lectured before an institute at Antigo and while there took occasion to visit the high school. He also visited the schools of Rhineland.

Miss A. (to nervous individual)—“Mr. B. I fear you are going to have St. Vitus' dance.”

Mr. B. (solemnly)—“Oh, no! Can't. I don't believe in dancing.”

The psychology class find the subject of “emotions” very interesting. Judging from the large number of students and teachers who have visited the class lately, the interest must be general.

Prof. Sylvester sailed for Europe on the steamship “Werra” Dec. 9th. He has been spending the last two weeks in and around New York city and will remain in Rome and Naples during the winter.

Jacob (to his big brother)—“Isaac, can you name the Jewish prophets?”

Isaac.—“Oh! yes, my boy. Twenty per cent. on dry goods, and fifteen per cent. on groceries.”

A large number of the students have availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase copies of Ian McClaren's “Bonnie Brier Bush” offered by Pres. Pray. By sending for a large number of copies at one purchase, they were to be had at a very small cost.

Several changes have been made in Room 39. The adjacent attic has been made use of as a store house for the microscopes and other apparatus, and a new case added to hold the biological specimens. This change gives more room for class work, besides improving the appearance of the room.

ATHLETIC.

The athletic association has arranged for two entertainments to be given during the winter. The first will be a musical entertainment, but the second more of the nature of an indoor athletic contest combined with a club swinging exhibition. A large number of entries have been made for the different events and already training and practice have begun.

The Madison University eleven has been awarded the western championship after a wrangle with the other claimants who had less right to the title.

The following from the Times-Herald shows the attitude that the Kansas senators have taken towards the "national game:"

On football Kansas senators
Think they have got the "edge,"
They'll legislate out of the state
The deadly "flying wedge."

They wag their whiskers gravely,
And solemnly they say,
To keep the boys from playing
Make it felony to play.

So all the schools and colleges
Within the sunflower state
Have felons on their rolls
And felons up to date.

Now that the football season is practically ended, a short review of the standing of the two teams since the first game in '94 will not be amiss. In the following summary the abbreviations are, T. D., touchdown, and G. K., goals kicked:

FIRST ELEVEN.				
Season of '94.	T.	D.	G.	K.
Appleton.....	1	1	Stevens Point.....	1 0
Season of '95.				
Green Bay.....	0	0	Stevens Point.....	8 7
Appleton.....	0	0	Stevens Point.....	2 0
Eau Claire.....	0	0	Stevens Point.....	4 2
Whitewater.....	2	1	Stevens Point.....	0 0
Season of '96.				
Oshkosh.....	0	0	Stevens Point.....	7 6
Oshkosh.....	4	3	Stevens Point.....	1 1
Whitewater.....	2	1	Stevens Point.....	2 2
Appleton.....	2	2	Stevens Point.....	4 4
Total.....	11	8	Total.....	29 22

SECOND ELEVEN.				
Season of '94.	T.	D.	G.	K.
Waupaca.....	0	0	Stevens Point.....	4 1
Grand Rapids.....	1	1	Stevens Point.....	2 2
Waupaca.....	0	0	Stevens Point.....	8 7
Grand Rapids.....	1	1	Stevens Point.....	1 6
Total.....	2	2	Total.....	15 10

This makes the total number of touchdowns made by the Stevens Point elevens 44; by the opponents 13; the total number of goals kicked by the home teams 32; by the opponents 10. Following is a tabulation of the scores

Season of '94.	T.	D.	G.	K.
Appleton.....	6	Stevens Point 1st.....	4	
Season of '95.				
Green Bay.....	0	Stevens Point.....	46	
Appleton.....	0	Stevens Point.....	8	
Eau Claire.....	0	Stevens Point.....	20	
Whitewater.....	10	Stevens Point.....	0	

Season of '96.	T.	D.	G.	K.
Oshkosh.....	0	Stevens Point.....	40	
Oshkosh.....	22	Stevens Point.....	6	
Whitewater.....	10	Stevens Point.....	12	
Appleton.....	12	Stevens Point.....	24	
Total.....	60	Total.....	160	
Waupaca.....	0	Stevens Point 2d.....	18	
Grand Rapids.....	6	Stevens Point.....	12	
Waupaca.....	0	Stevens Point.....	46	
Grand Rapids.....	6	Stevens Point.....	4	
Total.....	12	Total.....	80	

This results in a total of 240 points made by the Stevens Point teams and 72 by the opponents, a very good record, and one of which we are justly proud. A comparison between the first and second elevens can not be easily made, as they are not of the same class, but the second eleven like the first have reason to be proud of their record. During the season the first eleven has made 14 touchdowns and kicked 13 goals, thereby making 82 points, while the second eleven has made 15 touchdowns and kicked 10 goals, amounting to 80 points.

Now that the daily papers have no, or at any rate but few, football games to report, the saying of "nothing but football and politics in the paper" is not as true as it was during the earlier part of the season. Still we find a few articles on football, and one in the Times-Herald of Dec. 6th contains the opinions of the presidents of several of the leading colleges and universities which support elevens, on the game. President J. B. Angell of the University of Michigan says "football is in a way a necessary adjunct to college life. As to the actual benefit students derive from football I am not certain. Like anything else, if indulged in to excess, it produces baneful results."

President H. W. Rogers, Northwestern University: "No person whose knowledge of the game is sufficient to entitle him to form an intelligent judgment will deny that the game tends to develop in the players the very desirable qualities of patience, sobriety, courage, good temper, self control and subordination. No person can play football successfully and indulge in excesses of any kind."

President W. R. Harper, University of Chicago: "I consider football a great game and believe it should be encouraged in every legitimate way. It was never meant to be a slugging match and I do not believe that it is. I know the men who play in the U of Chicago teams and I know them to be gentlemen. The vicious and the bruisers could absolutely not find a place on a good college team."

The foregoing are but extracts from the talks of many presidents and football players upon the great American college game. All or most that we hear about the brutality exhibited is from the lips of those who do not understand or else have never seen a game of football. To understand the game is to sanction the playing, for no person seeing the benefits derived by the players can truthfully say they believe it should be stopped, or governed by legislative enactments. The latter is an unnecessary precaution and we hope it will not be resorted to by those now opposed to the game.

EXCHANGES.

The Argus appears this year in a new and improved form.

"The Silent Man's Thanksgiving," a story in the Climax, is worth reading.

Cornell will no longer make Latin and Greek requisite for the degree of A. B.

James Whitcomb Riley has recently published a new book entitled "A Child World."

Massachusetts leads all the eastern states in the number of pupils in her high schools.

A beautiful statue in honor of Robert Burns has recently been unveiled at Paisley, Scotland.

The Wisconsin Times of Nov. 19 contains an article well worth reading entitled "A Shower of Meteors"

Brooker T. Washington of Tuskegee, Ala., received the degree of Master of Arts from Harvard College last commencement.

Be loyal. The student who simply pores over his books and takes no interest in college life is a drawback to his college.—Ex.

Many colleges whose object is the attainment of fluency of speech in French and German, have clubs. Oberlin has a German club of forty.

Russia, whose calendar is twelve days behind ours, proposes to change to the Gregorian calendar after the beginning of the new century.—Normal News.

The corner stone of the Hall of History was laid at Washington Oct. 21. This is the beginning of a group of buildings to compose the American University.

You may find balm for the lover crossed,

Or the candidate who's defeated;

But the only balm for a ball game lost

Is to swear the umpire cheated.

—Ex.

Eaton college was founded by Henry VI about 1443. Alfred the great, established Oxford University in 879. Lawrence Sheriff founded the famous Rugby school in 1567..

The literary society of the River Falls normal has been challenged to debate with the literary society of the Superior normal, time, place and subject to be decided upon later.

Prof. in Political Economy—"Was the examination hard?"

Student (after having written three hours)—"Yes, sir: hard on the wrist."

The quintet coterie of Edinburgh University authors is broken in the death of R. L. Stevenson. There yet remains Ian Maclaren, J. M. Barrie, I. R. Crockett and Henry Drummond.

An excellent collection of geometrical models valued at several thousand dollars has been added to the equipment of Yale University. The models are made of polished brass and glass.

Two new magazines, The American Nationalist and The Chautauquan, have been added to our list of periodicals. It will pay you to look them over and see how they can help you in your work.

The School Outlook of Fond du Lac published in the November issue an interesting description of the personal appearance of Ian Maclaren together with some interesting extracts from his lecture given at Appleton.

In the 197 free high schools of the state are employed 516 teachers. Seventy-four of the principals are University graduates and 66 graduates of normal schools. Of the assistants 134 are college or university graduates and 89 normal school graduates.

The faculty conducted the examinations upon a different plan than usual. Instead of having a regular examination for two hours, each class was given a test for two days during the recitation period, and most of the papers were not filed.—The Normal Badger.

The president of the New York city board of education has decided, in order to put a stop to cigarette smoking among the pupils of the public schools, to give a badge to every pupil of the school having the largest proportionate roll of anti-cigarette smokers.

A prehistoric city has been discovered by scientists from the University of Pennsylvania. It is near the ancient city of Babylon. It is supposed to date back 700 years B. C. Many cuneiform writings were found in an excellent state of preservation.—Beloit H. S. Ephor.

It is said the following lines were found on the fly leaf of a school girl's psychology text book:

If there should be another flood

For refuge hither fly:

Though all the world should be submerged

This book would still be dry.

—Ex.

The following extract from Harpers Bazaar is of interest to advocates of vertical writing:

"The Kansas City board of education has just decided that the vertical system of penmanship which began to be the fashion in New York a couple of years ago shall hereafter be taught in their public schools."

The Oracle has a spicy column of side talks with boys and girls in the November issue. From it we clip the following:

"Total Ignorance—Gum may be chewed in chapel, at recitations, during calls, in street cars or wherever there is a crowd who will appreciate 'poetry of motion,' as exemplified by the movements of your jaw. In chapel, especially, it contributes to the dignity of the scene."

This is in "side talks to girls." If we were to make the application in the Stevens Point Normal we should label it "side talks to boys."

MODEL SCHOOL.

FIFTH GRADE. THE BUTTERFLY.

The butterfly is very beautiful with its brilliant colors. Sometimes poets have called them "flying flowers," because they look like the petals of flowers flying around from one flower to another.

The butterfly lays its eggs on some soft leaf, that it thinks the young ones will like to eat—it generally chooses a carrot or cabbage leaf—then it flies away and leaves the sun to take care of them.

In a few days they turn black and in a week or two out comes a little green worm. It eats and eats all the leaf but the midrib. Then it lies down and rests awhile. When it is done resting it begins to spin a cocoon around itself; then it lies down and sleeps. After it has slept about a month the cocoon cracks and out comes a beautiful butterfly.

Don't you think it deserves the name of a "flying flower?"

FRED SOMERS.
Aged 11.

Stevens Point, Wis., Dec. 9, 1896.

Dear Santa Claus:

Will you bring my cousin a sled and a pair of shoes? Will you bring me a pair of shoe-packs and a pair of skates? Yours Truly, WAYNE BENTLEY.

Dear Santa Claus:—Please bring my little brother Louis a horse, and bring me a gun and a sword.

SPURR HEEFEL.

Dear Santa Claus:—I would like to have you bring my sister a wheel and a gold watch, and I would like a gold watch too.

NORMA STEWART.

Dear Santa Claus:—I want a harness and a whip and collar and a sled for my dog. And I want some books, and I want a rocking chair.

WILLIE CLIFFORD.

Dear Santa Claus:—I would like a sled, some candy, some handkerchiefs. Then I would like something for my brother and little sister.

VERA EATON.

Dear Santa Claus:—I want you to bring me a stocking of candy and a ball with it, and I want you to bring me a jumping-jack too and a boat with it.

The corner of Clark and Division st.

LAWRENCE PARK.

FOURTH GRADE.

A MORNING WALK.

On my way to school this morning the ground was covered with snow. The trees looked as though they were wrapped up in white blankets. It seemed as if the little fairies had had a party in the night and had hung all their beautiful garments on the trees. The little snow flakes look like diamonds in the sun. The old pine trees are covered with frost. The frost on the trees looks like little white fringes hanging from the branches.

There were some little snow birds hopping through the street. I think they got the name "snow bird" because they like snowy weather.

I can not tell which I do like the best, summer or winter, because summer has birds, bees and flowers and many other things. And winter has snow and ice and merry Christmas.

ADA MOEN.

STEVENS POINT, WIS., Nov. 30, 1896.

Dear friend: I spent a very nice Thanksgiving. In the morning I did up my chores and played. After I had eaten my dinner my brother and I went out riding and we did not get home until late in the afternoon. Then I did up my work and ate my supper. After supper I read a story and then I went to bed. In a few weeks I will write and tell you how I spent my Christmas vacation.

Yours lovingly,

FRED SOMERS.

STEVENS POINT, WIS., Dec. 1, 1896.

Dear Miss Quinn: I had a very nice time during my vacation, for I went skating and had lots of fun. Thanksgiving day we had a very large dinner and I ate so much that I did not feel like stirring out of the house. After dinner I lay down on the sofa and read a little while and then went to sleep. Friday I went skating for a very short time; for it was so very cold. From there I went over to my cousin's, where we played all sorts of games.

Yours lovingly,

JESSIE GLOVER.

BRILLIANTS.

"Rose, on this terrace fifty years ago,

When I was in my June, you in your May,
Two words, "My Rose," set all your face aglow.

And now that I am white, and you are gray,
That blush of fifty years ago, my dear,

Blooms in the past, but close to me, to-day.

As this red rose, which in our terrace here,

Glow in the blue of fifty miles away."

TENNYSON.

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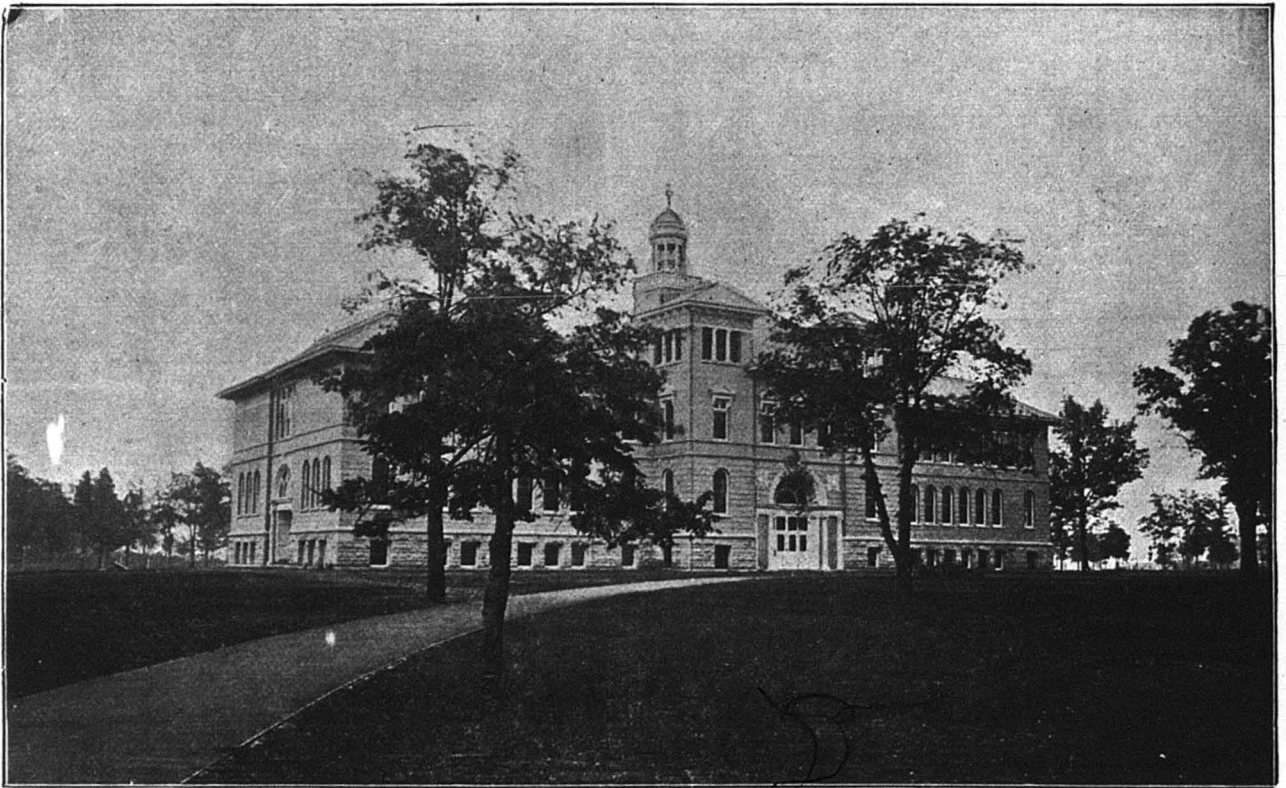
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Fourth Quarter begins April 12, 1897.

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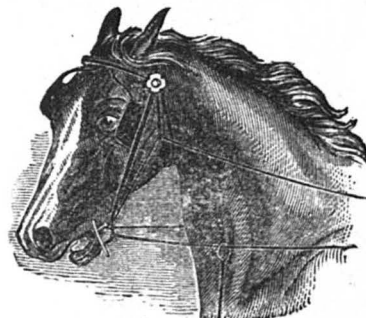
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