

The College Monthly

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No. 6.

Written for The College Monthly: WHO SHALL SPEND THE FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS?

THE expenditure of \$15 000, annually appropriated by Congress to the College, for the purpose of conducting experiments for the benefit of agriculture, imposes upon those having the matter in charge no slight burden. To spend money is easy enough. To try experiments in agriculture is not difficult. Every farmer for generations has tried experiments to his sorrow. But to spend fifteen thousand dollars annually in experiments that shall prove of such decided benefit to agriculture as to convince the Commonwealth and the nation that the money has been well spent cannot but demand in the director, or directors, ability that approximates to genius, an ability that can command in other occupations exceptional remuneration and honor.

Results should be sought for in two different directions. The experiment that shall reveal to the farmer some error in principle or in practice that hinders agriculture from attaining its highest success equally with the experiment that shall prove to agriculture what the invention of the steam engine or the electric motor has to science, will be worth all that it may cost.

It is a little strange that in the history of the world, agriculture has been idolized, but the agriculturist, the average farmer, has been neglected, despised, and at length forced into the condition of peasants, serfs, or slaves. The farmers of Greece and Rome were slaves, of the middle ages were serfs, of Europe today are peasants. In 1880 twenty-six per-cent of the farmers of the United States were tenant farmers. Today the number of tenant farmers is on the increase, and from the farming class generally there comes the cry of the depression of agriculture. What the farmer of the future in the United States shall be, peasant or independ-

ant proprietor, history alone can reveal.

The friends of the farmer hope that the experiments, conducted under the patronage of the general government may result in disclosing obstacles that have hindered the progress of agriculture and also in discovering new principles and methods by which the farmer may master not only his physical, but also his social environment.

Who is the man that is fitted to disclose the error that the ages have concealed and to discover the process that shall revolutionize some one or other of the departments of agriculture? Surely the problems are not all solved! To the cunning enquirer nature has many things yet to say about new varieties of fruits and flowers, of plants and animals, of soils and growth. Who is the man that shall open this realm of the undiscovered in agriculture?

He must be a man of insight and of broad outlook. He should be familiar with what has already been accomplished. He must be no slave of details. Many an inventor has spent years on an invention that had been patented long before, tried, and found to be useless. We want no such inventions in agriculture. The successful investigator in agriculture must be a man who can, out of innumerable details, and unessential elements, seize upon the dominant principle and follow it out patiently through all its deviations to its marvelous results. If one or more of the many states shall be fortunate enough to secure such a director for the experiment station, the work of this man will more than compensate the nation for its outlay. For he will remove the obstacle and reveal the principle that shall result in the progress of agriculture a progress made not at the expense of the tiller of the soil whom it shall degrade to the condition of the peasant, but a progress that shall involve in its very nature first and foremost the transformation of the peasant into the independent and prosperous proprietor of the soil.

C. S. WALKER.

THE COLLEGE MONTHLY.

"Mulum in Parvo."

Master Claude F. Walker,
Editor & Publisher.

AMHERST, MASS.

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TO OUR FRIENDS: -

The success of The College Monthly has become assured. That our unpretentious journal meets a demand of the times, is evident from many letters received at this office of which the following from an alumnus and energetic trustee of the College is a specimen.

"Your little sheet called The College Monthly is just received, and I have read it through with pleasure. It is a very creditable little publication, and you may enroll me among its subscribers. It should, and no doubt will be, appreciated by every graduate and student of the College, as some such medium for giving the latest news is very desirable*** Editorially and mechanically it is good and I shall look forward with pleasure for the coming issues."

The next mail brought letters from three other trustees with requests to be enrolled among our subscribers. One of them writes:-- "It gives me great pleasure to become one of your regular subscribers and enclose one dollar in return for which please send me four copies."

We shall continue in the future as in the past to devote our columns to Agricultural Education. We shall endeavor especially to keep the farmers of the State informed of what is going on at the college, which has been established for their especial benefit to the end that they may each year send a larger number of young men to enjoy its advantages. But let it be understood that the editor alone is responsible for all that appears in our columns which we intend shall ever contain "Mulum in Parvo."

COLLEGE NEWS.

--Hayward returned to college March 17.

--Fire buckets have lately been placed in the college buildings.

--The Kendall prizes are to be awarded again next commencement.

--Some of the students started for the fire Monday night but soon came back.

--Mr. W. H. Caldwell closes his connection with the Experiment Station, April 1.

--Parsons, Moore, and Knapp, are taking a special course in quantitative analysis.

--One of the freshmen, found in a snow-drift, proved to be "Gay" and testive still.

--Mr. Allen, the first assistant at the Experiment Station, has decided to go to Germany for further study.

--Many persons about the College have to thank farmer Wright and a company of students for digging them out after the storm.

--Mr. R. B. Moore, Framingham, has been chosen to represent the class of '88 at the Commencement at the Boston University.

--Prof. H. E. Alvord has sent in his resignation to take effect in July. He has been offered the Presidency of the Maryland Agricultural College.

--Rev. Austin Bassett, of Williamstown, formerly professor of mathematics at this College, preached in the chapel in exchange with Prof. Walker.

--S. B. Green, Class of '79, Superintendent at the Plant House, has left to take charge of the Horticultural Department of the Minnesota Agricultural College.

--During the coming year the appropriation from the Hatch Bill will be expended in experiments in the departments of agriculture, horticulture, meteorology and chemistry under the direction of the president, the heads of the different departments, and a committee of the trustees.

--A letter received from Mr. H. J. Wheeler, formerly first assistant at the Experiment Station, announces that he is about to close his first year at Gottingen, and will soon begin his graduating thesis. He reports that Messrs Stone, Harris, and Irish are prospering, and the latter, having received his degree, may be addressed Dr. Irish.



NOON AT THE COLLEGE BOARDING HOUSE.

Written for The College Monthly:
Noon at the College Boarding House.

Noon by the sharply clanging bell!
 Noon by the noisy gong!
 Eagerly, round the well spread board,
 Gather the hungry throng.

Embryo statesmen, noble souls
 For knowledge all aflame;
 The future judges- presidents-
 All. candidates for fame

Behold them at their noon H.E. meal,
 The din is heard afar;
 Now "Greek to Greek" in ardent strife,
 Now "comes the tug of war."

Here, one with a determined air
 Appropriates the bread;
 While there, a youthful scientist
 The salad grasps instead.

And one, with thunder on his brow,
 And lightning in his eye,
 In tones by practice perfected,
 Vociferates for pie.

The diplomat of coming years,
 Doth taste and skill disclose.
 From upturned pitcher, down his throat,
 The lacteal fluid flows.

There, one of an enquiring mind,
 Low o'er his soup plate bends;
 His neighbor on the left, aloft
 His vigorous arm extends

With frightful gestures- knife in hand,
 Reckless of human life,
 His wants unmet, he loud declares,
 War to the (carving) knife.

The freshman, late from peaceful home,
 Surveys with fear and dread,
 This scene, where dire confusion reigns-
 This strife for daily bread.

Aghast the boarding mistress stands,
 To smile she still will strive,
 Yet daily thanks her lucky stars,
 To find she's still alive.

**BAY STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.
 PRIZES FOR ESSAYS.**

The Bay State Agricultural Society offer the following prizes, contributed by a member of the Board of trustees:

For the three best Essays on any Agricultural topic, delivered before any farmers' club, or Institute, required by the rules of the State Board of Agriculture during the season of 1887-8, 1st, \$50; 2d, \$40; 3d, \$30.

No objection to any of these Essays having been read before more than one farmers' club or institute. Prize essays will be published in the Societies transactions for 1888, and should be sent to the secretary before Dec. 15th of that year.

W. S. Lincoln, Sec.
 Worcester, Sep. 1, 1887.

Nothing is too small to escape the notice of the Editor- not even the man who tries to get his paper for nothing.

Here's to the Lth of the new Congress.

How to make a match safe-soak it in water.

Do n't fail to read the advertisement on our last page.

The Grange.

THE MASSACHUSETTS INSPECTORS.

The following were elected for inspectors during the year:—

H. A. Barton, of Pittsfield, for Western Massachusetts.

G. R. Chase, of Medfield, for Eastern Massachusetts.

A. N. Blood, of Petersham, for Middlesex County north.

S. B. Cook, of Pepperill, for Worcester County north.

S. V. Crane, of Blackstone, for Norfolk County.

N. B. Douglas, of Sherborn, for South Eastern Massachusetts.

J. Q. Evans, of Amesbury, for Essex County.

Mrs. F. A. Harrington, of Worcester, for Worcester county central.

E. D. Howe, of Marblehead, for Middlesex County south.

D. A. Horton, of Northampton, for Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties.

A. A. Metcalf, of Holden, for Worcester County west.

A. C. Stoddard, of North Brookfield, for Worcester county south.

C. A. Wood, of Hudson, for Middlesex County central.

THE AMHERST GRANGE.

The following programme will be carried out during the next month:—

APRIL 6, Business. Women and the the Grange. Mrs. J. C. Dillon. Spring and its influences. H. T. Sabin.

APRIL 13, Open meeting. Fruit culture, Prof. S. T. Maynard.

APRIL 20, Business. What and how shall I plant? W. D. Crocker. Ralph Waldo Emerson. His life and works. Mrs. C. E. Wilson.

ARBOR DAY, Open meeting. Arbor day and its influences. Rev. G. E. Fisher. How shall I arrange my flower-bed? Mrs. E. C. Parker.

A meeting held at Springfield, March 3, organized the Springfield District Grange and appointed Herbert Myrick temporary master until the next meeting, when the regular officers will be chosen.

South Hadley is the sixth town in the Connecticut Valley and the fifteenth since the meeting of the State Grange last December to organize a grange, and the work still goes on!

Massachusetts Agricultural College,

Botanical Department.

AMHERST, MASS.

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