Tuesday, March 14, 1876

“The unwritten only still belongs to thee: Take heed, and ponder well what that shall be.”

The events of this school-day have seemed in perfect accordance with the weather. The clear atmosphere has filled our school-room all day, not merely to ventilate it, but to infuse teachers and pupils with its strength – giving power. Imagining the walls of the building as a barrier between the inside and outside world, one might say, “there has been an internal adjustment to external relations.”

A proposed course of lectures, of Astronomy by Prof. Proctor, was spoken of this morning, and we were advised to avail ourselves not merely of this particular opportunity, but to widen our knowledge by all like advantages.

As teachers we need not so much to become familiar with the outline of a few facts, which comprise the subjects we teach, but to feel and know as Hamlet says, – “There are more things in Heaven and earth, Horatio than you have dreamt of, in your philosophy.”

Written by C.E.W.

Wednesday, March 15, 1876

This morning a new round in the speaking exercise was begun, with this change: that the name of the author should not be given, but should be guessed after we had heard the piece. Three selections were given, and in each case the right name was guessed the first time. If we look back a year and a half, to the beginning of this exercise, and remember it as it was then, both in regard
to the selections and the manner of reciting them, we cannot fail to see a great improvement. I think it was a “small beginning,” but Lowell says,

“O small beginnings, ye are great and strong,
Based on a faithful heart and weariless brain!
Ye build the future fair, ye conquer wrong,
Ye earn the crown, and wear it not in vain.”

There are to-day, two more new books on the shelves: Vols. I and II of Duyckinck’s “Cyclopaedia of American Literature. [no end quotes]

Goethe says, “Rest is not quitting the busy career,
Rest is the sitting of self for one’s sphere.”

Is not our work here then, in one sense rest?”

It does not seem consistent that the days should be so cold when they are so many hours long, and the sun is so high.

A.G.P.

Thursday, March 16, 1876.2

I hardly think the school has been as wide awake to day as usual; perhaps this is due to the weather which has been rather gloomy. The lessons went on as usual this morning, with the exception of a lecture, or informal talk given by Mr. Brown to the first class on that grand old philosopher, Socrates.

In the early part of the week, the appearance of four busts in the Hall, attracted considerable attention. Much curiosity was expressed to know whose heads there represented. It didn’t require much penetration to see that it was not the form but the expression of the faces that indicated the minds behind them: or as Mr. Brown expresses it, “the beauty of the soul shining through the face. [no end quotes]

The singing to day has been more musical than usual. All the classes have lessons which are rather high for untrained voiced, and it has been a succession of squeaks all through the day.

J.L.D.

Friday, March 17 1876.2

St. Patrick’s Day
St. Patrick possessed the essential qualities of a true teacher, Humility and Charity, and it is with these powerful weapons he planted in those Pagan hearts, not only the faith, but the spirit of Christ.

In religion he represents no creed; he stands for the whole Christian world, and as such, every Christian owes a debt of gratitude to him who lifted a nation from the slavery of idolatry to the freedom of Christianity.

The seventeenth of March has ever been a true friend to freedom. It was on this day, one hundred years ago, the British evacuated Boston. Previous to this, Dorchester Heights were occupied and fortified by the Americans; and the latter had made such progress that the English dared not remain much longer. At ten o’clock in the forenoon they were all under sail. And soon after the Americans took possession of the town.

The day is still more memorable in Russia; for on this day in eighteen hundred and sixty one more than a million Russian serfs were emancipated from slavery.

It would seem to be a day dedicated by Providence to the cause of Justice and Liberty.

Y.M.A.

Saturday, March 18, 1876.2

The school has seemed to be in very good spirits today. We cannot but enjoy such a day as this has been, when we feel more than a usual amount of animation, and enthusiasm for our work.

We enjoyed a few good selections this morning. I think most of us find it more difficult to guess the names of the authors than we anticipated.

We have three new books on Mythology added to our library today. The books seem to be coming faster than we can make their acquaintance. I think that we are learning to appreciate them. Channing says – “It is chiefly through books that we enjoy intercourse with superior minds. In the best books, great men talk to us, give us their most precious thoughts, and pour their souls into ours. They are the voices of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages. Books are the true levelers. They give to all, who will faithfully use them, the society, the spiritual presence of the best and greatest of our race.”

M.N.

Monday, March 20, 1876.2 [continuation of March 21]
Krüsi, on Pestalozzi; but as we were so few in numbers He is to stay over and give it to us tomorrow. He was in school during the speaking this afternoon; he looks just as I imagine Pestalozzi to have looked; indeed it seems to me first – as if it were Pestalozzi himself going to talk to us, in his own person, about his methods of teaching.

Mr. Brown told us a funny story, in Mental Science, about Charles Lamb. He had got into a coach after having just finished his lunch, at the inn, and before the coach started, the guard put his head in as usual, and said “All full inside”? Lamb answered that he didn’t know how it was with the rest, but that last piece of mince-pie did the business for him.

B.H.T.

Tuesday, March 21, 1876.2

A fearfully stormy day! The rain has poured in torrents nearly all day, until late this afternoon, when it cleared off and the sun came out. Not more than half the scholars were present. Those of us who did go, had to wade almost, for the snow and water together made the walking simply horrible, and when we got to school a process of drying was in order, so all day the registers and chairs down-stairs have been covered with garments of every description, in all stages of the proves. It has seemed so odd in the lunch-room today to see so few faces and – dinner baskets. The school seemed smaller there than any where else. Many of the girls were late in class this morning on account of drying, and as they came in having completed the operation, were hailed as “dry specimens.” After school we had dancing instead of the study-hour; after asking Mr. Russell’s permission to dance, we wanted very much to ask him to dance too, so two of us started for that purpose but after making two or three ineffectual attempts, our courage failed us and we gave it up. I’m sorry to say that some of the gentlemen in our set did not conduct themselves with that gravity of demeanor that is pleasant to see. The programme for the school day has been put on the board. We spend all our recess in studying it to find that the next recitation is to be. We were to have had a lecture today by Prof. [See opp. page –]

Wednesday, March 22, 1876.2

This has been one of our delightful days.

In the first place, it seemed very pleasant to see our schoolmates in their places again after the storm.

As soon as our simple opening exercises were over, the teachers took seats on the sire of the room, and we knew “speaking” was in order.
The selections were certainly very interesting especially as one or two new authors were introduced. We were particularly interested on one selection from Thoreau whose name has often been mentioned to us.

I think the pupils are glad to have these exercises oftener for our own sake, but we are beginning to really miss our “morning talks” from Mr. Russell. We have been accustomed to look forward to them from day to day [another “to day” crossed out] for a long time. However, we have them in another form during the speaking hour.

We have all had the pleasure of seeing Prof. Krüsi again, and some of us listened to his interesting lecture. I think we all learned that, aside from his method of teaching, there is something very grand and noble about Pestalozzi, and we are able to understand better the secret of his success in gaining the respect and love of his pupils.

E.E.G.

Thursday, March 23, 1876.2

Another very pleasant day has passed.

The “speaking” seemed to me unusually good, and it is certainly a very fitting exercise to commence the day’s work.

We were glad to see Mr. Hubbard this morning and afterwards Mr. Rice. Mr. Hubbard came into the Geometry class and asked us a few questions in his easy, informal sort of way. In “singing”, the 2nd class arrived at the point of commencing two-part songs. I will not say which class has made the most progress in that branch of study for fear the first class will think it boasting, though we can not expect them to give the same amount of time to it perhaps with their increased cares pressing upon them.

For the last two days the children that the 1st class usually teach have been given into our care, as Mr. Russell has been giving lectures to the others, or at least has called them together in one of the recitation rooms, which caused the report among us of lectures (first class ones of course)

Tomorrow we are to have a chance to practise teaching reading in the class to some little children.

G.M.K.

Friday, March 24, 1876.2
“Happy is the soul that findeth wisdom,” for, “her ways are ways [“are ways” is written again and crossed out] of pleasantness and all her paths are peace.”

I once heard a pupil remark as her teacher came into the school-room, “How like a sunbeam that teacher is - the room always seemed brighter and warmer after he came in”. I’ve thought of the remark many times since, and wondered if all the faces that make this school-room so pleasant would really be sunbeams in other school-rooms by and by, and if little faces will brighten when we come into their presence as teachers. I hope so. I am sure it must be nice to be a sunbeam.

O, fellow pupils and teachers do we realize how pleasantly we are associated here - how precious every room and form and face is getting to be as the days go by? Is it true that we are all “architects,” building and being built each day, each hour?

We read of one that “builded better than he knew”. May that be said of us in the fullest and highest sense. May we know much and build better, even, then we know.

M.F.H.

Saturday, March 25, 1876.2

This is the second stormy day which we had this week, but there are very few absences on account of the weather.

This afternoon we were anticipating seeing the eclipse of the sun, but it was so cloudy we shall see nothing of it.

We are having very interesting lessons in Rhetoric, in regard to Poetic Diction; the one this morning was especially interesting, taking ornamental and essential epithets.

We had no “speaking” this morning; Mr. Russell occupied this time by giving us a little practical talk.

J.E.B.

Tuesday, March 28, 1876.2

Morning dawned beautiful and bright. The sunrise was glorious. It reminded me of a morn in June, but this afternoon it has clouded up somewhat.

The school life is very attractive and each day my interest deepens. I thoroughly enjoy every duty.
The teachers labor assiduously to awaken our thinking power and strengthen our intellects, that we may become thorough instructors, and understand the best ways of imparting instruction to the youthful minds. The grammar lesson was particularly pleasing. We took up the subject of pronouns. A new order of exercises was introduced consisting of mentioning and correcting false syntax as used by ourselves or by our friends. I think we are more apt to notice the mistake in anyone else rather than in ourselves.

The speaking was excellent this afternoon. The fourth class occupied most of the time during this exercise.

I enjoyed the music lesson very much. We were called upon to beat time with the metronome. It was a very simple task to do so much when we moved in accordance with the instrument but when we beat between the ticks we found it rather more difficult. I found it hard to commence and after I had commenced I found that the metronome influenced me to unite with it.

A.L.P.

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Wednesday, March 29, 1876

The weather has been lowering ever since we, students of Methods in Miss Jones’ class, began teaching reading to the little children. Almost every day has had its clouds, and occasionally there has been a slight fall of rain. When we get well initiated into the new business, there will be a change.

This is the first day of the year that had seemed much like April. There have been many little spits of rain, and changes from clouds to sunshine, and back again; while “The Devil has whipped his wife” two or three times, so, as the old folks say, there will be rain tomorrow. A robin was bold enough to fly into one of our trees to-day, and though the blue-birds have been with us two weeks or more, it was not till this morning that I was a pair of them carrying straws up to their nest in one of our bird-boxes, I noticed too, today, that almost all the acorns have swelled till they have burst. Spring is forward with the acorns but many an oak is lost to the world. The red maple near the swamp, has come out in its colors, and soon it will be completely clothed in a coat of red flowers, which a little later, it will change for its many tassels of winged fruit, “knives and forks” as the children call them. I noticed Pestalozzi’s photograph among the others, this morning. I came near forgetting that we had the first thunder-shower of the season, last night.

J.C.L.
Thursday, March 30, 1876.2

To day had been one of our calm, sweet days in which every moment seems to have passed pleasantly and harmoniously. These days seem to us to be almost perfect. I think we all dread to see the sun disappear, first from our window and then another until finally the Hall is almost dark; it is then our statues look so real, so life-like. At last after a beautiful sunset, the voices of the singers, high and low, hoarse and clear, are silent, the whistle is sounded and the five or six who haunt the building nightly depart and stillness reigns. During the fifteen minutes’ study hour, in the afternoon, one might observe a straightening if the rounded backs, and a general look of dignity and importance pass around among the members of the first and second classes, as the sound of hurrying feet are heard in the distance. If he should visit a room in the eastern part of the building, he would find an explanation of this. For arranged on a setee, before a black-board, in the corner of the room, are five or six children of different sizes and ages upon whose faces the early dawn of intelligence + interest may be traced – After a moment or so, a female figure will approach these children, with faltering steps, and timid air. Books are distributed, a long pointer is produced, with which the black-board is frequently stabbed, words are written and the lesson proceeds – the hour ends – tears flow, and the school work goes on. The lecture on Architecture is to-night, we earnestly hope the lecturer can be induced to list up his voice and be heard.

N.B.W.

Friday, March 31, 1876.2

To-day has been one of pleasure as well as of profit, to us all, and I believe we have gained much useful knowledge, which will be of great value to us in later years. No “selections” were given this morning, but instead, we listened to to one of those “nice talks” by Mr. Russell, which we all enjoy so much, and from which we can derive so much good. The school was somewhat smaller, in number, than usual, this afternoon, as many of the pupils visited that part of the city, which suffered from the effects of yesterday’s disaster; but all the work of repairing will not probably be commenced at once, I hope that the rest who are interested, will have a chance to view the ruins. The spectacle must indeed have been grand, when that great volume of water rushed down the ravine destroying every thing in its course; yet when we consider how much property has been swept away, we regard it as a sad calamity; Tho’ this accident has been much in mind to-day, I trust that we have not allowed it to interfere with the performances of our daily duties. Owing to the absence of many of our class, we, who were present had an excellent opportunity to recite quite often, which of course, we were glad to do. School-days pass all too quickly, and every precious moment should be well improved by us.
Saturday, April 1, 1876.

The full number are at school today; those who went to the flood seem as fresh [“today” crossed out] as any of us, which I think proves the truth of Mr. Russell’s words this morning, that we should often interrupt ourselves in our study.

We were requested today to make an estimate of the number of trees which will be required on each side the walk at the foot of the hill, we have not yet heard the result but I have heard guesses from fifty to eight.

In the rhetoric class today we were asked to imagine ourselves thirty years older, and to write out history during that time, we found it rather hard to do, but from the rumors which I hear of some of the compositions, I think we shall enjoy hearing them read.

Oliver Wendell Holmes’s Poet, Professor and Autocrat at the Breakfast Table have been placed on the shelves.

L.N.J.

Tuesday, April 4, 1876.

Another stormy day – at present the snow is nearly a foot deep and still coming. J.C.L.’s “robin and the blue-birds’ will be apt to bide their heads under their wings – poor things! People tell me that if the storm continues there will be danger of another flood; North Pond being already in an unsafe condition. How fortunate it is in the time of floods, that we are situated upon a hill!

This morning we were greeted by two new faces – Sherman’s and Von Bulow’s. All these photographs are to be placed in our school-albums I suppose.

The speaking exercise was omitted this afternoon, and instead Mr. Russell employed the time in giving us some instruction on the subject.

The members of the first class spend all their spare time in gathering sticks – or twigs I suppose they call them – which they immediately transfer to their drawing paper. We of the third class, who are not in the secret, guess that they have something to do with the “centennial.”

We had just one solitary visitor today.

J.L.G.
Wednesday, April 5, 1876.2

There has been no school today. The heavy snowstorm of yesterday, which lasted until after ten o’clock in the evening, so filled the roads with drifts, as to make them nearly impassable. But few of the scholars could reach the building this morning, + those who did were obliged to spend more time in drying their garments, before making their appearance in the hall.

But with the help of a hot furnace, + some dry clothing, we were more comfortable notwithstanding Mr. Russell’s fears fears to the contrary, which by the way, are not always well grounded.

The omission of recitations, had given us an excellent opportunity for reading + study, + perhaps the general feeling was expressed, by one, who said, “I wish that we might have a week of this. How much we could do!”

The sunshine came in the afternoon, + we were able to walk home without much discomfort.

H.C.

Thursday, April 6, 1876.2

This has been a beautiful day, and it has seemed doubly pleasant after the stormy times that we have had this week.

Mr. Russell was not present at the beginning of school this morning, so the devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. Brown, and instead of the speaking exercise, we had a study hour which was very acceptable to some of us.

We had a visit from Mr. Alcott today. He spent the time this morning in the different classes, and the last two hours this afternoon, he talked to the first and second classes on the subject of teaching. Mr. Alcott is a realist, and comes the nearest to Plato’s standard, of any man in this country. He presented to us an ideal of teaching, which probably few of us will be able to put into practice.

C.A.G.

Friday, April 7, 1876.2

We have had a particularly interesting day. Yesterday afternoon Mr. Alcott addressed the first and second classes. We fourth class girls did not expect to have the pleasure of hearing him
speak, but this morning we were pleasantly surprised to find that he was going to address the whole school. He began by telling us something about Ralph Waldo Emerson, and his way of writing. Mr. Emerson was always in the habit of keeping a journal, and when speaking of this, Mr. Alcott advised us, if we had not already done so, to begin at once to keep a journal. He told us some of the peculiar traits of Nathaniel Hawthorne. I think what particularly interested us, was what he said about his daughter Louise, whom every one knows as the author of that charming book “Little Women.” I think no one who has read this could fail to have an interest in its author. He also spoke of Margaret Fuller and her great power as a conversationalist. We had a recitation in Geography today, for the first time since Saturday, and it seemed very pleasant to be together again after so many days.

A.C.C.

Saturday, April 8, 1876.

Having been caught in an April shower last night we appreciated more fully this pleasant day. The barometer fell a little this morning but began to rise again, towards night.

During the first hour Mr. Russell spoke to us about keeping a journal. He was afraid we would say we would say we would like to keep one but we had no time. But he said “take time.” Most of us, if not all, understood Mr. Russell when he gave not the words but the thought of Zimmermann, that we little knew what we were to write when we sat down. He also told us not to be afraid to give up on our diaries if we found we could not get interested in them.

At the first recess Mr. Alcott’s picture was put upon the piano. What a rush there was to see it! If the other photographs there, had been capable of feeling I think they would have envied Mr. Alcott, for his picture was received with more delight than theirs had been. I suppose the reason was that we had seen Mr. Alcott and so, looking at his picture, we associated with it an expression which no picture can give but which we got from his own face and remembered.

L.W.B.

Tuesday, April 11, 1876.

Today has seemed more like spring than any day we have had this year.

Our search for birds has reminded us before that spring was really here, but we have not realised it as we have today. Those who came up the hill this morning enjoyed watching the birds and hearing them sing.
Some of us wondered if the song-sparrow whose acquaintance, as the representative of the skylark in this country, we were advised to make was among them.

We can soon watch them building their nests, and those who have bird-houses in the trees will be especially interested in that.

The prevailing school fashion at present is passing books for selections of poetry, among the scholars, and many find employment for all their spare moments in writing in them.

Among our visitors a little three-year-old boy and his sister a few years older, attracted considerable attention.

E.L.B.

Wednesday, April 12, 1876.2

I think today has been one of the most beautiful we have had since those lovely Autumn days, and we have enjoyed it I can assure you.

After lunch nearly all the girls went out to enjoy the warm sunshine; and in our rambles we discovered here and there a bit of grass, but oftener a bit of snow, which suggested a severe conflict between Winter and Spring, but I think Spring has won in the battle. Several of us went over to the cliff that is east of the building and but a short distance, and we wondered while there, if it would be at all prudent to descend, and then climb back, but we thought on the whole we would not put ourselves in a place where we should be likely to make a sensation – if we should suddenly drop about half way up!

After roll call, Mr. Russell occupied the fifteen minutes of our study house in talking with us about standing up straight and throwing our shoulders back, and I think it would be a good idea if we adopted immediately all the suggestions he made on that subject. But it is so difficult to remember! - to stand straight.

E.M.P.

Friday, April 14, 1876.2

This has been a real spring day. The sun rose bright and clear then nearly disappeared behind the fog[extra “g” crossed out] that rose from the meadows. The battle between the sun and the clouds continued until noon, and ended in a victory for the clouds; since noon we have had several showers, and we can see that the grass is a few shades greener than it was this morning.
This weather makes the violet buds anxious to lift their heads into the sun-light. Yesterday some of Louisa Alcott’s books, and Margaret Fuller’s works were placed on the book-shelves.

Today we were made acquainted with Mr. Ruskin’s photograph.

The speaking exercise this morning was unusually interesting; one selection from Emerson defied all attempts at recognition and a selection from Ruskin. We can almost always recognize Ruskin’s style.

E.H.W.

Saturday, April 15, 1876.2

This morning we could not see the blue sky, on account of the clouds; but before noon it cleared off, and the sun shone brightly and pleasantly.

Spring seems to be coming in earnest, for the trees are beginning to bud, and the grass is a beautiful fresh green in places where the sun can reach it.

This morning we did not have any selections; as Mr. Russell took the time in giving us a few new ideas on the “Art of Dress.” He said that the tastefulness of a person’s dress depended upon simplicity, and the degree of taste a person had, can be seen immediately by their dress.

He mentioned Mr. A. T. Stewart of New York, as one who dressed with great simplicity, even when wearing linen covered buttons, instead of gold studs. I think that was going pretty far into plainness of dress, for a man worth a hundred million dollars. But I think anyone who is known to be rich, can afford to dress plainly.

It was to be decided this morning by the school, which week in May should be taken for a vacation. Accordingly a vote of the school was taken, and the majority voted for the first week. I hardly think we “fourth class girls” need any rest but perhaps the other classes do.

S.E.R.

Sunday, April 16, 1876.2

This morning, during the first hour, we had a very interesting talk from Mr. Russell. His subject lay on the desk before him; a subject which he held very dear – a few May-flowers.

This afternoon, directly after the calling of the roll, Mr. Russell had the whole school sing together for a little while. He asked us first to give the pitch of C, not from our tuning-forks, (that’s the way we used to do) but as we remembered it. A tone followed which seemed to come
out of the whole school in some mysterious way and with the certainty of a tuning-fork; as if he used the school as he would that instrument itself. – A mighty tuning fork! But wasn’t that tone a type of an existing harmony?

I never thought that a certain tone could be learned to remember as other things can, but it seems to me now that we can learn pitch about as accurately as we do anything else.

Written Apr. 18. Placed here by mistake

E.F.T.

Wednesday, April 19, 1876.2

This date reminds me that today is the one hundred and first anniversary of the battle of Lexington. Such occasions teach their own lessons to every thoughtful mind.

We had a very interesting talk this morning in the class in the Theory and Art of Teaching. Rev. Mr. Blanchard who was present at this exercise, made a clear and concise distinction between a belief and a principle.

A belief is a strong connection founded on reasons furnished by one’s own mind, and not necessarily arrived at by experience; in order that this belief may become a principle it must be put into practice, for the latter is based on experience rather than thought.

In our music lesson today, a new feature was introduced that of singing duets before the class: this is an excellent way of acquiring confidence which is certainly very essential in teaching.

A.D.J.

Thursday, April 20, 1876.2

“Variety is the spice of life.”

Our spice consists at present in written examinations, which seem to progress finely: they seem to cause less unpleasantness than here-to-fore; perhaps this is because they are distributed through several weeks, instead of coming all at once.

The voluntary spirit of the second class disappeared entirely, [a first “during” crossed out] during the teaching exercise this afternoon, in consequence of an unassuming visitor.

The lecture this evening is by Mr. Van Warl, on Stained Glass.

A new book was added to the library today, The Maintenance of Health, by Mothergill.
Teaching exercises are getting to be generally used in all more of the classes than ever before.

H.B.S.

Friday, April 21, 1876.2

Every thing has passed off pleasantly today, – as usual.

The first class have taught reading, to the little ones, once around, and are now engaged upon the problem of, – how to teach spelling.

Mr. Brown seemed to have suddenly arrived at the conclusion that the proper thing for us to do is, to teach, and he is carrying out his belief by introducing teaching, by the pupils, into all his classes.

The “Ruskin revival,” – as Mr. Russell calls it – appears to be on the wane; there had been only one selection from that author in the last two speaking exercises.

Two visitors today.

K.A.C.

Saturday, April 22, 1876.2

This has been a beautiful day.

In English Literature class we had our minds diverted from the general routine, by the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by the class. Miss Foster remarked, that Mr. Russell might think we were having a rival singing-school; but we learned, to our surprise and sorrow, that he was not in the building at the time.

During the first part of the singing hour our teacher was not with us, but at the last part he gave us instruction in the major and minor keys and told us that we might be prepared to teach the subject next time. This is the first time that we have been required to teach in Mr. Russell’s class.

After coming out of the History class this afternoon, some of the girls were heard to say that if they were expected to study harder on Grecian and Roman history than they had on French and English, life has no longer any attraction for them. But after the praise bestowed on us in the Arithmetic class by Mr. Adams, we felt that life had still a few charms left for us.

C.W.H.
Tuesday, April 25, 1876.2

This morning a beautiful bunch of May-flowers was placed on the table in the hall. Mr. Russell explained to us that it had another name, “Epigaea-repens”. It is also called trailing-arbutus. I think that it is the most beautiful flower that grows. Considering its fragrance, its beautiful tints, and the place where it grows.

We had a remarkable good lesson in Geology, this morning Mr. Adams explained to us, the Nebular Hypothesis, in a very interesting manner; at the end of the lesson, we all felt very much pleased with our-selves.

A slight change in the form of our reading-exercise took place this afternoon: we stand on the platform, instead of the floor now. Is there some magic spell thrown around that platform? Otherwise I cannot account for the feeling which passes us as we step upon it. Everyday fine selections are read in the class and in time, we hope to be able to interest our-selves in good literature, Then we need have no fear, that we will not also interest others.

B.S.T.

Wednesday, April 26, 1876.2

This month ought not to pass without a record of a certain event of some importance; so I proceed.

Once upon a time there was a famous fool. How he came into the world, and that fool he did when he was there, nobody can tell, certainly. Some wise people say that, since kings had fools to amuse themselves with, the whole year round, the common people thought it was hardly fair for them to have no fools at all. So they prayed a fairy to give them a fool for one day in the year, on condition that there should be no foolishness during the other three hundred and sixty-four days. Of course any sensible fairy could not refuse such a request, and on the first day of April, the fool exhibited to all the people. But the next day found them not wise at all, but more foolish than they had been before, because of the bad example of the fool.

They played tricks not only on others but on themselves and the worst of it was, they did not know it. Well, the fairy learned wisdom from experience and did not give them the fool again. But people did not give up their old tricks, nor have they to this day. They still inherit the traits of their ancestors and on the first day of April, mimic the original fool and know it; on all succeeding days, they think themselves wise, but go out in thin shoes, and without any shawls. Such is the effect of a bad example. Of course, all teachers will remember it and act accordingly.

(The conclusion is not truly original with me)
Thursday, April 27, 1876.

During the week, three pictures have been hung upon the walls. One, in the lunch-room is a lithograph, from a crayon-drawing by Baker, of Henry W. Longfellow. Longfellow has seemed to be a favorite, and all are glad that his picture was the chosen one.

In “No. 5”, there is a very handsome chromo, from a painting by Wm Bradford. It is an Arctic scene, There is not a great variety of colors, and this adds to the beauty of the whole.

The third is perhaps a map, rather than a picture – a plan of our school. I see as yet, no signs of coming insanity in Mr. Russell, although “Normal Street” is plainly printed on this plan.

Pictures of Emerson and Carlyle have been added to the collection of photographs.

The air is very soft and warm tonight.

Number lessons were introduced in the class of little children today.

“Prove all things: hold fast that which is good.”

J.M.P.

Friday, April 28, 1876.

This morning, in imitation of all this work, was very pleasant, but the resemblance did not continue much later, and at present it is raining dramatically; warning us that we mustn’t expect too many showerless days in April.

Next week is an open one for the school, an event of which all are pleased, especially those you live outside of the city; I don’t think any soldier, during the war, looked forward with more delight at going home, than we do.

The recitation in singing today by our class was very interesting; I hope Mr. Russell’s “anticipations” will not prove less than he expects, for we are at a very pleasing stage of that study now.

Our beautiful bunch of may-flowers are slightly wilted; but their appearance even in that condition is better than their absence, from the desk.

Two new authors, Charles Sumner and George W. Curtie, were introduced today in the ‘speaking’ exercises: this is one of the many pleasant features of the day.
Saturday, April 29, 1876.2

Today is the last day of the Spring half-term, and now we are ready for a week vacation which we have been advised by Mr. Russell to spend as we please.

The day has been somewhat irregular as we have not had all our usual recitations.

The second class underwent an examination in Physiology which was arranged and conducted by the First Class, somewhat to the surprise of the former as they were not made aware of the fact until the time of examination.

School was dismissed as half past two in order that those scholars who live out of town might go home today.

At this time, (half-past three) the building is rather deserted. A few scholars are gathered around the piano singing “Home Sweet Home” as a parting song.

W.E.C.

Tuesday, May 2, 1876.2 [This entry is crossed out with two vertical lines and it is written “A mistake”]

To day has been very warm and bright.

We have all enjoyed it because there has been so much rain and chilly weather this month. A number of us went out after lunch and rambled about the grounds, and others went into the adjoining field to pick violets.

Wednesday, May 3, 1876.2

To-day has been cold – unusually so for the last of May.

Tuesday, May 9, 1876.2

We assembled to-day after a week’s recess; and judging by the looks of the scholars’ faces, should think that they enjoyed the release very much.
It has been rather hard for us to go to work in good earnest to-day, but we hope to be nicely started by tomorrow.

The last scholars, on the first time around this term, spoke to-day; and the hands were “few and far between,” in answer to the question, who wrote the extracts.

The girls in some of the classes have been quite gregarious to-day; to-morrow us the opening at Philadelphia, of course that has nothing to do with it,

There were two branches of may-flowers placed on the desk this morning, which added much to the beauty and attraction of the room.

It has been a stormy day, as is usually the custom when school reopens.

The grass is very green, and the leaves and buds on the trees have grown very much in the past ten days. I have noticed, a number of trees in full bloom. There was a statement in the paper, that there would be only a few pleasant days this month, therefore I think it would be a good plan to have our “bags” and stalls stocked with their full allowance.

J.A.W.

Wednesday, May 10, 1876.2

At about nine o'clock this morning the pupils seemed to be in their places as usual, except the members of the first class. They celebrated this, the opening day of the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, by marching into the hall, between nine o'clock and five minutes past, most of the girls wearing black dresses, and every one wearing an apron made of one width of calico, having on it two large flags of the U.S. and bordered with smaller flags of all the states of the old world. The only remaining youth in the class wore a necktie, made of a width of the calico, it was folded neatly about his neck (by some one of the girls, probably) and fastened in front by a large headed shawl pin, As they entered the hall, the members of the other classes clapped their hands and have them a heart welcome. When the class met for instruction in singing, Mr. Russell proposed that they all join in singing “America, [no end quotes] but it ended in a proposition.

After lunch the seats were changed, and also the number on the roll book.

After school the aprons were freely circulated for the autographs of all the members of the first class, and the white stripes seemed to be well filled.

E.M.C.
Thursday, May 11, 1876.2

It has been cold today, but pleasant.

This morning a selection was given from the Autocrat at the Breakfast Table. It was quite interesting being a style that is not often chosen by the scholars. The speaking exercises came nearly to a standstill this morning, but we were finally (we who hadn't our selections learned) assisted by Miss B—.

We commenced Greek Mythology, with Miss Foster and we think it will be much harder than French or English History. Even in the one lesson, we discovered the “fertile imagination” of the early Greeks.

Those of us who held tickets to the course of lectures on Architecture, and who went to the Hall this evening found to their astoundment and dismay, a May fool awaiting them, instead of an April one. The lecture is to be held tomorrow, and is to be about inside decoration, furniture, etc.

N.E.A.

Friday, May 12, 1876.2

It has been quite rainy today; though stormy without it was pleasant within.

We had speaking for half an hour this morning, there went to the usual lessons.

Visitors are always welcome here, and today we have had several; among them were Miss Hyde, the Principal of the Framingham Normal School, and Miss Davis, one of the assistant teachers in the same school. They were with is nearly all day. Miss Hyde was introduced to the school and after a dew pleasing remarks from her we spent nearly a half-hour in “speaking.” The exercise was very interesting. After the speaking we had only ten or fifteen minutes to spend in our classes.

In our class of children, today there were only two present; probably the rest were kept at home by the rain.

Mr. Russell was absent from our singing exercise and we had girls chosen from the class to act as teachers; they succeeded very well and we had an interesting lesson.

F.E.B.

Saturday, May 13, 1876.2
Today has been the first day this month in which there has been no rain.

This morning instead of a speaking exercise Mr. Russell spoke to us about last evening’s lecture, which was the concluding one of the architectural course. He said he was glad to see some evidence that the scholars improved and appreciated the advantages which such a course of lectures offered, and that so many of them attended the last as well as the first part of the course. He also said that he had so few advantages in the direction of Art that we ought to impound those that we did have.

In the second class the chief topic is that of practicing in the public schools, and I think we all look forward to it with eagerness, although at the same time we dread it.

The one visitor of today was Mr. Clay principle of the High School in Grafton.

G.H.

Tuesday, May 16, 1876.2

This has been a very sunshiny day, and also warm. Many of us went out this noon and enjoyed ourselves in various ways. There has been so much cold weather and rain of late that it seems delightful to be out again.

Mr. Russell has not been with us today, and his classes have taken care of themselves. In our singing class this morning, several girls acted as teachers and we went on nicely. I think those who did not know it all before, much have derived some benefit from the exercise.

We had no speaking exercise this morning, but this afternoon it went on as usual, the time being occupied chiefly by pupils of the third and fourth classes. Mr. Brown had a change of the exercise.

There had been a most beautiful bouquet of yellow and blue violets on the dest, and on the piano another of violets and anemones. We are having very interesting lessons in Greek Mythology at present.

We are also beginning to learn about the customs and dress of the Greeks.

M.A.W.

Wednesday, May 17, 1876.2

This morning was warm and pleasant, but towards night the air became quite chilly.
We all expected to see Mr. Russell in his chair at five minutes past nine, but instead saw Mr. Brown who informed us that we should not see Mr. Russell until tomorrow morning.

After the opening exercises Mr Brown gave us a good talk, said “I feel inclined to sit down in this chair, lean upon the desk, and see if some inspiration will not come to me”. After making a few more remarks, and speaking of the “Wisdom masked with delight”, he started towards the North side of the room in quite a Mr. Russell-like manner.

We had a very pleasant speaking hour. One selection, “The Bird Phoenix” by Hans Christian Andersen, seemed to be especially interesting, I think few of us were aware of its fill meaning until the closing sentence. “Our Lord kissed thee and gave thee thy proper name – poetry.”

M.C.

Thursday, May 18, 1876.

This eighteenth of May, Seventy-six –
My birthday too, finds me in a fix,
I want to write verses and make them rhyme,
And tell some news in every line.

Although that’s easier said than done
Yet feeling in the spirit of fun,
Though it should go from bad to worse,
I’ll finish as I began, in verse.

Of course with the weather I must begin: –
Sunshine, rain and chilly, like Spring.
Then of the school a word I’ll say,
All of the boys were present today.

We were taught to sing another way,
By Mrs. S. – She’s nice they say!
But then ‘tis very hard for me –
To start high A, and end on Z.

Mr. Russell came home today;
He’s been to other schools they say.
He will tell us much that’s new –
Much better than this, now I am through.

B.E.P.
Friday, May 19, 1876.2

After an absence of twenty four hours, Phoebus has smiled on us again from a cloudless sky. The day has been strongly suggestive of Lowell’s “Day in June”, perhaps if I had not been a silent member of the school, my soul would have found utterance in the poet’s words, “O what is so rare as a day in June?”

Only it did not happen to be a day in June.

This morning we were pleased to find that fifteen trees had been placed on either side of the walk, although they are quite small, the effect is very pleasant, and we may safely hope great things from these little trees; for, if they produce such a great change, in their infancy, what will, or rather, what wont they do in years to come when they spread their branches over the broad expanse of Eastern Park?

Mr. Russell occupied the speaking hour this morning in making some very encouraging and somewhat complimentary remarks on our singing. Good tact prevents us from singing our our praise, or I would mention the fact that Mrs. Sumner dont think that we sing so badly after all.

J.C.C.

Saturday, May 20, 1876.2

Among the pictures which have this week been added to the collection of photographs in the hall, are those of Laura Bridgman, Louisa Alcott, Thoreau and Nathaniel Hawthorne.

I think by the preceding entry, the members of the third class have studied mythology to some extent.

In singing, we have, for several days, been practicing the chromatic scale.

We had no number lesson with the little ones to-day: Miss Jones talked with us, instead, about the new work which lies before us.

In the physiology class this afternoon, we had a very interesting letter: Mr. Russell “picked a bone” with us.

Bunches of violets – blue, and yellow ones, have been on the desks, for a few days.

H.H.B.
Tuesday, May 23, 1876.2

It seems to be customary to speak of the weather, first, so I will say that, although it has been pleasant to-day, yet it has also been colder since the thunder-showers last night.

If my imagination is not at fault, the school-room must have looked somewhat deserted this morning on account of the absence of the second class. I think the teachers that we recite to in the morning, will have a nice rest for the next three weeks.

We took our drawing lesson in the Hall to-day on account of the painting of the studio.

The pictures of Chief Justice Waite and Evarte were places on the piano to-day.

Several new kinds of flowers were brought to-day; among them as the Rhodora which reminded us of Emerson’s celebrated poem about it.

E.M.F.

Wednesday, May 24, 1876.2

The day dawned pleasant and cool, but the temperature increased gradually till about two o’clock it seemed almost oppressive. After that time it was more comfortable, till night; it was quite chilly. This morning there was speaking and one selection from Emerson was especially noticeable, and received high commendations. Several pupils absented themselves from school today to attend the Hippodrome, which is in town, and receiving a hearty welcome by the juvenile part of the community.

After school, the first and second classes were called together, for half an hour, to listen to a talk preparatory to studying the special senses. This will be a favorable night for stargazing, as four planets, Mars, Jupiter, Venus, and Mercury are all to be seen in the sky.

As I passed the jail, I could not help thinking of the poor life within that is about to be terminated; and I felt curious to see the man, and see if he looked human; and I wondered in connection with this, who would be hard-hearted enough to go and witness the horrid spectacle of his execution.

J.H.

Thursday, May 25, 1876.2
The day has been delightfully cool and comfortable. The speaking hour was marked by the stand taken by one of the number on the side of slowness in speaking also by a lecture on the immobility of our hips, which was supplemented by another talk on the same subject in at least two of the singing classes, and concluded by Mrs. Sumner, who gave her second lesson to us today. Three words to the wise should be sufficient.

Miss Foster has not been with us today and although we missed her we were glad that our work was so mapped out that we could go on quite well without her.

The great event of the day has been the pitting of two brackets on either side of the platform and the placing of two new busts of Humboldt and of Michael Angelo. One event which has happened this week deserves notice and that is the repairing of the wall behind the desk.

E.A.T.

Friday, May 26, 1876.2

Weather Record: – Rather cool, somewhat windy, but very pleasant. Indications are, that we shall have a spell of weather.

Today has been an uneventful one with us, but the great event of the “outside world,” namely, the hanging of Frost, has had its influence over the whole school, – more or less. Indeed, the interest and – shall I call it sympathy or curiosity – of the third class was so thoroughly awakened, that Miss F. suggested that the usual hour of English literature be devoted to the contemplation of the jail, instead of our usual recitations. The proposition was not received with favor, however; from which circumstances, we, as future teachers, can draw our own moral.

Going into the different recitation rooms today, one might have seen groups of girls – I almost forgot to add boys, – discussing what seemed to be a very important question or subject. Occasionally the words, “Memorial Day” might be heard, interspersed with “legal holidays” ect.; from all of which we might infer that there is some question as to “Memorial Day” being a “legal holiday”. Who will settle the question?

O.K.J.

Saturday, May 27, 1876.2

This day ends the first week of apprenticeships for the second class, all of whom seem to be well pleased with their new duties.
The twenty minutes in the afternoon that we usually have for study, were occupied in the “speaking exercises today to-day. [no end quotes] I think the second class enjoyed it more than ever, as we have been absent mornings, and missed the morning speaking very much.

One of the selections, spoken, was by Oliver Wendell Holmes, and was listened to a good deal of interest. Listening to a selection from Oliver Wendell Holmes seems almost like a recess, after hearing one from Ruskine or Emerson.

Mt. Russell’s last words to us to-day, were that there would be no session of the school on Tuesday.

A.S.H.

Wednesday, May 31, 1876.2

To-day has been quite cold – unusually so for the last of May.

Nothing of importance has occurred to make us remember this day more than any other.

I think after our two days of vacation, [“he” crossed out] have had less ambition and have taken less interest in our recitations than if we had had our usual session of school on Tuesday.

There was placed on the table this morning a bunch of “June pinks” – the first I have seen this season.

In out music lesson, Mr. Russell told us that in teaching this subject to children, we must do two things – magnify and simplify.

E.A.L.

Thursday, June 1, 1876.2

We had Tuesday’s programme instead of Thursday’s to-day.

In the speaking exercise this afternoon a selection was given from George Elliot. Mr. Russell said he wished they would have more of her selections.

Four new pictures we placed upon the piano [“to-day” crossed out] those of J.G. Whittier, Edward Everett, Charles F. Adams Jr. + James T. Fields. We “the fourth class” had our first lesson in singing to-day – Mrs. Sumner came this afternoon, we had a fine exercise in singing.

When we have stormy weather we have a great many visitors, it has been very pleasant for the past week or two and consequently very few have visited the school.
Friday, June 2, 1876.2

This has been a very pleasant day, although it seemed as though we would have a shower this afternoon. We had the regular speaking exercise this morning. “The Bird Phoenix” by Hans Christian Andersen was repeated, because Mr. Russell did not hear it when it was read the first time, and wished to.

Our class is now studying the Metric System [“now” crossed out], and Mr. Adams thought it would be a good time to make ourselves a meter so Mr. Adams bought the “sticks” and we mark them ourselves. The work room therefore is filled during the time before and after school by the pupils of the class.

The songs in our new song books have been practiced to day by quite a number from the different classes, the fourth included.

M.L.F.

Saturday, June 3, 1876.2

It has been very warm and pleasant, almost too warm for comfort, Mr. Russell occupied the speaking hour by giving us a sort of examination. Two teachers from the public school came to visit us today, and left the “apprentices” a work in their own schools. Our class experimented in the chemistry room the first two hours this afternoon, and I think we shall be obliged to get our aprons pretty soon to save our dresses.

Quite a number of pupils made their metres, or partly made them. I think good many found it would take longer than they had any idea it would take. Nothing more of importance happened, it seemed very quiet all day.

D.H.D.

Tuesday, June 6, 1876.2

After the opening exercise this morning Mr. Russell talked to us awhile about “School Conventions” and what is expected of teachers with regard to them, and “Educational Journals”. A vote of the school was taken to-night to ascertain how many of the pupils would like to attend
the convention of teachers which is to be holden in Millbury, on Friday of this week; the majority voted to remain at home and the decision was deferred.

Eleven selections were given during the speaking hour this afternoon; this is an unusually large number to be given during one hour, but this was owing partly to the brevity of most of the pieces and partly to the few interruptions by Mr. Russell, I think we all enjoy the usual interruptions made by him, and that we all missed them; the exercise was not as lively as usual and in no case was the author’s name guessed correctly; even a selection from Dr. Holmes whose style is so characteristic, was not recognized as being his. One solitary visitor favored us to-day. We had a very interesting teaching exercise in composition in the first-class; subject – Longfellow's “Rainy Day.”

E.A.B.

Wednesday, June 7, 1876.

This has been one of the pleasantest days of the season and quite a number of the scholars enjoyed it by taking a walk out of doors after lunch.

Mr. Russell has not been with us today, and his classes have been obliged to take care of themselves,

In our class in singing, we followed a suggestion which Mr. Russell gave us some time ago, that of each our writing a question and then having each answered by the class.

Rev. Father Conaty was present in our history class this afternoon and made it quite interesting by giving us some ideas in regard to Aristotle and Plato.

We are to know tomorrow whether school will keep Friday or not.

L.M.R.

Thursday, June 8, 1876.

This morning we had a little shower, and it has been somewhat cloudy all day.

Mr. Russell occupied the speaking hour this morning, and the first two hours this afternoon in giving us a very interesting account of his visits yesterday, to the Normal School at Framingham, and the Kindergarten Normal School at Boston.
The speaking exercise of the dignified bearing of the members of the graduating class at the Kindergarten School. He also alluded to the fact that there was nothing in this dress to indicate that they were members of the same class.

The picture of Goethe, Theodore Thomas, E. Iroiyee and Masse – the inventor of the telegraph – were placed upon the piano today.

This morning in the English class, Mr. Brown read to us from Lowell’s Fable For Critics and Biglow Papers which we enjoyed very much.

Mrs. Sumner came this afternoon to teach us to sing; she gave us two new pieces to learn.

There will be no session of the school tomorrow so that those who choose may attend the “Teachers’ Convention” at Millbury.

M.L.D.

Saturday, June 10, 1876.2

It was very pleasant this morning, the shower of last night having laid the dust, and the air seemed much cooler: but it clouded up before noon, and looked showery the rest of the day.

We did not have any speaking this morning; Mr. Russell occupied the hour usually taken in that exercise, in talking to us about the convention, which he attended the day before.

In the fifteen minutes after recess, Mr. Russell told us some things about “wood cuts” and how they were made and transferred upon paper; he then told us about a view of our school building, which has been taken by an artist from Boston, and when finished, is afterwards to be printed in our next catalogue and also upon sheets of paper which the scholars can have; he then brought a small block of wood, out of the office, upon which was drawn a view of the hill and the building, and placed it upon the piano for us to see; there was a general rush it the first recess, for every one marveled to see it as soon as possible.

Quite a number of the teachers of the public schools of the city, came up to visit our school this afternoon: the third class had the benefit of quite a number of them, in their recitation in reading.

S.S.H.

Tuesday, June 13, 1876.2

It has been cloudy and somewhat showery nearly all day. Late in the afternoon the sun came out, and shone for a while quite brightly.
We had no speaking this morning, as Mr. Russell was obliged to be absent to attend to the members of the first class who were being examined.

Several new pictures were placed on the piano today, this adding to our already quite large collection of the photographs of distinguished men.

Among those added today were pictures of Mark Twain, and of the celebrated musicians, Bach and Liszt.

E.C.

Wednesday, June 14, 1876.2

The Brook.

Laugh of the mountain! – lyre of bird and tree!
Pomp of the meadow! mirror of the morn!
The soul of April, unto whom are born
The rose and jessamine, leaps wild in thee!

Although, where'er thy devious current strays,
The lap of earth with gold and silver teems,
To me thy clear proceeding brighter seems
Than golden sands, that charm each shepherd's gaze.

How without guile thy bosom, all transparent
As the pure crystal, lets the curious eye
Thy secrets scan, thy smooth, round pebbles count!

How, without malice murmuring, glides thy current!
O sweet simplicity of days gone by!
Thou shun'st the haunts of man, to dwell in limpid fount!

Longfellow.

A.M.S.

Thursday, June 15, 1876.2

We had no speaking exercise this morning, Mr. Russell occupied the time in speaking to the school.
The day is very warm, but the sky gives promise of a shower.

Parepa Roza’s picture has been added to the number on the piano.

Mrs. Sumner is to be here after school to give us our usual weekly lesson. The fans proposed by Mr. Russell are rapidly making their appearance in school.

E.S.

Friday, June 16, 1876.2

To-day has been very warm and pleasant.

After the opening exercises, Mr. Russell told us that Miss Peabody, of the Kindergarten School, was expected to visit our school today. Mr. Marble and Mayor Jillson were present during the speaking hours.

In the afternoon the third and fourth classes had the privilege of doing as they pleased as Mr. Russell told us that Miss Peabody would not be able to speak to more than the first and second classes, an some of them visited school, while the rest studied.

L.J.A.

Saturday, June 17, 1876.2

This is the anniversary of the battle on Bunker’s Hill. After the devotional exercises Mr. Marble spoke to the Seniors on the Public School System. Miss Jones was not able to be in school, and Mr. Russell left us at half past nine “to do as usual and as much more so as we liked”. The second class paid a visit to the third in History, and I presume the former were delighted with our brilliant recitation. We had many visitors to day, and I think those who listened to the third class in singing were well pleased at what they did. They not only sang what they were somewhat familiar with, but also learned the soprano of quite a hard piece, for them. Mr. Russell’s class in Reading missed him very much, for instead of having a pleasant time listening to his reading and friendly criticisms, they used the hour for study.

A large bouquet of flowers and a small bunch of forget-me-nots, drew many toward the desk. A Telegraph Map was hung up to day.

M.A.K.
Tuesday, June 20, 1876.2

A Hundred Years to Come

Who’ll press for golf this crowded street,
A hundred years to come?
Who’ll tread you church with willing feet,
A hundred years to come?
Pale, trembling age and fiery youth,
And childhood with his brow of truth,
The rich and poor, on land, on sea,
Where will the mighty millions be,
A hundred years to come.

We all within our graves shall sleep,
A hundred years to come;
No living soul for us will weep,
A hundred years to come.
But other men our land will till,
And others then our streets will fill,
And other words will sing as gay,
And bright the sunshine as to-day,
A hundred years to come.

M.L.T.

Wednesday, June 21, 1876.2

The Masters Touch

In the still air the music lies unheard;
In the rough marble beauty hides unseen;
To make the music and the beauty needs
The masters touch, the sculptor’s chisel keen.

Great Master, touch us with thy skillful hands;
Let not the music that is in us die!
Great Sculptor, hew and polish us, nor let,
Hidden and lost, thy form within us lie!

Spare not the stroke! do with us as thou wilt!
Let there be naught unfinished, broken, marred;
Complete thy purpose, that we may become
Thy perfect image, thou our God and Lord!

Longfellow

A.L.F.

Thursday, June 22, 1876.2

Today has been cloudy and quite cool for the latter part of June.

We had our usual recitations with the exception of the speaking hour, having that time for study.

Miss Sumner came this afternoon and we had Judge Chapin and Rev. Mr. Blanchard for visitors after we had sung about half the usual time we were favored with a visit from Gov. Rice and Staff and Mayor Jillson and Mr. Marble, they having come from the Commencement Exercises of Holy Cross College.

Gov. Rice was then introduced to us and gave us a short but very interesting address in which he spoke of his interest in Normal Schools and of the high reputation which this school bears, after which one other gentleman spoke to us and the Mr. Marble made a few complimentary remarks about the school.

The visitors were then shown about the building and after some little time departed with several heads at every pane of glass from which they could be seen.

L.E.K.

Friday, June 23, 1876.2

The 21st of June has passed, and the sun is beginning to descend the ladder.

The day has been warm and beautiful. Nature whispered of showers this morning, but has given us a warm, dusty wind instead.

The members of the fourth class have taken several examinations today, and many, I fancy, feel greatly relieved; for what we imagined an unavoidable evil has dwindled itself into quite an ordinary exercise.

Two ladies came to the building this afternoon to tell us of a collection of pictures taken from things of interest at the centennial exhibition which are on exhibition at Mechanics Hall. I think I
shall avail myself of the opportunity to cultivate a more patriotic spirit, and, at the same time, learn something of that subject which engrosses so much public time and attention.

What beautiful clouds June brings me. Great masses of white, cumulus cloud are heaped high in the west, resembling huge snow banks!

M.A.D.

Saturday, June 24, 1876.2

Today has been a warm sunny day.

Mr. Russell occupied the speaking hour this morning in speaking to the school. He told us not to allow the coming examinations to trouble us; and to make ourselves as happy as possible.

All the classes have had examinations in drawing by Mr. Greene.

As the day was warm many of the girls picniced under the trees this noon.

We have had three visitors today, two ladies and one gentleman.

E.F.B.

Wednesday, June 28, 1876.2

These are but few things to notice as having happened to-day.

Mrs. Sumner came as usual and Mr. Russell came in and told us that we lacked vivacity and expression, which was quite true.

We tried the effect of singing, and found that it improved it somewhat.

L.Y.N.

“The man who hath no music in himself, Nor is not moved by concord of sweet sounds, is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils.

[Row of small “x”s]

Let no such man be trusted.”

Shakespeare.
Thursday, June 29, 1876.2

The Tides
I saw the long line of the vacant shore,
The sea-weed and the shells upon the sand,
And the brown rocks left bare on every hand,
As if the ebbing tide would flow no more.
Then heard I, more distinctly than before,
The ocean breathe and its great breast expand,
And hurrying came on the defenceless land
The insurgent waters with tumultuous roar.
All thought and feeling and desire, I said,
Love, laughter, and the exultant joy of song
Have ebbed from me forever! Suddenly o’er me
They swept again from their deep ocean bed,
And in a tumult of delight, and strong
As youth, and beautiful as youth, upbore me.

Longfellow.

M.R.D.

Friday, June 30, 1876.2

“What is so more as a day in June”; ?, or rather what will be more rare for next eleven months. I am sorry to have June go by for to me there is something soft and sweet in even the name June, I suppose it is owing somewhat to certain associations, but it is however a beautiful month.

The result of the annual examination in drawing have been ascertained, and prove very creditable, our school ranking second among the five state Normal Schools. Those who have successfully passed examination in the five subjects in which we have been examined, will not be required to undergo another in Drawing to obtain a diploma a fact which no one regrets – I think.

Mr. Russell gave the graduates – a list of the various articles, which would help to ornament as well as furnish their schools. Each thing seemed the thing – yet the whole outfit would cost no small sum of money – but I don’t believe we are expected to be supplied at first and by a little
economy for a few years, we may be able to leave a school, already furnished for Graduates of – State Normal School at Worcester of 1896.

H.A.K.

Saturday, July 1, 1876.2

July is true to herself for she is giving us a grand day. We, however, in our busy bunch on the hill pay no respect to the weather except an occasional use of the fan.

The “fourth” is approaching but if we had no home life we should scarcely suspect it unless we happened to get a glimpse of the children’s flags. We have but one more Saturday in the term and some of us are sorry as we shall probably have more next term.

The first class have suddenly assumed serious faces owing perhaps to their visits to Mr. Brown.

F.A.W.

Wednesday, July 5, 1876.2

The glorious, centennial “Fourth” has been and departed.

The dissipation, incident upon gazing, from no luxurious position, upon miles of street-parade; and attending upon street illuminations etc, etc, (all “Independence” accompaniments) has left many unmistakable traces upon our “Weak American girls”.

And we Third classites were devoutly (?) thankful that an “examination” did not come to us till the last thing in the P.M. And then twas mainly to name the States and Capitals of our “glorious Union”. What could have been more opportune?

The test of Mr/ Russell’s discourse this A.M. might have been “Cleanliness is next to Godliness”.

J.F.B.

Saturday, July 8, 1876.2

Today is fine for the season, but such as to create in the wearied mind, a tendency toward relaxation. With reason then as well as with delight do we hail vacation which now so kindly dawns upon us.
There is already a temporal cessation from study; we reserve our mental force for a cooler season. Many the sunny days of summer, however, be expressive of the vitality which will spring up from past industry, and vivify its influence; and may the smiling sun of vacation’s morning be suggestive of that genial sympathetic disposition so inescapable from social ties and common interests. A feature which has long been characteristic of our school and the lesson which it imports.

M.T.M.

[end of 1876.2]