Friday, January 3, 1879
Written April 10, 1879

Glaciers

Our class (the fourth) have just finished the subject of glaciers in Geology.

The study of them has been made very interesting by Mr. Adams. We have not confined our study of them, to textbooks, but have had pictures of them, and have also had two expeditions out of doors for the purpose of seeing the scratches made on the rocks by the glaciers.

One of these was to a cellar which is being dug near by, where the scratches run north south always.

The other was just an examination of the rocks on the school grounds.

E.B.B. Fourth Class

Tuesday, February 25, 1879

This morning opened with a good prospect for a beautiful day. I think the finest sunrise I ever beheld was this morning as I came up in the train. The eastern sky behind the Worcester Academy, was delicately barred with yellowish green and pale rose color – then a passing freight train hid it from my gaze, when I next saw it, it was bright rose color flecked with blue. It was a very magnificent sight. About two o'clock this afternoon it began to snow; and has continued snowing, heavily; it looks as though we might need our extra shoes and stockings tomorrow.
This morning Mr. Russell talked to us about importing some of “out of doors” in the schoolroom, that is in our lecture, speak on trees, spring birds and flowers: and also of the great value to us as teachers of sympathy with the children’s’ sports and pleasures.

Here’s today’s quotation from Shak.

Be able, for thine enemy
Rather in power than use, + keep thy friend
Under thine own life’s key. (All’s Well)

M.M.S.1st Class.

Wednesday, February 26, 1879

The days are passing away very swiftly, nearly three weeks of the term are gone and it seems as though we had only just got fairly started.

Mr. Russell continued his talk of yesterday by suggesting that we decide to learn about a number of objects, 60 or 100, and of these objects let ten be birds, ten fishes, ten trees and so on learning of each particulars, that are interesting, and instructive thus laying the foundation for scientific knowledge.

To-day has been a combination of Winter and Spring. This morning the ground was thickly covered with snow the air was chilly, and the trees were covered with a beautiful frost-work of ice; now the water is running in the roads and the air is warm and Springlike.

S.D. 1st class.

Thursday, February 27, 1879

It has been a warm, pleasant day, very different from yesterday. This morning we were surprised by seeing the frozen ground covered with a light fall of snow, as it was raining so hard last evening.

This goes to prove what Mr. Russell told us this morning; that the climate of New England is more changeable and therefore more trying to the health than any other.

Maps, showing the situation and direction of storms, are to be received here for our benefit for about twenty days.

A book agent visited school this noon and was patronized by a few.
Nothing of unusual interest has occurred to-day.

M.J.T.C. 1st Class.

Friday, February 28, 1879

The school and weather are in harmony, for the whole day has been pleasant.

Some of the plants in the drawing room are in blossom now, and we noticed during one of the recesses that the flowers of the petunia were turned toward the sun, and Miss Marsh took the opportunity to dispel the illusion that flowers turn to the sun because they like it so well.

We are having chorus singing every morning but we flat.

The first class has turned over a new leaf for reasons too numerous to mention.

M.E.C. 1st class.

Saturday, March 1, 1879

Three weeks of this term gone and spring begun!

The regular school work has gone on without interruption; and as ‘tis Saturday afternoon there is no quiet study-hour, but the girls are reading, resting or studying as they choose.

One class has been preparing to begin “visiting schools;” and the girls of the new class have bravely begun their career in “voluntary speaking on the platform”,

Several graduates have been with us to-day, for their Saturday-afternoon lessons; also a number of visitors; among whom was one of our old class-mates.

M.A.S. 1st Class.

Sunday, March 2, 1879 [this entry is crossed out]

This has been a fine day, but to-night it seems as if we should have rain.

Monday, March 3, 1879
I was quite surprised this morning, upon looking out-of-doors, to find such a beautiful clear spring morning; for last night, the sky was all clouds and we had a north-east wind. We had a beautiful sight at sun-rise, and have had a nice day.

I saw, on my way to school, the first blue-jay I have seen this season, so that is seems about time to watch the coming of the spring birds. Last Friday night, quite to my surprise, I saw some buds almost opened on a “pussy-willow” bush. It seems to me very early for them.

Our class is now taking up the subject of storms, in Natural Science, and I think that many of us would agree tonight, in thinking we shall have a storm before many days.

E.L.H.

3d class

Tuesday, March 4, 1879

This has been a fine day, but to-night it seems as if we should have rain.

School went on smoothly, and the speaking exercises this afternoon were unusually interesting. Several of the new class took part in the exercises, and one of the members introduced a new form of lectures.

The third class begin, again, the study of the Metric System; it was begun last term, but it has been put off the past two weeks, on account of something more important. The study now will occupy this week.

Another thing in the speaking this afternoon, which I should have mentioned before, was one short lecture, and Mr. Russell commended it. I hope a good many will follow the example.

E.S.P.

3rd Class.

Wednesday, March 5, 1879

In our class there has been quite a number on the platform to read and lecture, and they did well. I think this exercise is very important. One young lady said, when I spoke of reading. “Dear me, don’t read, for Mr. Russell will pick you all to pieces, it better to lecture.” Now just what we want and need is to have the weeds picked out of us. There is a great deal of work to be done and unless we are willing to be cultivated, we will find in the end that we are deficient.
Thursday, March 6, 1879

The weather outside today, can be best described by quoting two lines from Longfellow; –

“Silent and soft and slow
Descends the snow.”

Within our school, the time has passed very pleasantly. Our regular routine of work has been broken in upon unexpectedly. Mr. Hubbard had been giving us a very valuable, as well as interesting talk, upon the subject of Arithmetic; giving us a general sketch of the subject, as he thinks it should be taught.

He gave us, as a universal rule in performing problems, “See clearly what you want to do, then do it”

Again he said “work toward the thing you are after.”

I surely agree with Mr. Russell, in saying that if we do not profit from what we have heard today it will be our own faults.

C.O.A.

1st Class.

Friday, March 7, 1879

In place of the speaking exercise we had a good long talk this morning from Mr. Russell, which should serve – to use an expression of his, – as a “knot” to prevent yesterday’s teachings from slipping our minds.

In teaching we should look both backward and forward, letting each act have some significant bearing on our work as a whole; and so teach

“That each tomorrow
Finds us further than today.”

Friday morning our class spends the first two hours in model drawing.

Then follows an hour in Mental Science with Mr. Brown. We are at present deeply involved in the mysteries of Logic.
Five minutes in ball playing; then thirty-five minutes in passing and analysis closes the forenoon’s work. We are in daily expectation of one examination in Methods.

We are reviewing geography with Miss Porter.

Our views on the subject of the “Dark Continent [no end quotes] were not as clear, this afternoon, as Stanley might present, owing to last night’s dissipation; – for a wise reason study was forbidden. An hour with Mr. Adams closed the day.

A.H.N. 1st Class.

Saturday, March 8, 1879

We received the great lesson of the term this morning, in reading Mr. Russell was impatient for school-time in order to give it. He declared his prophetic soul foretold success, and we had it decidedly – for even the weakest voices echoed.

We had an extra long speaking hour, to accomplish the purpose in view while the quills were uppermost. We were charged to foster that we gain from day to day, not to lose over night yesterday’s foothold – to know what we wished to do – then do it

“We are endogenous, and education is our unfolding”, Emerson says, so that if with the reaction of our instruction we couple the full force of our wills, we may burst the folds faster, each of us can astonish one another – and there be no end to what we may accomplish: and remembering the “high purpose” of that black haired boy, we can fearlessly + gallantly will to undertake anything with avidity – to easily and naturally assume the initiative and eventually become one of those teachers “whose arrival changes the aspect of affairs”

That examination in methods came off to-day – + an interesting almanac was added to the “books”.

All is pretty quiet to-night – we having had our usual Sat. night good-time night before last. Our class are mostly in search of cats – to draw.

First Class – H.A.M.

Tuesday, March 11, 1879

This morning the sky was cloudy, and looked like rain; but by the time school closed, the clouds had all disappeared and the sun was shining brightly.
Mr. Russell gave us an interesting talk, this morning, about birds. He spoke of the four species of birds which are first seen here in the spring.

The song sparrow, bluebird, and bobin have been seen or heard by different members of the school.

The glass case for showing the birds was brought in today, the bluebirds making their first appearance there, if not in the lot.

We had speaking and lecturing, the first hour this afternoon, so that the afternoon seemed unusually short, there being but two recitations.

I think I can perceive an improvement in the manner of speaking the selections.

N.S.

First Class.

Wednesday, March 12, 1879

Nothing special has happened to make this a marked day. During the speaking exercise Mr. Russell brought out the point that Normal Schools were expected to lead their pupils to be self reliant. The First-class girls made a grand effort to out do the French in making “cues”

Mr. Russell told the First-class that diversion of the persistent activities of children was generally better than suppression: and during the second hour spoke of the value of objects before adult students and of process. After showing its limited amount of knowledge of Grammar, the First-class concluded the morning with thoughts on the perspective of a hexagonal prism.

During the afternoon the First-class was at work on methods of presenting Dry and Liquid Measure and an example in proportion.

One gentleman, a senior student at “Westfield”, and a number of ladies were present during some part of the day.

E.T.P. First-class

Thursday, March 13, 1879

This morning we had some of Longfellow’s snow; towards noon the sun shone through the clouds; now the sun is entirely gone.
We were informed to-day that the Blue Jay and Meadow Lark had arrived, although not many of us as yet have seen them nevertheless we are out watching for them.

A new and delightful work of art was added to the school to-day. Namely a book consisting of two poems, “John Gilpin” and “The House that Jack built,” finely illustrated by Caldecott, a young Englishman; hence the name of the book Caldecott's Picture Book.

The First-class were told this morning that the value of a precept in Education is in its conformity to the laws which govern the mind.

M.E.B. First-class.

Tuesday, March 18, 1879

This has been, without exception, one of the most beautiful days we have had this term, although the walking is not quite so desirable as we wish it was.

This forenoon, the nest and eggs of the Blue bird were introduced to the school, and remarks made about this bird’s manner of building.

The speaking exercise to-day was more interesting than usual, – several opinions, in regard to the location of the Azores, were given by different members of the school; also in respect to the differences between a monument and a pyramid. Still another about the price of ice; also a new pronunciation of “chariot.”

Our class has had an examination in the Metric System, and also in History.

In Methods, we have been talking of ways of making spelling interesting. One way is to take some letter and let each pupils give a word beginning with that letter, and trying to see how many they can get in a given time.

We also spoke of the game “My Grandmother’s Cat” and Miss Jones told of the little boy’s explanation of the “ibex”.

C.E.H. Third Class

Thursday, March 20, 1879

There was a little variety introduced into the Speaking Exercises this morning, by way of a “first class” lecture on “the century living now,” by answering questions asked by the school; a few quite in the science of croquet which we will follow up as soon as the season offers chance.
In Methods we are having a chance to display our skills in inventions.

We are trying to find what principles and theories of education the great educators have given us.

Ball play still holds its place among our five minute sports. The effect is to preserve the latitude of movement of the arm, which we are said to get from our “arboreal ancestors”.

N.L.P. 1st Class.

Friday, March 21, 1879

A light snow covered the ground this morning, reminding us that winter is not yet a thing of the past.

A pair of robin’s nest were brought into the Hall today.

Our class in Music have been studying the element of Harmony. Mr. Russell said that he hesitated about coming to school this morning but was paid for doing so, our efforts in “Two-part Song” were so amusing.

Our class commenced the study of Number Lessons in Methods today.

The “French and Indian” war was the subject of the lesson in History. I think the British deserved to have been conquered by the French for their cruelty to the inhabitants of Acadia.

The storm has cleared away and there is a good prospect of a pleasant day tomorrow.

M.E.B. 3rd Class.

Tuesday, March 25, 1879

The report of the manner of fishing on the Saginaw river was first-rate. It was something that probably but few of us knew about. The practice of weighting the live herring to make it sink so as to attract other fish, seemed rather barbarous.

In anatomy, Mr. Russell has been trying to show us that all organized matter is not made, but evolved; – that it is not manufactured – for that is of man, – but is growth, which is Divine.

In our recitation in geography, we had some interesting facts about Germany, one of which was, that is has the best system of public schools in the world; and among the studies that are compulsory are drawing and singing. I heard to-day of a High School not far away where neither are taught.
We had a “first-class” walking match, this afternoon by way of exercise; – the girls beat.

S.M.P. First class.

Wednesday, March 26, 1879

These schooldays are like the pages of a great book. To a looker-on they are all alike: it is only the student, who reads.

Those who have been most active in the morning exercises, are now to retire “on a furlough”; while the good cause shall be sustained by those, who, by “force of circumstances”, have been prevented from displaying their valor.

At this season, the school is much interested in birds. An unusual bird in this section, – the lark – might have been seen here to-day, at about high noon.

The first feeble attempt of dumb nature to copy from the human can be discerned in the pale greenness of sunny banks.

The appearance of the birds upon the platform suggests the – query– What conclusion is to be drawn from the fact that the male bird is in gay plumage, and the female is dressed in sombre colors?

“He sings to the wide world, and she to her nest;
In the nice ear of Nature, which song is the best? [no end quotes]

S.M.A. Third Class.

Thursday, March 27, 1879

“The Spring comes slowly up this way.”

The first class are much interested just now, in studying the lives of some of the eminent educationists.

The “reporting” goes on with never failing interest; the scholars on the retired list are not needed to fill up the ranks of volunteers.

The first class have had their schools assigned them and are to go out teaching next week.

A new set of text books on Botany has been purchased describing, among others, a number of the Spring flowers accurately and clearly; these will be a great help to us in recognizing the flowers when we find them.
Saturday, March 29, 1879

The weather was very changeable today; and before sunset we had a light shower of rain.

Among the “reports” of the morning were descriptions of the “brown thrush” + “The Slave Ships”.

The first class finished logic by having a written review of the subject, The other lessons went on as usual.

A gentleman, a teacher of in the High School, and several ladies were present during parts of the day.

There is no study hour to-night, While some of the girls chose to interest themselves in reading or studying; the majority of the scholars are most interested in a “champion walking match,” which is to take place in the lower corridor. A large audience gathers at the ends of the corridor, to witness the “affair”. At 3.40 two contestants, being two young ladies of the 1st. class were prepared to start on the track, for a four mile walk. They held out + walked bravely. When at the end of 52 minutes the “little one,” found herself at the long desired goal after accomplishing her feat. The other has but a half “lap” more to go when hers also would be finished, this she did in less than a minute.” [no start quotes] This is the first “great feat.” of this kind we have had + it caused great excitement + pleasure for many.

M.A.F. 1st class.

Tuesday, April 1, 1879

“‘Tis the noon of the spring-time, yet never a bird
In the wind-shaken elm or the maple is heard;
For green meadow-grasses wide levels of snow,
And blowing of drifts where the crocus should blow”.

The above lines are descriptive of this present April weather certainly. The old saying that “when March comes in like a lion + e.” if applicable to April insures us a very lamb-like exit of our second spring month.

M.E.H.

Fourth Class.
April 10

Just before the lunch hour today each and every one of the fourth invested in a musical instrument, and immediately proceeded to test its quality.

In the Algebra class all hands go to board most every day and think that is about right. In some of our lessons we tried the new mode of recitation the teaching way and it worked pretty well. Same.

Wednesday, April 2, 1879

The first class are out practicing now and we that are left have great opportunities for speaking and reporting.

This morning we had a description of the Falls of Montmorency by one of the scholars who had been there; and of the Wayside Inn celebrated by Longfellow. Yesterday being the first of the month, we had a report on the custom of ‘April-fooling.’

Mr. Russell talked to us about the art of questioning. He says that it is a very important thing in teaching to know how to question; to ask questions that will lead somewhere; and that this is the place to practice.

In teaching a subject we are to presume upon some knowledge of the child of that subject and not teach him what he already knows.

As there is no school tomorrow the study-hour was not kept this afternoon. Tops are raging.

R.H.T. 3rd class.

Thursday, April 3, 1879

These are seen in nature before this date. If they should not be recognized here, it will cause no grief, the attempt has been made and that is often better than success.

L.N.J.

Grad.

Saturday, April 5, 1879
“A Recipe for Graham Bread”

1 pt. of sour milk,
1 egg
2 tablespoonfuls of sugar.
1 teaspoonful of salaratus,
a little salt.

Mix with unsifted graham flour until it is as thick as plain cake. Bake in a quick oven, this bread is good hot, or cold.

O.M.B.

4th Class.

Tuesday, April 8, 1879

This morning dawned bright and clear; it seems more like a real spring day that any previous day this season. The sky has been cloudless or so much so that we (the fourth class) postponed the study of clouds.

The fourth class and several members of the first and third accompanied Mr. Adams to Shelby St. to see the results of the Glacial Period.

The reading and speaking exercise of this after-noon were of their usual character.

The first class are still out teaching

E.M.C.

Fourth class

Wednesday, April 9, 1879

This has been a beautiful day.

Several blue-backed swallows have been flying about this lot to-day. A few insects have made their appearance, the grass is beginning to look green, and every thing seems to indicate that spring has really arrived.

We had no speaking exercise to-day. Mr. Russell took up the time talking to us. The volunteering is still lively.
Our class commences its review in Music to-morrow. Each scholar is to select one topic from her notes and be able to give full information on it. This, our review in History coming to-morrow, and an Algebra lesson in radicals has made the study-hour this evening hard.

M.E.M. 3rd class.

Thursday, April 10, 1879

Today has closed by being very cloudy and stormy. A very good representation of our study in Geography just now.

The Fourth Class are trying a new form of recitation in Mr. Russell’s class, which I think is more interesting than the former way. Although the absence of the First Class is seen very plainly by the empty seats in the hall yet their presence is by and no means needed to fill the seats on the platform, that being more than full every morning. “An elegantly-shaped head” was the subject of discussion this morning. It was some time before a satisfactory explanation could be given.

The questions arose from a report on the alpaca, which was said to have “an elegantly-shaped head.”

E.B.B. 4th Class.

Friday, April 11, 1879

Today has been dark, gloomy, and disagreeable generally; though the sun barely peeped through clouds once this morning.

As this is Good Friday, the public schools do not keep, and so the First class is back here for today.

The Fourth class is beginning to think of a review in reading.

This school has not been affected with the walking fever to such an extent as others in the city, but I think likely top-spinning is more prevalent here than elsewhere.

H.B.A. 4th. class.

Saturday, April 12, 1879

This morning the ground had a covering of light snow, but the sun which came out in full force soon melted it away.
Snow-drops are up and in blossom. It seems as if so delicate a flower could not live in this wild weather.

Tops are still the centre of attraction and every day some one comes with a new one.

We have had some musical instruments introduced into school in the shape of blades of grass. The noise they produce has more strength than music in it.

A.C.M. 4th class.

Monday, April 14, 1879

Tuesday, April 15.

The “oldest inhabitant” is beginning to be quoted in regard to the lateness of the Spring.

However, the grass begins to look green on sunny slopes.

We received a new idea from Mr. Russell about studying our Physiology lesson.

We are not to try to learn all of it, but take the principal parts.

One of the members of our class had gone. “To graze in pastures new”, may be.

We had an interesting account of Easter Sunday given us by a member of the 3rd class, also an exercise in spelling, where a “little shout” [“occurred” crossed out] was indulged in.

An “explosion” occurred in the afternoon which resulted in the loss of some one’s “top” (not head).

A.C.H. 4th class.

Tuesday, April 15, 1879

A spring workman,

A.P.S. 3d Class.

Wednesday, April 16, 1879
The mild spring days are now beginning to appear, and we have had an example of such a one
to-day. The number of birds are increasing daily, and as they flit about in the trees surrounding
our school, their sweet songs often reach our ears, as we sit at work with our books.

The grass, in some places, has put on a light shade of green; but here and there upon the hills
bordering the horizon, may yet be seen patches of snow.

Six members of the third class went with Mr. Adams to visit some of the manufactories in the
cirt. We went to Washburn’s rolling-mills, where rails are made for rail-roads. We saw here a
large hydraulic press, which we have been studying about. We went to a foundry, where a great
many different things were made. We also visited a pottery, where we were very much interested
in seeing how a shapeless piece of clay can easily be converted to a well-shaped jug or any other
earthen vessel.

S.P.A.
3d Class.

Thursday, April 17, 1879

Following the example of my worthy contemporaries I will sing of the weather. Since “variety is
the spice of life” a little snow, a little rain, a little shine, a little wind, must needs make us very
“spicy.” This is the kind of weather we are enjoying. And if any man can run it any better “let
him come forth”!

The change in the recitation of Zoology is very much enjoyed by the fourth class. The recitation
being made much more interesting to both the one reciting and to the class. Besides this the
practice we get in questioning will be of great value to us.

Tops are raging. One is all out of fashion if they haven’t a top.

J.M.S.
4th Class.

Saturday, April 19, 1879

Notwithstanding the infavorable turn of the weather we have been favored this after-noon with a
visit from Miss Hale of Boston, a member of the school committee of that city and one of the
first to introduce sewing into the public schools.
She gave an interesting history of the progress of the sewing from its infancy (some 7 or 8 years ago) to the present time; which now includes, to some extent, embroidery and dress cutting, but the main object is to gain efficiency in plain practical sewing.

She also dwelt at considerable length upon the effect of treating this or any other branch of study with disrespect.

And now that we have seen this side of the subject ably defended who would not like to hear from the opponents?

One can hardly judge fairly from hearing only one side of a question.

E.M.C.

4th class

Thursday, April 24, 1879

The air was invigorating this morning like the “scent of strong meats.”

Mr. Russell gave us a talk this morning, which lasted ten minutes over the usual time. It was about the importance of our being wide awake observers of outdoor nature, which is one of the things that will bring us closer to children.

He thought it would be a good plan to bring into the school-room what really interested us. And in that word “really”, there is a good deal of hidden meaning contained.

He has two wash-tubs filled with earth for any experiments we may wish to try, and he can buy more.

The third class were most of the afternoon with Mr. Adams at the Rolling Mill and Pottery.

At the Rolling Mill, we saw among other things the whole process of making rails. The steam hammer interested me the most of anything.

It was not a required working day at the Pottery; but we were fortunate enough to see there jars made. Miss Porter has placed on the piano a panful of hepatica triloba, and today I have noticed the first bouquet of mayflowers on the desk.

Writing in ink is my – blank, blank.

S.J.B. 3rd Class.
Friday, April 25, 1879

An April Day

When the warm sun, that brings
Seed-time and harvest, has returned again,
‘Tis sweet to visit the still wood, where springs
The first flower of the plain.

The softly-warbled song
Comes from the pleasant woods, and colored wings,
Glance quick in the bright sun, that moves along
The forest openings.

When the bright sunset fills
The silver woods with light, the green slope throws
Its shadows in the hollows of the hills,
And wide the upland glows.

And when the eve is born,
In the blue lake the sky, o’er-reaching far,
Is hollowed out, and the moon dips her horn,
And twinkles many a star.

Sweet April! many a thought
Is wedded unto thee, as hearts are wed;
Nor shall they fail, till, to its autumn brought,
Life’s golden fruit is shed.

[Longfellow]

A.C.S. 4th Class.

Saturday, April 26, 1879

Prof. Atchinson, of the School of Technology in Boston, read us a lecture on History today. He said that neither learning a great number of dates which are so easily forgotten, nor studying governments, or laws, nor reading history books, is the true way to study history although all there are a part of history. A great deal of written history as well as unwritten is not worth knowing, and a great deal more it is not worth our while to read. He told us about his seeing on old wall of a house, which was being torn away, and which was covered with posters, this he said suggested the subject of a history lesson in one of his classes, the history of the
streets of Boston. With several other illustrations he showed us the moral, that we must see history suggested by the things around us in order to make the history look anything but dry to us.

L.N.J. Grad.

Sunday, June 8, 1879 [the date is crossed out with arrow pointing to Saturday, June 7]

I have been wondering for a long time where this Diary had gone to, and have just found it; and now I can have no peace in writing in it for everyone is so anxious to know where it has been.

Since the last entry in this book our school has enjoyed a long talk with Mr. Alcott, and several outdoor excursions, – two, with Prof. Sanborn, for insects, one long ramble for flowers with Prof. Easton of the Worc. Institute of Tech. and the last was with Mr. Forbush, a gentleman much interested in birds. These walks have not been without effect, as is shown by the bouquets of even common flowers in the schoolroom, and the number of birds, dead and living, that the pupils have brought in.

We have had another lecture by Prof. Atchinson. This time his subject was English Literature. Mrs. Sumner has been here two mornings this week to help us on our singing. She has succeeded in opening our mouths, for a time at least. She is such a spirited little lady that her lessons are very enjoyable.

The anniversary exercises occur three weeks from next Wednesday.

A.E.M.

3rd class.

Tuesday, June 10, 1879

Everything is marching on about as usual.

The first class expect leave us, for a short time to-morrow.

As the first hours of the morning have been somewhat broken, of late, by extra music lessons, we have omitted the usual [“singing” crossed out] speaking exercise this after-noon and have had one of the regular lessons in its place.

The fourth class have given up flowers for their weekly drawing test and taken other objects. Our lesson for to-day is an umbrella.
Wednesday, June 11, 1879

To-day the seniors commenced their final examination at the City Hall. Their absence is quite perceptible especially when we are assembled, and every now and then we are further reminded of their absence by a sympathetic remark from those who hope to be surrounded by similar circumstances in the future.

This after-noon Mr. Russell spoke at some length on the merits of the Art Exhibition, now at Horticultural Hall. He advises us all to attend even if we have to sacrifice something by so doing, and offers to give us time from school rather than have us miss the opportunity, feeling sure that what may be lost in our studies will more than be compensated for in what we will learn there.

Thursday, June 12, 1879

Yesterday Mr. Russell spoke of the Art Exhibition from outside impressions but to-day he speaks from actual observation and he urges us more than before, to try and see it.

The exhibition consists of 117 oil and water paintings by American and foreign artists, ranging in value from $100, to $12000, the one valued at $12000, is Boston Boys and General Gage, by Henry Bacon of Paris.

This is considered by far the finest collection ever in Worcester.

Friday, June 13, 1879

Late this after-noon the first class returned from their examination, they carry a more pleasing countenance that when they left, and seem but little fatigued by their hard days works. Every one seems to welcome them back, and they are pursued by a throng of anxious inquirers who ask about a thousand questions a minute.

Mrs. Sumner still continues to give instructions in music. We were detained an hour this after-noon for that purpose.
Tuesday, June 17, 1879

To-day we were favored by a call from Mr. Rice of Danvers, a member of the State Board of Education. This is his first visit and while here, he spoke among other things, of letter writing; by his remarks he made enough of “a whirlwind” to catch Mr. Russell and he has been trying to enlarge this enough, this after-noon, to catch the rest of us. No doubt West New Brighton will be flooded with Worcester’s Normal graduates soon.

The fourth class begin to feel that they have lost Mr. Russell as teacher; though he has left for only a few recitations. I think the class will rejoice to see him back.

E.M.C. 4th class.

Saturday, June 21, 1879

I am trying very hard to write, but two of those fourth class girls are by, bothering me. They have just finished their dinner, and I suppose they are at a loss what else to do. One is dictating and the other is critiquing. Examinations are the general topic of the day. The third and fourth had one yesterday and the day before. The first class are taking the examinations of the Secretary today and yesterday. Their hearts were made light this morning by the information that all had passed the examinations which they took some time ago, and on which their graduation depends. Mrs. Sumner was here yesterday and Mr. Russell said this morning that we sung the best since 1837.

M.A.M. fourth class.

[end of 1879]