

## BRIGHAM YOUNG ACADEMY.

The Brigham Young Academy was established by President Brigham Young in the year 1874, that the young people of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints might be taught theology at the same time they were being taught the arts, sciences and professions. More than this, these very arts, sciences and professions were to be taught from the standpoint of religion.

The one grave defect in our excellent public schools is thus met. It is a defect which to every thinking person is serious, and yet one for which the wisest education of this or any other generation will find it difficult to suggest a remedy, while parents differ so widely in religious belief.

To meet and overcome this great evil, the individual relationship to God, of the pupil, and the latter's responsibility and dependence, are made the foundation of every study used in every grade. A chair of theology has been established, Elder Charles W. Penrose being the present worthy incumbent. The plan of work for this semester is as follows:

On Monday, Elder David McKenzie lectures to the entire school, except certain grades, on the historical and philosophical proofs of the Scriptures. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, regular theological classes are held in the various class rooms, under the direction of the faculty. These lessons are of an hour's duration, and the classes are thoroughly graded. Friday of each alternate week, is devoted to Priesthood and young ladies' meetings, when the sexes meet separately; while the Friday morning hour, not so used, is spent as a testimony meeting. Sunday school is held regularly every Sunday, and is a best model of what the Church should have. The monthly fast meeting is carefully observed, and Sabbath evening meetings are held in the Academy.

The Brigham Young Academy differs in some of its leading features from every other institution of learning. This is not more marked in any feature than in its domestic organization.

By carefully examining the arrangements made for directing the daily life of non-resident students it will be seen how impossible it is that any pupil of the six or eight hundred now in attendance can be guilty of wrong-doing without the knowledge of the faculty.

This domestic organization is under the management of Professor G. H. Brimhall. To those not residents of Provo it may be necessary to say that as a rule the students are domiciled in private homes, for the most part, from two to ten being under one roof; but there are some boarding houses proper, which accommodate many more; and again, several students from one locality not infrequently rent rooms, and board themselves. Provo city and its environment has been divided into four domestic wards. Each ward is presided over by three leading students who correspond with the bishops and his two counselors, in the regular organization of the Church, and they have, also, a clerk. These officers are nominated by the faculty, and sustained by the vote of the students or members of that domestic ward.

Each of these wards is sub-divided into teachers' beats, or districts. The students each and every one are visited at

their boarding places, by the students called as teachers for that special purpose. At each boarding place one student is selected, as senior to take charge of those boarding there.

Every Thursday the respective domestic wards meet in the academy, at which meetings the student presidency presides under the direction of a member of the faculty, who has general supervision of the domestic organization. The report of the student teachers are given in these meetings, as to the members and families of students in their beats, as regards the general moral, social and spiritual condition. Each senior or head of a boarding house or family of students also reports the condition of those under his charge on the following points.

- 1.—In regard to their spiritual and moral duties.
- 2.—Their intellectual efforts.
- 3.—Environments.

Reports of a personal character are made privately to the faculty. In the case of any dereliction of duty on the part of a student, his fellow students, the teachers, take up a reformatory labor with him, and report results to the presidency of the domestic ward, who, if the case is serious enough, take the matter in hand. If the ward presidency is unable to bring about desired results the matter is brought officially before the faculty.

Aside from the regular weekly meetings spoken of, monthly meetings are held for the officers of the respective wards, where reports are made too, and instructions given by the presiding and other members of the faculty.

When students move from one domestic ward to another they are required to take a recommend, which admits them to the new ward. Every student is required to be at home and at his or her studies by eight o'clock, and if a student is known to spend money in any but a legitimate way their parents or guardians are promptly informed.

This thorough and systematic organization enables the faculty to detect the first sign of waywardness, and to deal with it as they deem best. It also throws the burden of discipline upon the students, where it most gracefully and effectually rests, and the disgusting and demoralizing position of tattler or informer is blotted out in the official duties imposed upon the students themselves.

It will be readily understood that many tales told of Brigham Young Academy students are an impossibility and very largely the coin of brains that love to exaggerate and traduce.

The students attending the academy are for the most part exemplary young men and women, and those who are not, or whose suddenly acquired freedom is a temptation, will be so guarded and helped as to be made so if it is possible. The last monthly report will serve to show how admirably this system works.

Cases of bad hours—none.

Cases of intemperate study (over hours) ten.

Cases of failure to hold regular prayers, five.

Cases of breaking word of wisdom, (use of tea, coffee, or tobacco,) four.

Dissatisfaction with the faculty, one.

Cases of illness, five.

Chronic poor health, two.

These facts in a school numbering over eight hundred, speaks more in the

way of commendation for the excellent care taken of these pupils, some of them thousands of miles from home, than volumes of written praise.

The Brigham Young Academy is essentially a normal training school. This department numbers some five hundred students and is presided over by Professor George H. Brimhall. Miss Ably Hale, an eastern graduate, is principal teacher. The quality of the work done is best understood when the fact that there are hundreds of teachers, graduates from this department, now teaching successfully in this and the surrounding states, territories and even Old Mexico, both in church and district schools. Almost without exception these young teachers give satisfaction, and it has come to be one prominent item of preference, that they be graduates of the Brigham Young Academy.

Herbert Spencer says, the greatest defect in the education of the age is a failure to provide for a course of instruction necessary to the successful rearing of children. The normal course, while embracing all that is of individual advantage, is a regular collegiate course, more nearly approaches this ideal training than any other method.

While the collegiate course has the same tendency toward individualism noticeable in the trend of modern education, the normal training school has, underlying the mere gratification of mastering new problems, and the transcendent beauty which he who disciplines himself by scientific study, finds in the face of nature as his sole reward, but through all, and above all, is the idea of how that can be made of the greatest possible service to the child, in his education, his usefulness, his happiness, and his eternal welfare.

That our young men might enter business life thoroughly equipped with all the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to success, this department has been emphasized. The teachers are graduates of Eastern schools of high repute; the principal, Professor J. B. Keeler, is a practical business man, and author of the text book now in use, which has many advantages over other text books. The work done in the perfectly appointed bank and counting house is largely individual in its character, and proficiency depends on individual effort, not class standing. In connection with this department are taught: Commercial arithmetic, civil government, business correspondence, business penmanship, phonography, type-writing and business orthography.

Lectures every Friday from successful business men on pertinent subjects such as: "Value of personal credit," "Characters of successful men," "Money—its uses and abuses," give a broad view to the student.

The class of men who have failed in our communities have been those who did not have this practical training. The success that is being made by graduates from this department, is the highest encomium of the work. No young man or woman need go east for this branch of education; and the time is near at hand when our business men and women will be as widely known for their scientific proficiency, as now for their perfect integrity.

As recently reviewed in the columns of the News, this department is a new feature of the Brigham Young Academy. The object of this class is to fit young