

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

BRIGHAM YOUNG ACADEMY.

The first semester of the current year is drawing to a close at the Brigham Young Academy, and the work can be justly pronounced "good."

With an attendance of seven hundred and forty pupils, exclusive of the kindergarten, and a representation from five or six states and territories besides Old Mexico, the influence of the education attained here will be widely distributed and permanent in effect, from the fact that this is essentially a normal training school.

Despite the hard times, enlargements to accommodate the increased numbers in attendance have been found necessary, and the large brick and brownstone building at the north of the postoffice, on J street, is being finished to accommodate the preparatory department, consisting of the eight grades. The musical department, under Prof. Lund, will also be given room in this building. West of the Academy block is a large building known as the "Probert Hall," which the board of education will probably have fitted up for a chemical and physical laboratory. Several hundred dollars' worth of apparatus has recently been added to what the academy already possessed.

One of the features specially worth mentioning is that there are advantages other than named in the curriculum; these have material bearing upon the formation of character; also to be noted is the facility with which the information of the class room may be used. Prominent among these is the Philosophical society, which is held every Friday evening and is the entertainment society of the academy. The purpose of this organization is to bring before the students the best specialists that can be obtained at home or abroad and to give them a high class of instructive entertainment. The institution approaches the dignity of a lecture bureau. During the past eighteen weeks lectures have been given by the following gentlemen on the subjects named: Richard R. Lyman, Life of a Student at Ann Arbor; J. W. N. Whitecotton, Problem of Life; Hon. J. E. Booth, Trial of Christ from a Lawyer's Standpoint; Dr. Karl G. Maeser, What Class of Knowledge is of Most Worth; G. H. Britwell, Prophetic Sense in Man; Rev. David Utter, Libraries—What they Should Contain, and How to Use Them; Congressman Bryan, Silver and Finances Considered Nationally; Prof. Nelson, Selections from Bulwer's Richelieu. Besides the lecture, which was the feature of the evening, there were always classical music and minor exercises, often conducted by the pupils. One evening was occupied in a contest between classes English C, and Rhetoric A, in original and oral story telling, which tests to double refinement the quality of the knowledge they have gained. Following this came the ball, which occurs every fifth Friday evening. Last Friday Major Harry C. Hill of Salt Lake read a paper on Personal Remi-

naences of Cuba, which was a masterpiece. A full program for the twenty weeks following the holidays is being prepared, and many names appear thereon that are a guarantee of both pleasure and profit to those who shall have the privilege of hearing them.

There is a large and rapidly growing library which has for the most part been presented to the Academy, and special attention is given in familiarizing the students with the best authors, special and general, as well as the value of books as corroborative evidence. About two hundred and fifty volumes have been added to the library this year, and a charming scheme is on foot to add a score of the best American magazines to the current literature of the Academy.

Sunday school is held in the Academy every Sunday morning. The enrollment is five hundred; the grades are taught separately, and include a normal and Kindergarten department. Teachers are taught to teach in conformity with the most approved program. Vocal music is free to all, and greatly assists voice culture proper; and those who will never make singers acquire that control of the voice necessary to good reading and public speaking.

The Pedagogium is the Normal Society of the Academy. The class of subjects discussed is explained by the name of the association, and it partakes largely of the nature of a teachers' institute. Lectures are given by the professors, and articles are prepared and questions answered by the young teachers. One permanent feature of the program is the compiling of current events, by a person selected at the previous meeting. Professional teachers have been criticized as being deficient in a knowledge of what might be termed present history, and the charge is acknowledged, and this is an effort to mend the defect. The compilation of these items into historical matter gives the student a fine idea of the relative value of subjects, and teaches them to discriminate between essential imperishable matter, and non-essential passing excitements. This association has been favored during the semester just closing with lectures from Dr. Karl G. Maeser, on The Teacher; President Cluff, Greek, and Greek Education. Dr. Talmage, of the Utah University, The Scientific Spirit; Prof. Brimhall, What to Study and How to Study, etc., etc.

Last but not least is the Domestic Organization, having for its subject the social, moral and domestic welfare of every pupil in attendance; organized on the full pattern of the Church, authority defined, responsibility limited, and an official record made of every pupil's life, while the greatest privacy and personal liberty is allowed.

ELLEN JAKEMAN.

UTAH COUNTY TEACHER.

PLEASANT GROVE, Utah, Dec. 14, 1895.—The first mid-winter session of the U. C. T. A. was held at this place today. The northern part of the county was well represented. Springville's

teaching corps was marshalled by Trustee Jas. E. Hall. Payson was represented by Superintendent Christensen and wife. Superintendent Rawlings and all his aids were present from Provo. The citizens of Pleasant Grove, earnest and appreciative, turned out to honor the occasion. The day was all that could be asked, and the program as carried out was a complete success. It was as follows:

Singing, "America"..... Teachers
Prayer..... Jas. E. Hall
Music..... Pleasant Grove Orchestra
Address of welcome..... Principal Robinson
Response..... County Supt. Christensen
Lecture, "Our Dispositions".....
..... W. M. Stewart, M. D.
Song..... Primary Pupils
Paper, "The New Woman"..... Principal Vance
Song..... Eva Frampton
Debate—Resolved, That genius is the result of application, not an endowment—Affirmative, Principal G. N. Child and Sarah Smith, of Lehi; negative, Principal W. R. Osiderwood and Cora Curtis, of American Fork.

A banquet was given in the city hall at 4 p.m. in which about 200 persons participated. The program consisted of toasts, sentiments, music, etc. The festivities of the day ended with a ball in the evening, at which dancing was interspersed with a literary program.

The session was one of the most successful ones that have been held under the auspices of the Utah county teachers. Prof. Stewart, a special favorite of this county, simply "broke his own record." His remarks will greatly aid the cause in this part. The orchestra came in for its share of praise. "Is that Salt Lake music?" "No." "Well, I thought Pleasant Grove had no such music as that." "The boys are all right."

Great credit is due the teachers, trustees, pupils and patrons for their successful efforts. R.

PROFESSOR MILLS AND WATER.

LOGAN, Utah, Dec. 16, 1895.

When the irrigation question first came up in the Constitutional Convention the News and myself were of the same opinion in regard to the proposition brought forward by the irrigation commission and as to what should be done; and both expressed ourselves on the question then. Without collision or any other agreement we both declared the proposition to mean in reality co-education and very undesirable on its merits. This morning, as I read over your editorial of March 12, 1895, I wondered how we have drifted so far apart, for that editorial exactly expressed my ideas then and does now. The editorial covers the ground so thoroughly and well that I should be pleased to see you republish it in full.

However, from your editorial of Nov. 25, 1895, it is evident that we now disagree on one point, viz: the anatomy of the creature, agriculture. Irrigation is a part and only a part of agriculture, and for this reason it can never become greater than agriculture. Whether in make-up of the beast it would be proper to call irrigation the tail, I am unable to say; but certainly it is one of the appendages of agriculture. Were irrigation a thousand times as important as it now is it would still be a part of agriculture, and the part can never be greater than the whole. I must still continue to insist that agriculture should do the