

The Voice

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**Editor
H. B. Wilson**

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Editorials

We are greatly indebted to Mr. F. E. Whitman for the aid rendered as in acting as amanuensis. He will please accept our heartfelt thanks. Editor

Owing to the physical inability of the editor at the time of writing the editorials, they will necessarily be fewer and shorter than if the case were otherwise.

Oft' has the silvery moon waxed and waned and still oftener the gorgeous sun following fleet Aurora has sped o'er his diurnal course since your humble servant was last called upon to occupy the Editorial chair of the Voice. Then we looked joyfully back o'er a year of intellectual toil in the Phi Sigma (Greek symbols). Now we lie get a moment remembering the manly pleasant evenings of this another year spent in like pleasant & profitable study made still more interesting by the fortnightly hearing of the Voice. It has been a source of constant pleasure to us to note the energy with which each editor has bro't forth his respective issue and also the marked attention paid to the reading of them in the class. We trust that the interest shown by each editor in the past will decrease in the future but that every one will strive to make the next number entrusted to him better than the last.

By the kind aid of Messrs. F. E. Whitman and C. H. Small we are able to present two articles beside that of the editor in this issue. We should have had another were it not for the fact that some of the members expressed the feeling that we were receiving more support than rightly belonged to us. The result of this expression was that the chairman excused the one and only member appointed to help the editor from handing in his article and it was only after much persuasion that the chairman was induced to re-appoint the member to the duty assigned. Thereupon the Editor of his own accord returned to the chairman an article, which he had already obtained, that it might be presented in some future issue in place of his own.

But at the same time the editor in behalf of himself and all future editors would enter his humble protest against the action of the chairman in assuming to excuse of his own accord a member appointed to aid in bringing forth any issues. We do this for two reasons—1st It is the privilege of each editor to obtain by personal request as much aid as he desires besides that of the regularly appointed assistant. Now any editor desirous of bringing before the class a good & interesting number will of course exert himself to obtain this extra aid. Now we fail to see why any editor should put forth these exertions if by gaining such aid he loses his original and appointed supporter. This withdrawal of assistance seems to us but a deathblow to the rising ambition of future editors.

2nd – The chairman has no right thus to excuse a member. The chairman is empowered to appoint members to duties, but it lies in the power of the class alone to excuse them. We have not time at present to dwell at more length upon this important point, but we are ready to give at any time our authority for the statement made.

We once more thank Messrs. Small and Whitman for the efficient aid they have given us, and trust that the Voice will continue to receive their ardent support, in the future as it has in the past.

Editor

A Few Great Astronomers

Since some of the members of the class have lately shown that they are interested in the study of astronomy, it may not be out of place for us to mention a few of the great names which adorn that science and tell what they are renowned for.

Who more worthy to name first than Hipparchus, deservedly styled "Father of Astronomy" in commemorations of his labors, the results of which he handed down to future generations in the shape of a catalogue of the stars. Hipparchus was a careful and diligent observer of the heavens. He studied minutely the motions of the sun and moon and established the fact of the irregularity of their motions. But his great work as we have intimated above was the catalogue which he made of 1081 stars. This has proved a priceless treasure to all astronomers since his time, as in it he numbered the stars and gave their carefully observed positions in the heavens. He was followed by Ptolemy, another noted Greek astronomer. You have all undoubtedly heard of him as the system which he promulgated and which bears his name is spoken of very often. The earth occupied the center of his system and the sun and stars revolved around it. He was able in accordance with his theory to explain to a remarkable degree the movement of the heavenly bodies, but as we all know now he made a fatal mistake by regarding the earth as being at the center. Nevertheless his system known as the Ptolemaic system was received and adopted by most of mankind, by the colleges and places of learning for fourteen centuries. At length it fell before the study and reasoning of Copernicus who came to regard the sun as the center of this planetary system. It took some time for the world prejudiced in favor of the old theory to receive that of Copernicus, but at length it prevailed, just as truth must and will always prevail. It must not be forgotten, however that although he was right in regarding the sun as occupying the central position, still his system was not devoid of error, and it fell to the lot of succeeding astronomers to wipe away these errors, and reveal to us the truth instead. Most prominent among those who followed him and adopted his theory was Kepler, the renowned Kepler—a man who gave his life to arduous and unceasing toil. It had been supposed for centuries that the planets moved along the circumferences of circles. Kepler however discovered that their

observed positions did not at all times agree with their computed ones and he was led to doubt that their motion was circular. After eight years of toil he proved to his own mind that their orbits were not circular and was led to the great discovery that they were elliptical instead. The law of planetary motion which he had discovered and which he gave to the world was this: Planets revolve in elliptic orbits about the sun which occupies the common focus of all these orbits. This paved the way soon after for the discovery of his second great law, viz: "That if a line be drawn from the center of the sun, to any planet, this line as it is carried forward by the planet, will sweep over equal areas in equal portions of time." And after seventeen years of labor and research he added this third law: "The squares of the periods of two planets are to each other as the cubes of their respective distances from the sun." The discovery of these three laws made Kepler famous, but in thinking of his renown do not forget the untiring labor by which he earned it, and when you are desirous of such reward, great or small, bear in mind that first of all you must perform the hard work. T'was Kepler who exclaimed in regard to his book: "The book is written to be read either now, or by posterity, I care not which. It may well wait a century for a reader, since God has waited six thousand years for an observer." Living at the same time as Kepler was that noted philosopher Galileo. Aided by the discoveries of Jansen, of Holland, he constructed an instrument before unknown to science, viz: the telescope. With this he discovered four of Jupiter's satellites, observed the phases of Venus, and made many other important discoveries, which were received with joy by the followers of Copernicus, as they greatly strengthened his theory.

And last but not least we may mention an English philosopher, regarded as the greatest genius that ever lived—Newton. To him we owe the discovery of the great law of gravitation, which revealed the relation existing between all bodies of matter in the universe, and which greatly broadened out the application of Kepler's laws. It was a mighty problem which Newton had to solve, but he was equal to the occasion. Great results have followed from it, and great glory has he gained.

Editor

A Glimpse at Boston by a Phi Sigmite

Boston attracts thither the stranger not only for what it is today but more especially for what it has been in the past. Two hundred and fifty years ago the city was founded and from that time to this it has always been foremost in times of national danger. You will remember that the people of Boston have suffered two massacres for the country; one at the commencement of the Revolution, the other at the commencement of the Rebellion. But the history of Boston is well known to you as it is closely connected with that of the nation. Henry Ward Beecher pays a worthy tribute to Boston in the following words: "Here began American history; here American institutions commenced. Not that there are not other places: but the stream began to flow here, which has been as a river of life to this nation ever since, and it is continual****Boston has never ceased to be a brain full of vitality, and full of the vitality of knowledge of liberty and religion,*****with whatever prejudices she may have been assailed, there is not on this shore a city, nor in all the plains, nor in the whole realm of these confederated states, a considerable town or city, that does not owe a debt of gratitude to the city of Boston."

On the 9th day of Nov. 1872 the same element that a little over a year before had destroyed the best part of Chicago, layed in ashes the heart of this city. But here, as in Chicago, when one walks about the burnt district he can hardly realize that where the large granite buildings are there was once a mass of ruins.

One of the first things noticed by a stranger visiting Boston, and particularly one from the West, is the irregularities of the city. In the first place the city was build on a peninsula consisting of three hills the highest point being 138ft. above the level of the sea—one of the hills has been completely leveled. Further the streets are for the most part narrow and crooked; in the more recently built parts of the city, however, the streets are wider and more regular. The "neck" of the peninsula has been greatly enlarged forming what is known as the "Back Bay Lands," whether this land is so called because some time back it was a bay, or because the bay was somewhat back from the city we are not able to say. On this "Back Bay" land the finest residences of the city are built. Many of the adjacent towns have been annexed to Boston which adds much to the complexity of the city. All parts of the city are made accessible by numerous lines of horse cars the twistings and turnings of which are enough to confuse the best balanced mind even that of a Phi Sigmite who has learned to follow in and out the devious arguments of an opponent. Most of the streets are paved with cobblestones, some are macadamized. The sidewalks are mostly made of bricks as are most of the houses, the large buildings are of granite. Boston has a large, fine harbor and carries on quite an extensive commerce, but not so extensive comparatively as formerly. The inhabitants are a steady going kind of people, courteous and obliging, but not as social as the people of the West.

One of the first places that a person visiting Boston turns his attention to is the Common, an irregular piece of ground in the center of the city about fifty acres in extent. It is now covered with snow but as we walked up and down the paths we could appreciate its beauty when the trees have put forth their leaves and the grass is out in all its verdure. In the center of the Common on a mound is a large monument in memory of those who layed down their lives for their country in the late rebellion. As we looked about our attention was attracted to several large sleds with some fifteen or twenty boys on each gliding rapidly down a hill in the Common, they slide a distance of about three blocks passing perhaps over the same ground on which the boys of more than one hundred years ago built their snow houses that were torn down by the British soldiers. On Beacon Hill overlooking the Common stands the State House where the laws of this Commonwealth are enacted. It is a large granite building with a gilded dome that can be seen for miles around. Adjoining the Common is the Public Garden which we are told in the summer season is filled with flowerbeds. The streets above the Garden are wide and lined with fine residences.

The next place of interest is Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown now a part of Boston. The monument is built on the summit of the hill where the battle was fought a "where Warren fell." The shaft is of granite about 225 feet in height—but this memorable spot is familiar to you "in the books you have read." At the foot of the hill is the Charlestown Navy Yard to which we turned our attention. Passing the sentinel we found ourselves in the midst of a quiet and orderly place with various workshops here and there, groups of cannonball lined the walks. Unless you have been on board a man-of-war you cannot imagine the neatness of the ship that we went on board of, there is a place for everything and everything in its place; around the lower deck is a row of cannon, other ammunitions of war are to be seen on all sides; in the forward part were groups of sailors playing checkers, the scarred faces of some showed that they know what fighting is.

Another place of interest is the Old South Church erected in 1730. As we sat in the church last Monday before Joseph Cook commenced his lecture we could not help thinking of its past history. There the Puritans listened to the words of Truth; there powerful sermons against oppression were preached; there public and secret meetings were held; from there the "Boston Tea Party" are said to have made their sally; there the British dragoons had their riding school during their occupation of Boston; now Joseph Cook pours forth there his words of wisdom. The building just escaped being destroyed in the great fire.

Faneuil Hall "the Cradle of Liberty," or the place where an Hibernian said the libertines were rocked in their cradles, is another historic building. Many public meetings were held here before the Revolution. The lower part of the building has been used for the past twenty years as a market. The hall still retains its former appearance—a large square room with galleries on the sides and at the rear; the desk and some of the old chairs are on the platform. Portraits of Washington, Samuel Adams, Gen. Warren, John Hancock and others adorn the walls, and a large painting representing Daniel Webster replying to Haines in the U.S. Senate hangs on the front wall.

Last but by no means least among the attractions briefly noticed in this sketch is to be mentioned, "the belfry tower of the Old North Church" where, "on the eighteenth of April in seventy-five," Paul Revere's signal was hung, "one of by land and two if by sea. The Church is on one of the three hills of the city and was built in 1723. Many of the houses are standing that were there when "—his friend, through alley and street, wanders and watches with eager ears;" but time has been at work and they look old and dilapidated. On the hill near by the Church is the graveyard where the dust of those who saw the city in its infancy is buried. The old tombstones with their quaint inscriptions are gradually being worn and crumbled away by the storms that beat upon them year after year.

This is what has taken our attention and been of special interest to us as we have walked up and down these streets that have been associated with so many memorable events.

C. H. Small

Notes & "Ado"

As you know or should know we as a class subscribe to the Literary Review but we are sorry to see the members so little interested in its monthly issues. We trust that they will have more attention in the future.

Birthday poems "Valentine" couplets & squibbles of all kinds, grave or gay, sublime or ridiculous, dashed off at a moments notice, by G. H. Beard—the poet of the Phi Sigma (Greek symbols).

Mr. Hulin thinks he is the coming man. But as he has been coming for the last 18 yrs or more and has not crossed the threshold yet one may be led to doubt the seriousness of his assumption.

Original designs in business-calling and wedding cards made & executed upon special order by Mr. F. E. Whitman.

As he sat on the steps on Sunday evenings he claimed the right to a kiss for every shooting star. She at first demurred as became a modest maiden, but finally yielded. She was even so accommodating as to call his attentions to flying meteors that were about to escape his observation & then got to "calling" him on lightning bugs, & at last got him down to steady work on the light of a lantern, that a man was swaying about a depot in the distance, where trains were switching.

Gas!--Gas!--Enough to meet all demands—supply pipe open day and night—apply to W.H.B.

We take pleasure in informing the public that they have listened to Mr. F.E.W.'s last anecdote—till he tells another.

A young & good-looking gentleman offers his services as escort to ladies old or young, failing to obtain their hearts desire. See Hulin.

The attention of the members is called to the history of Peter the Great now being published in Scribner's Monthly. Its perusal will no doubt prove profitable to anyone so minded.

Mr. W. H. Beard has evidently of late not come to the class with any of his prepared and voluminous speeches—as he has always taken off his overcoat.

A Yarn about a Long Sleigh Ride

By A. Yarn Spinner, Esq.

(Note. At the earnest request of a large proportion of our readers to publish an account of the life in the lumber regions of the northwest and a slight taste of the vicissitudes of pioneer life we have engaged a gentleman who has experienced somewhat of the hardship bearing and yet oftentimes very enjoyable times in a lumber camp. It has been thought too long to give this story in one or even two numbers of the Voice & therefore only a part of it will be given in occasional numbers of our paper. The part we present our readers tonight is in the main preliminary. Editor)

Many of the prosperous business men of today who are yet but in their prime can look back, some with pleasure & others with great sadness perhaps, to the days when what is now the heart, the fountain-head of our country, was considered "way out west." 'Twas not so very many years ago that the now prosperous and busy state of Ohio was rapidly being filled up & settled by New Englanders and especially by the thrifty sons of Connecticut & on account of the large number of these people it was often called New Connecticut. But still the wave of emigration rolled on westward and at length it went a little northward into what is now Wisconsin & also into that "burnt mitten" shaped piece of country bounded by Lake Mich. & Huron & at the present time comprising the lower peninsula of Michigan. The sturdy farmers began to till the fertile and productive soil and raise the grain, fruit & vegetables for which Lower Mich. is so celebrated. But a new enterprise was soon to be started. It was soon found that Mich. was destined to be the future lumber market of the country. The supremacy which old Maine had so long & so grandly held was to be wrested from her hand & placed farther towards the setting sun. Lumber camps were started and mills erected with mushroom rapidity and towns were founded which have since become thrifty cities and the busy hum & buzz of a score or two of sawmills can be heard in almost every lake port or river town of medium size, say 10,000 people. But we are not to look at the whole of that large state but will turn our attention to one place & there look into the founding, growth, prosperity & perhaps decline of one of these many lumbering towns. Altho' it was small and did not even in its prime contain more than five mills yet it will serve us as a good example.

Early in the '60s the government was engaged in making appropriations for harbor improvements in occasional lake ports and render them fit for "harbors of refuge" to better accommodate the rapidly increasing interstate commerce. One of these natural harbors which the government greatly improved is situated on the eastern shore of Lake Mich. and about 200 miles a little out of a direct line north of our own city. When the

contractors went there to begin their work they found a little bean-shaped lake about 1½ miles in length & about ½ mile wide lying at right angle with Lake Mich. into which it emptied through a creek. On the south side of this little lake a hill rises, beginning but a few feet from the waters edge and extending upward to the height of 300 feet. On the north the land is level for about 1000 feet and then another hill similar to the first rises abruptly. On the N.E. is a little plain about a mile long & of nearly the same breadth & that too ended in a hill higher than either of the others. The only exposed places are two narrow parts, one where the lake empties into Lake Mich. on the west & the other on the east where a stream, small, clear but quite rapid, one of those useful, almost indispensable means of lumber, flows in. Such is the topographical character of a little town of 1500 people in which the writer found himself during the winter of '76 & '77 & from this little village, Frankfort by name, he set out one winter morning on the sleigh ride he has been so long in arriving at. Lumbering operations are best carried on in the winter but it is not infrequently done in the summer. The reasons for this the reader will probably ascertain before he finishes reading this tale. Having been promised for many weeks, an opportunity for visiting the lumber camps & enjoying a ride thro' the woods your humble servant did wait with great impatience for that much desired day to arrive on which that ride—the event of the winter, was to begin. At length it did come and it was Monday, Dec. 28. Christmas had come and gone with its festivities but it had left its card in the shape of an ulster, an ankle warming ulster—the boy's delight—the man's resort—and the recipient was desirous, very desirous, of trying its beneficial qualities. After taking a good hearty breakfast and making ready for the trip the sleigh with plenty of robes & behind two splendid horses—not fast but steady & sure—ones that can go 60 or 70 miles a day, was found waiting at the door. The sleigh was one specially adapted for its use & was what is called a "light pair of bobs." It consisted of two sets of light & strong runners on which was placed the box. In this box, or "upper works," as a sailor would say, was a tight covered box for holding halters, blankets sircingles(?) a pail & c(?) which must necessarily be carried when driving thro' the woods. Getting into this conveyance, the start was made with the sun shining brightly overhead & plenty of snow on the ground. It sounded right & merrily to hear the sleigh bells jingle as the horses & sleigh sped away across the little plains to the N. E. of town & headed towards the opening in the hill which bounded it. And here we will leave them till another time.