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History of the Class of '74

Thomas Spooner Jr.

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Bates

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1874

History
of the
Class of '74
Bates College
Lewiston Me.

By
Thomas Spooner Jr.
Historian

June 19th 1874.

Dedication

To the wife of the member
of this class who shall be the
first to be married after graduating
this work is respectfully dedicated
by the
Author.

Preface

Leaving fancy to the Poet - and fiction to the Prophet; the Historian deals in facts. In this history therefore only facts are chronicled, some of which will seem stranger than fiction and some will appear to be but the fancies of a student's mind yet - facts they are ~~and~~ facts they ever will be.

In order to write the history of an individual, a class, or a people, one thing is indeed requisite, the individual the class, the people must have a history and this most truly has the class of '74. And to that history your attention is now invited.

Chapter I

Our Introduction

In the catalogue of 1870-71 there were recorded the names of 26 Freshmen ours among the number. Of these 26 only fifteen are present tonight. Five we never saw. Of the remaining six Macomber left at the end of the second year on account of ill-health. Merrill went to Bowdoin after remaining here two years. Royce died of consumption at his home in New Hampshire, in the fall of '71. Parker was obliged to give up his course for want of pecuniary means. Stanford was a member of the class three years. He was for a time in the

office of the Lewiston Journal and is now on the Editorial corps of Hunt's Merchants Magazine in New York City. Street found Lewiston too dull for him after a years trial and is soon to make Dartmouth dull by graduating from that institution.

I have said that but-fifteen of the original number were left-but-by the addition of Frost, Keene and Simmons we number eighteen tonight. Frost and Keene would have graduated with the class of '73 had health and circumstances permitted, but-we bade them welcome and number them as two of us. The same hearty welcome was extended to

Simmons whose circumstances prevented
from graduating at Bowdoin three years
ago. but - who now is an esteemed mem-
ber of this class.

We never shall forget - that first - day
of our college life as we assembled in the
recitation rooms to make our acquaintance
with Mr. Livy, as the Tutor expressed it;
but - I think we rather preferred to make
acquaintance with each other. There was
Asterian who had come all the way from
Turkey to get an education. How we gazed
at him to see if we could find anything
like fellowship in one who was from a
far off land. We were not - disappointed
for we found ~~in~~ him one of the best of

4

fellows. There was Chaudler whom we soon looked up to as our leader in Greek and Latin but whose droll methods of reciting mathematics were sure to provoke mirth. Then there were Cromwell with his inquiring mind, Eastman who had a faculty for not fully understanding the fine points in the lesson, Given who made himself our friend at once, Ham whom we considered our counsel in case of trouble, Hoffmann whom some of us feared as our rival among the girls, Maxfield who has since won renown as the champion croquetist; Aloah Moulton or as he was sometimes called by one of the professors, the Elder Moulton

whose dignity in the recitation room has always been considered a wonder, that we wondered if he had any. We recognized Frank Moulton as perhaps the most studious member of the class. Noble seemed to bear his name rightly. Rogers appeared of a doubtful mind, especially in the latter part of the course when we had to deal with moral science.

Smith, Spooner and Way complete the number who then were and are now of the class of '74.

Chapter II

Cutting Recitations.

It did not take the class long to

found out that if the Professor was not in his place in five minutes after the ringing of the bell the class were at liberty to leave the recitation room or in other words "cut-recitation".

Our first experience in this art was with the Tutor in Latin. An opportunity was offered for a good cut but alas! five of the class were not sharp enough to cut. They remained and recited the lesson, and all they received for their faithfulness was the appellation of "the immortal five" which was given them by those who did cut. It is worthy of record here that Chandler was one of those five

This is one fact- which is even stranger than fiction.

The recitation in Mathematics we cut- twice in this manner; After waiting the five minutes in the Mathematical room we went to the farther end of the hall and hastily gathered in one of the recitation rooms there from which there was no exit- but- to go past- the door of the room where we were to recite. We did not- dare go out- for it- would not- be pleasant- to be caught- by the Professor, who we knew was sitting in the room with the door open. After waiting half an hour our door was pushed ajar and the

8

smiling face of the Professor was seen looking in at us as he pleasantly said "he guessed we would recite in the other room". This of course we did much to our sorrow but we learned a lesson which we had a chance to put into practice in less than two weeks, for another opportunity was offered to cut the same recitation. Each stood at the head of the stairs with watch in hand and when the five minutes had ~~gone~~ passed down stairs we rushed pell mell to the front door. We knew that to go down the granite steps would be but to rush into the arms of the only man we feared to meet, so we opened

a door leading to the cellar. We all arrived safely in the cellar except - Royes who was caught - just - as he was going through the door and was remanded to the recitation room. Acternian and Chaudler ran up a flight - of stairs leading to the passage through the basement of the building. Here they were met - by the waiting professor and they too were ordered back to the recitation room. Behold their obedience, Acternian went; Chaudler didn't. So all but - two escaped. In speaking of this to another class the professor said "There's the Freshman class - good boys - some of them studying for the ministry but - what - do you think of them to dig clear

down into the cellar.

One day we waited five minutes for the Professor in Chemistry and then decided that the best way would be to go quietly down the stairs even at the risk of meeting the Professor. This we did, and as we went smiling down the stairs the Professor came smiling up. No word was said but the next day as is usual on such occasions we were accused of not waiting the full five minutes. Not long after this as we went into recitation we saw the Prof. talking with a man in front of the Hall. As he did not come into recitation we left the room at the end of five

minutes and passed sorrowfully to our rooms. At the next-recitation he said in regard to the cut- that- he owed the class an apology, he had made a mistake, he had overestimated the man-
 The class had manliness enough to accept-
 liness of the class. ~~We accepted~~ his apology and resolved not to cut-again until we had a chance.

Chapter III

The Hat-Scrape.

I come now ^{to} the most-exciting event of our college life the wonderful hat-scrape, which took place when we were sophomores, '73 were Juniors and '75 were Freshmen. It happened this way. Merrill wore a tall hat- to recitation

Actonian stuffed it - full of hats belonging to others of the class when he came out - to ring the bell. The Freshmen recited the next - hour and it - was natural for Moulton 2^d to suspect - them of this trick, so after the Freshmen had gone into the recitation room, Moulton took their hats and put - them on the window sill intending to draw the window down on them, so that - when the owners came for their hats, they themselves would be apt - to knock them out - of the window, but - he heard a Freshman coming up the stairs so he let - go the hats and out - they went. When we came out of our next - recitation our hats were

gone. We naturally looked for them when the Freshmen found theirs and then they were. Some of us thought it was beneath our Sophomoric dignity to be imposed upon by the Freshmen so one of our class took the Freshman's hats and hid them. Of course the Freshmen accused us of this, but the one who did the deed so concealed his work that it became evident to the ^{blinded} Freshmen that it was not our class who meddled with their hats. They then suspected the Juniors of the deed and one afternoon when the Juniors came out of recitation to and behold their hats were missing. By this time the Freshmen, Juniors and one

Sophomores had lost their hats. Among the missing hats belonging to the Juniors was a new one owned by a downtown student. He felt more aggrieved than any one else and made some pretty large threats. This was Friday night and here were three classes suspecting each other of stealing hats. The Juniors suspected the Sophomores of taking their hats as well as the Freshmen. The Freshmen thought that the Juniors had taken their hats.

The Sophomores had lost but one hat and didn't seem to care much who had it.

That Friday night and for several days after every step of the Sophomores was dogged by the Juniors. Seeing which

three of our number, Chandler Mayfield
and Smith hired a team late the
next Sunday evening to go to Sabattus
to get the key to the Eurosofian
Society room, from a student who
had it with him there thus making
the Juniors think ~~thus making the~~
~~Juniors think that~~ that the hats were
concealed in that room and would
be removed during the night. This
ride to Sabattus was an interesting
one. They came to where two roads
met and not knowing which to take
Smith got out to read the Guide board
He came running back saying "We're
all right. Sabattusville four miles"

when Maxfield exclaimed "Which ^{road} way
 hummum". "I snum fellers" said Smith
 "I forgot to look", so back he tumbled up
 the bank and found out the right road.

They stopped to buy peanuts and play
 by the way so that it was very late
 when they ~~go~~ arrived at Sabattus and
 found the house where they expected
 to ~~obtain~~ the key. They called out the Father
 of the student who had the key and told
 him not to wake his son but quietly
 take the key from his pocket and
 bring it to them, by this means their
 actions were made even more suspicious.

Suffice it to say they got the Key and
 returned after inquiring at nearly every

house the way to Sabattus or Lewiston

Their motions were watched but did not reveal anything to the suspecting Junior of whose shrewdness in suspecting that we had concealed the hate in a society room open daily we will not speak.

The next morning the classes held meetings about the matter. Then the three classes met in joint-convention and a spokesman from the Junior class said that that class had affirmed individually and as a class that they had not touched the Sophomores or the Freshmen hate.

Our spokesman said that we as a class had had nothing to do with the Juniors or the Freshmen hate and the

spokesman for the Freshmen said the same in regard to the junior and Sophomores hats. so there we were no nearer a settlement - than at first.

The downtown student who lost his new hat appeared at the college Saturday morning with a young lawyer whose name and fame was then Small.

This lawyer informed the Freshmen and some of our class that if that hat was not at the hat store at 5 o'clock that afternoon they would be arrested, concluding that it was best to comply with his demands, Rogers and Chandler with some of the Freshmen carefully packed in a bandbox a most delapidated

hat and procured a job wagon to carry
this hat to the store but the lawyer on
opening it - had no claim to it - what-
ever. About 6 o'clock P. M. he with three
formidable looking policemen appeared
on the college grounds. What took place
between them and the Freshmen we
leave to their historian to say. We will
however record the fact - that as they
were about taking their departure with-
out making any arrests or obtaining any
hat - some of the Sophomores ran to
Acton's room to toll the bell in
respect to the memory of the gentlemen
who had honored us with their pre-
sence. The Juniors noticing our move-

ments followed us but - again their suspicions were blighted and the bell was tolled. Some of the Juniors suspected Aeterian and Eastman of concealing the hats in their room, and when the police came one of the Juniors went to Aeterian's room and took the key to the bellfry. In tolling the bell that evening the rope came off the wheel and Eastman wanted to replace it, but he hunted in vain for the key until at last he found who had it. The Junior would not give up the key but he and one or two others went with Eastman into the bellfry expecting to get a clue to the hats but again their fondest hopes were

squelched. We are happy to say however that the Freshmen's hats were found a few days afterwards in the cellar of Hathorn Hall, a whole barrelful of them. The Sophomore found his hat on the nail where he left it - and the Juniors, ^{hats were} found their hats the following term stowed away in the cellar of Parker Hall.

These cuts and hat scrapes are not of everyday occurrence but they are the spice which enlivens and makes merry our otherwise dull college life.

Chapter IV

The Batee Student

That we may not be thought - as always

in mischief we now take pleasure in recounting one of our acts in which we justly pride ourselves, viz: the starting of the "Bates Student". However much honor other classes may claim for sustaining this publication we shall always claim it - as our child and shall watch after its future very carefully. We shall rejoice with it in its prosperity and shall aid it in its adversity and we shall always delight to tell its history for the first-year of its existence.

One evening during the fall of our junior year Chandler and Stanford sat in the reading room talking with each other until a late hour. Suddenly one proposed to the other that the class be induced to start

a magazine to be called the "Bates Student"
After the plan was a little more matured
it was submitted to the class. Many class
meetings followed which finally resulted
in a vote to commence the publication
of a monthly magazine to begin with Jan.
1873. The matter of choosing editors and
manager was left with the Faculty to nomi-
nate and class to ratify the nomination.
This terminated in the election of Frederick
B. Staunford and Henry W. Chaudler Editors,
Thos. Spooner Jr. Manager. The editors im-
mediately began their work of getting
material for the initial number and the
manager took means to obtain subscriptions
and advertisements. The Student-

never lacked for excellent essays, stories, character sketches etc. The fondest hopes of the editors were realized. In a literary point-of view the January number indicated success. The beautiful typographical appearance of the "Student" called forth many praises from the college press and the public the credit for which is due to Stanford the Senior Editor and Messrs. Hale and Parker in the office of the Lewiston Journal where the Student was published ~~during~~ ^{while} we had the management of it. As a financial venture the Student did not show much sign of success. We ^{naturally} expected subscriptions from the Alumni but only about half of them subscribed. Some indeed showed their

great-interest-in the undertaking by sending ten cents for the first-number. We are most-happy to record the fact-that-the first-Alumna of the college sent us five dollars for a single subscription.

As it was we had a good subscription though not-a large one and as many advertisement-as we could expect. In this situation then we published the first-six numbers of the Student-when it-became necessary for Stanford to resign as Editor. Chandler became Senior Editor and Frank P. Moulton was elected Sub-Editor. After issuing the June number we had a vacation of two months. About-this time it-became evident-that-the publication of the Student was running the class into debt, so during

The summer vacation the manager and Senior Editor arranged for a course of lectures with the hope that they might yield us the necessary funds. The "Student-Lecture Course" was then arranged consisting of the following: Louise Woodworth Foss, Mr. Parson, and Edward Everett Hale. This venture turned out even worse than the first, - and we found ourselves at the end of the year a little more than three hundred dollars in debt, on the Student and the Lectures. Here was a dilemma but the manager had a faint hope of obtaining a lecture from John B. Gough. Soon after this Gough was finally engaged and we are happy to say that there was made from that lecture alone nearly three hundred

dollars over expenses and the small amount of our debt remaining to be paid was cheerfully made up by the class. Thus closed the history of the Bate Student while in our hands. It took high rank among other college magazines and the debt to be paid by the class was less than two dollars per member of the class. At the close of the year we recommended it to the class of '75 - feeling that it was going into good hands. They have kept up the standard with which it was started and they deserve the hearty support of every friend of the college in sustaining their work.

Chapter V

In Memoriam

As we assemble to night to perform the last duties of our college life we do not forget our classmate George Alfred Proyer whom death removed from us in the fall of '71. During the year that he was with us his very quiet unassuming ways prevented many of us from becoming ^{intimately} acquainted with him, but those who knew him best saw in him the elements of a thorough scholar and firm friend. Sadly did we receive the news of his death and tonight we delight to remember him and count him with us.

It is appropriate that we should speak at this time of that honored professor

Dr. Balkam whose sudden death thrilled this whole community so recently. Ours was the only class under his tuition while he was connected with the college, and it is truly our privilege to bear a fitting tribute to his memory by testifying to the deep and lasting impression he has left on our minds, by his fine scholarly abilities, his thoughtful pleasing ways and his noble, christian manhood.

It was not from the text-books alone that he instructed us but he gave us many lessons for practice in everyday life. The ~~benefit~~ as he said of a long life's experience. The lessons were indeed practical and beneficial and our lives will be made better and more useful if we will but treasure

up these teachings in our hearts and act upon them every day.

On the day of Dr. Balkaus death it will be remembered that he was on his way to the college to attend the eleven o'clock recitation by our class, when he met with the sad accident which ended his life. The class unconscious of this assembled in the recitation room and as he was not there we did what was contrary to our custom to do, we waited a full half hour for him and then went quietly to our rooms. In a short time the terribly sad news of his death spread rapidly from room to room. Words were too weak to express our feelings. The resolutions passed by the class and the floral tribute placed upon the casket-

were but small testimonials of our high esteem and lasting memory of that truly great and good man.

Chapter VI

Other Incidents

At the close of our Freshman year we had a class supper and some literary exercises consisting of an oration by Street, Poem by Stanford, History by Gavin, & Prophecy by Merrill.

We had a pleasant time and closed our Freshman year in a happy manner.

Four weeks ago some of the class ^{set out a} tree in front of Parker Hall, while at work one of the professors happened to pass by and asked when we obtained the tree. One of the class said we stole it - from the grounds

near the college. The professor remarked that "it would be strange if the class ever did do anything honestly" This amused the Freshmen standing near. They evidently thought it a joke. With modesty we record the fact that with very few exceptions our class was always represented in every regular prayer meeting held at the college for the last four years, and at different times some of the class have inaugurated and sustained half hour prayer meetings daily at the different rooms in Parker Hall.

The most of us were apt to distinguish ourselves in recitation but none perhaps did so more than Cartman when reciting one day in Butters Analogy. The lesson was

on "Probation as a discipline" and Eastman was asked the question "What-are we here for"? His mind was anywhere but on the lesson and he thought-the professor was joking so he instantly answered "We are here for the purpose of working out-for ourselves a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!"

Alvah Moulton was asked by an underclassman what benefit-was to be derived from studying Astronomy and Alvah answered "Pshaw! To tell where a shooting star goes to when it-goes out."

Crommett was one time measuring his room. He measured ^{the length} from one corner to an adjacent one and beginning there

measured back again to the first-corner.

With amazement-pictured on his face he turned to the classmate in his room and exclaimed "Gosh! mighty-boys! my room is square" "Why no it-ain't" says Haw!

One day several of us met to make up a few pages of greek. We thought-a translation would be a very handy thing to have so one of the boys was sent-for one. He found a nice, sleek pony stabled in one of the libraries down town, and proceeded to trot it-it-up for us to ride. We were traveling at-breakneck speed when some wapped at-the door for admittance. The pony was closely housed and the door un-locked. We did not-wish to use the pony

in the presence of our visitor but as we did not make much progress without it - Mack

exclaimed "Where's your horse feller?"

"That's a fact" said Ham "then he goes now around the corner."

We thought it necessary at one time to tie Frost to the retter in the recitation room for whenever Alvah tipped up the retter a little Frost was always in the habit of rolling off on to the floor.

For the want of other amusement some of the class attended the spiritual meetings down town occasionally. One evening the medium told Ham's fortune. Among other things she told him he was to marry a young lady living in the suburbs of a

thickly settled city. Everyone who knows Ham
 own heart - feels certain that - this prediction
 will be fulfilled. He was further told
 that - he was to go west - and become a prom-
 inent - man and his children were to
 be two boys and a girls. This so filled
 Ham with joy that - he clapped his hands
 and exclaimed "Good". At another
 meeting of this kind Chaudler agreed
 to speak if the other boys would do so.
 Imagine, O Diogenes, imagine Chaudler
 addressing a spiritual meeting. But he
 actually did and evidently to their satisfac-
 tion, for as his speech was suddenly inter-
 rupted by the medium going into a trance
 later in the meeting he was requested to

finish his remarks. Ham sat impatiently
 all this time for a chance to express his
 feelings, but no opportunity was offered
 much to his regret and that of his audi-
 ence. The medium would go into trances
 that evening and in the midst of them
 she would exclaim in an incoherent
 manner a lot of unintelligible words
 like sellerwochee - sellerwochee. The boys
 could not tell what it meant until
 Alvah Moulton exclaimed "She's telling
 more cheese boys!" Ham could hardly
 keep from exclaiming "Good" when she said
 in a loud voice "Henry Chaudler is
 here" and then gave Chaudler this injunc-
 tion. "When you go home you tell your folks

that-jesus-christ-did-not-come-into-this-world-to-save-sinners. If you are saved you will have to wash yourself from sin and you will need to rub hard". The medium also said that Ham & Chaudler knew about "getting a fourfooted beast-up the steps which the priest-ascended". How in the world she knew that-a cow was ever put-into the chapel we don't-pretend to guess but this is what-she evidently meant. It was not-a spirit-of-mischief that-prompted the boys to attend these meetings for they conducted themselves in such a manner that-they were urged to go again.

We are happy to record a good word for

our Lewiston City government: and give them our thanks for their generous act in giving us the use of City-Hall for our Commencement-Exercises. We are also glad to say that it is in our day and generation that the city government has seen the need of a plank sidewalk on College Street and have given us one. This certainly can be called a means of grace in the saving of many soles. Of course we mean bootsoles.

A word in regard to our action about the tickets to our Commencement-Concert seems to be necessary here. When we issued our tickets we did nothing but what former classes have done and future classes

will do by each reserving a few seats before the plan was open to the public. "Why did we do this?" many asked. To those we will say we did it - because we had run the risk of a very expensive concert and whatever deficiency there was in the receipts we would have to pay. and we thought - that some of the best seats in the Hall rightly belonged to our Father and Mother whose money had kept us in college and whose money would make up this deficiency if any. So each of us reserved a few seats out of the very many in this large Hall. but - we did not reserve so many as was reported. This explanation we think is sufficient - for reasonable

persons and it will serve for an explanation of the actions which future classes will undoubtedly take. Some unreasonable beings gave vent to their feelings by saying they knew of one one hundred dollars which had been lost by the operation, and "that if that was the way we were going to do Bates College would be swamped ere long." and as they looked over the plan they said "I wanted those seats and I think it selfish in the college boys to take them." Such persons remind us of the little story of a company of children. A plate of apples was being passed among them when one little girl took a large red one. Her next neighbor

cried "How greedy you are to take the largest I meant to take that - myself." In the future please don't consider the graduating class selfish until you know how it is your self.

Chapter VII
Statistics.

Whole number on entering college was twenty one. Three have been added to the class and six have left it; so that our present number is eighteen. Of these ten are from this State, three from New Hampshire, three from Vermont, one from Mass. and one from Turkey in Europe. If the class were all one man the age of that man would be 45 1/2 yrs. 3/4

His height - would be 101 ft - 7 in. Weight -
265 lbs. the size of his boots would be 125.

The age of the oldest man in the class is
30 yrs. 9 1/2 months. Youngest - 21 yrs 8 mos. Average
age 25 yrs. 3 1/2 months. Tallest man 6 ft - 1 in.

Shortest man 5 ft - 2 in. Average height - 5 ft - 7 1/2 in.

Heaviest man weighs 175 lbs. Lightest 127 lbs

average weight - 147 lbs. Number having

black hair 6; brown hair 6; Auburn 1 Red 1

color indescribable 4. Number having

blue eyes 7. Hazel 5 Gray 4. Black 2. Number

wearing the mustache 7. Siders 5 Siders &

mustache 2. Number whose efforts in this

direction are unsuccessful 4. Largest size boots

worn by anyone in the class 9. Smallest - 4.

Average 7. Number not using tobacco in any form 13

number who smoke 2. smoke and chew 3.

So many laid claim to being the homeliest-man in the class. and modestly forbidding me to say who was the handsomest. the matter was put to vote which resulted in making Eastman the homeliest- and Aterian the handsomest man in the class. The aggregate

of our expenses while in college was \$19,500

The largest expense of anyone was \$1600. The smallest \$400. Average expenses \$1083. The joint

earnings of the class while in college amount to \$12,700. The largest sum earned by anyone was \$1500. The smallest \$150. Average \$700.

Our intended occupations are Law 8. Ministry 5. Medicine 2 Teaching 2. Undecided

1. As regards politics there are 13 Republicans

2 democrat 3 independent. There are 10 who favor Protection, 6 Free Trade, 2 undecided.

12 favor Capital Punishment; 5 against it; 1 undecided. 14 favor ^{Prohibition} ~~Women's Rights~~. 4 are against it; 8 favor Women's Rights; 10 do not while 10 favor coeducation and 8 are against it. 7 favor cremation 10 are not in favor of it - and one doesn't care. 12 favor the present-administration for the want of a better. 6 are against it. 2 of the class have been in the army. 2 are Freemasons and 1 is a Odd fellow. Our musical prodigies are not many yet - we have one performer on the flute, one violinist, 3 vocalists - 1 manipulator on the tin whistle, and 12 make no pretensions of musical skill.

whatever. Our denominational preferences are as follows. Free Baptist - 11 Unitarian, Universalist, Congregationalist - Calvin Baptist - 1 each. No preference 3 This includes those who likely to become spiritualists. There are 8 church members in the class.

Our matrimonial prospects are very hopeful. 1 is married, 17 want to be, 7 are engaged, and 10 have not yet had their misfortune thrust upon them.

This then is the condition of the class of '74 as it leaves this little college world and goes out into the more active duties of life. May we find our futures as happy and prosperous as our past has been, and may we never forget our Alma Mater and the honor she has given us at this time.