

NOTES on the transcription: Where a word or phrase is unclear or illegible, the word or a '?' has been bracketed thus: [text]. Annotations to the text are enclosed in tripled brackets, [[[text]]]. Text underlined in the original has been preserved here, although misspellings and most grammatical mistakes have been corrected in order to add to the readability of the text. Paragraphs have been left intact, although the original pagination has not. Deletions or strike-throughs have been preserved where legible.

Chronicles of the class of '67, Bates College

Over twelve years ago, or on the 16th day of March, 1855, the Legislature of Maine granted an act of incorporation to certain persons, constituting them the trustees of an educational institution to be known as Maine State Seminary. By a vote of those trustees, and with the approval of the Governor and Council, this institution was located in Lewiston, and shortly afterward, having been aided very generously by its friends and by the State, suitable buildings were erected and the school was opened to the public. Its success from the very first was [unexampled?], and it very soon became the leading Seminary in this state, and one of the best in New England. Its teachers were efficient, its patrons were liberal, and its pupils were numbered by hundreds.

Yet its destruction was even now premeditated by some of its founders. They were wise enough to see that another College was needed in our state (a thing which had escaped the observation of all others), and where could a better foundation for this be found, than Maine State Seminary? Accordingly, probably after spending many anxious days and sleepless nights in deliberation, the trustees voted to ask for additional powers, and by an act of the Legislature approved February 14th 1862 collegiate powers were granted to the Seminary. Not satisfied with this in July of '63 the trustees unanimously voted that the Seminary be known by the name of Bates College, and that application be made to the next Legislature asking that it be known as such in Law. This application was granted and the College was now established. In ~~August~~ September the first term of the College was commenced under the guidance of Dr. Cheney, assisted by a couple of able teachers. As the College was open to both sexes there were interred this year sixteen Freshmen, and several Freshwomen.

For the purpose of giving a very brief outline of the history of this remarkable class, every member of which, (in the estimation of his friends at least), was destined to become a "bright particular? star" among the great ones of this country, were these Chronicles written. [Hastening?] rapidly over the minor incidents which occurred this year such as futile attempts on the prank of undergraduates from the preparatory department to "haze" the new Freshmen, etc, we came to the only affair of importance which occurred _the planting of a class tree_ The granting by the President of several dignity days, for the purpose of selecting a suitable tree, added to the near approach of sophomore tickets, proved to much for the weak minded youths, and, their good judgment deserting them, they placed in the dry, sandy soil in front of the Chapel an

elm, more than thirty years old, fifty feet high, and three feet two inches in circumference, and which required the united strength of fourteen oxen, to move to its new resting place. Here it was consecrated with appropriate services, consisting of a most eloquent oration and soul stunning poem by members of the class (the oration and poem have been printed + bound in a neat little volume, and unless out of press, may be obtained at the book-store of [F. M. Larny?] on Lisbon Street price ten cents for single copy, twelve for one dollar)

The music on the occasion was furnished by Ballards Bates College Brass Band supposed by its ~~leader~~ members to be one of the finest cornet bands of the world. Their instruments had been newly polished, so as to give clearer tunes, and the strains to which they gave utterance were truly harrowing, as will be said by any who heard them play on that day.

It was during this year that the class met with its greatest loss in respect to its members. The rebellion was then raging most fiercely. The Union armies were melting away like wax in the terrible battles of that season, and there came frequent and earnest calls from our lamented Chief-Magistrate for more men to fill up our decimated ranks. Nobly did the young-men of the Land respond to these calls, and of those who went forth, our class furnished its quota. Four of our number had just returned after a service of nine months, yet three more left us one of them never to return. Raymond [[[note: Charles Edwin Raymond, from Bowdoinham]]] who enlisted in the 1st District of Columbia cavalry and served with honor until captured, and who died of starvation amidst the horrors of Salisbury, only one day after the order for his exchange came. Others left from various causes, until but eleven remained. The second year came and what a change appeared! Who would even have supposed that these much, inoffensive looking Freshmen, ministers, lawyers, and doctors in embryo as they were, could be developed in so short a time into such bold and loving sophomores? "Fall up slicks" were all the rage. Those who could afford it, bought, those who could not, and there were several of the latter, borrowed of their friends. Some were carried canes, a thing before unheard of at Bates. The jokes and grinds too which were perpetrated, who can number them? The young-men grew most generous. At a secret meeting of the ancient and venerable League of Alpha Beta's, it was resolved with the greatest unanimity 1st that in the opinion of the League, Miss _____ discharges the duties of Acting President of Bates College with the greatest faithfulness. 2nd that such is our confidence in the abilities of the aforesaid Miss _____ that we have no hesitation in recommending her to any city in want of a most efficient Chief of Detective Force. 3rd That property to the value of fifteen cents be appropriated from the garden of A.R. Nash Esq. for the purpose of purchasing a suitable present, as a testimonial of our regard for Miss _____ and 4th, in order that this gift may be appreciated by Miss _____ it be taken to Portland enclosed in a piano box, and sent to her by express, marked C.O.D.

Near the close of the term, however, a sad accident occurred. The youngest of our class, a youth possessing courage and curiosity in a high degree by some means learned that the ladies were to give a private representation of the capture of J. Davis, and he resolved "to be there." Accordingly imitating the style of Mr. Davis excepting

the boots, his beautiful face concealed under two thicknesses of green veil, she ventured into the room and modestly seated himself near the door _ Here "she" remained until the close of the performance. But just as he was leaving, and while congratulating herself upon his lucky escape, a young-lady near him probably suspicious of the strange woman, suddenly snatched the veil from his face, and exposed him to all present. Nothing remained for him but flight, and although impeded by his strange dress, s[/]he quickly distanced all pursuers. The result of this strange adventure was that he had a very interesting interview with the faculty, who very friendly gave him permission to rusticate during the remainder of the year. The tediousness of country life was somewhat lessened by his receiving the appointment of travelling agent for a noted book, called *Maine in the War for the Union*, with a copy of which he travelled back and fourth through the back towns, and succeeded in selling not a copy.

Yet with all the fun, which attended the Sophomore year, it was with us one of the hardest study, and we feel that our time was not wasted.

A new professor came this year, one for whose coming we had long been looking with both hope and fear, for we had been told that though a most-excellent teacher. He was inclined to be nervous and consequently cross. But after he had been here a few weeks, and we had become better acquainted with him, we found that in this case as in many others, Madame Rumor had mingled falsehood with truth, for although he did prove to be a most-excellent teacher and rather nervous at times, yet he was never cross, except when some dull Soph. or Junior confounded a Grecian orator with a Roman general.

There is an old proverb which says that man loses his wits at least, once in his lifetime, and it proved that this wise Professor was no exception to the rule. Although the most bashful of all men, yet in some unaccountable way, he became entangled in the snares which the Boy Cupid sets in the way of all bachelors, whether they be old or young. The fair and intelligent lady to whom he gave the wealth of his young affections, had been associated with him as a teacher, and could not grieve so dear a friend by saying no, so they twain were made one flesh.

Such an example of this, coming from such high authority too, exerted a most pernicious influence upon the part of our class, who could not resist going and doing likewise, thus depriving the class of his invaluable services.

Our number was again diminished by the death of Spear [[[Justin Franklin Spear, of Gardiner]]], who enlisted in the beginning of the year, and after a short service died in a southern city.

We mourned for our comrades, thus early in life cut down, and the fond hopes of future distinction, which they once cherished so suddenly blasted yet we remember with pride that their names will go down to posterity, honored and revered, for they died for their country. The junior year opened, with nine present, and a most eventful year it proved to be. A new light was added to the College Faculty, in the person of a new Professor of Modern Languages. When he first came among us, we entertained a wholesome respect and fear of him, yet we soon became accustomed to his swinging gait and gold bowed spectacles, and our fear vanished. Although the young gentlemen

had [?] bidden advice to the jolly life of the previous year and had become quite sedate in their actions, they were sometimes called upon to suppress insurrections of the Freshmen, who greatly outnumbered the "Sophs." It was only 'til one Stevens, who carried a pistol, had been subjected to several severe showers, and had lost several nice new hats, that a stop was put to these outbreaks. The great event of the year, was the loss of the female portion of the class. From the very first there had seemed to be a natural antagonism between the sexes, with one exception. This was manifested especially during the Junior year, and finally culminated in the withdrawal of the females en masse. It was during the process of this case that the President executed a grand coup d'état, which could only have been conceived by himself. Having appointed an hour at which the opposing factions of the class should meet together in the Library, he very quietly remained at home, and left the bashful young-men to encounter their fair opponents as best they might. It is needless to say that in the war of words which followed, the Ladies were completely victorious, and compelled the ungallant youths to beat an inglorious retreat.

When it was certain the divorce was effected, great was the joy throughout the College. In the exceptional case above mentioned however, it is hinted that some evening the young-gentleman made a call of condolence on one of his unfortunate exclassmates, who lived on Main Street, and found the work so agreeable that he was only recalled to himself and his room, by the ringing of the morning bell.

Amid such exciting scenes the year quickly passed and the last of our College Life came. At its beginning we lost the services of one of the best of our teachers, Professor L.M. Stanton, who resigned the professorship of the Greek Language and Literature here, to accept a position as principal of Drummer Academy. His departure from us left a void which could not be filled. But we were greatly consoled by the coming of our new Professor of Chemistry and Geology. Although small in stature, he was great in his knowledge of Nitrous Oxide and the formation of coal deposits, a most interesting lecture, and in the recitation soon generally made us see that we could "do it just so every time."

It was a very pleasant year. There was not so much study of text books as before, yet far better opportunities for acquiring general knowledge. Time was given the class for general readings, for attending court during session, for visiting sister colleges, and for any other means of improvement offered. It was evident they feel the dignity of their position as the highest class in the College. By their actions, they [?] expressed their belief that its future success depended entirely upon themselves. They acted in a very patronizing manner both toward their scholarship and even to their officers of the College. It was no minuscule thing for them to send word to ~~the~~ President or Professors, that they had concluded not to recite at that time but would be in next day. The year had its seasons of sport too. The grave Seniors were often amused by the gambols of a little Lamb, which had been procured at a great expense, by the Overseers of the College. It was a very gentle Lamb and seemed fond of all the students, but was especially attached to the Freshmen, who took the chief care of it, and provided the hay

for its support. The poet of the class even composed in its honor a parody of a well known song, commencing as follows,

The Freshmen had a little Lamb,
His voice was soft and low,
And everywhere the Freshmen went,
The Lamb was sure to go.

The following statistics have been collected with much care and expense, and will give better knowledge of the persons and peculiarities of the membership of the class.

Whole number ever connected with the class	24
Number of gentlemen 17 of ladies	7
Number that have been in the army	8
" " " died during the war	2
" " " left College at hints from Faculty	2
Number left for matrimonial purposes	3
" " because they were too smart for the College	Dixon
" " from inability	1
" " to graduate 8 Active members	7
" honorary members Heath Number present every term	5
Tallest-man 6 feet Shortest-man 5 ft. 6 in.	
Average height 5 ft. 8 in. aggregate height	43 ft. 4 in.
Heaviest man 176 Lightest man, 130	Average 147
Oldest man 28 Youngest man	20
Average age 25 aggregate age	200
Circumference of largest arm 13 ½ in.	smallest 9 ½ in.
Average 10 ⅝ in. largest fore arm	10 in.
Smallest 9 ¼ in. average	9 ½ in.
Largest chest 36 in. smallest	33 in.
Average	34 ⅝ in.
Number that have blue eyes 4	hazel 3
" " " grey " 1	dark hair 7
" " " a deep auburn 1	that wear wigs Ricker
" " part hair on right side 7	on wrong side 1
" " wear hair on the face 7	that would if they could but can't - Ricker
Number that wear siders 1	
" " " " and chinners 2	moustaches 2
" " " " and moustaches	1
" " cannot be classified at present	Parsons
" " color 2	number that run fast Ricker
" " run slow 6	" " never run Rand
" " have natural teeth 7	boughten teeth 1
" engaged Stockbridge	not engaged 6

"	that don't know whether he is engaged or not	1	
"	" have been engaged and received the mitten	Wood	
"	" " had a chance to be engaged but didn't accept	Heath	
"	" to Lewiston ladies	2	
"	" would like to marry Lewiston ladies	6	
"	sons of farmers	5	sons of mechanics 2 of shoemakers 1
"	that smoke occasionally	1	that chew 1
"	" never use tobacco	6	
"	" " drink spirituous liquors	8	number of Free-Masons 9
"	of Odd Fellows Parsons	5	Good Templars
"	that would join the Good Templars if he could give up cider		Stock
Number that are professors of religion 8			
"	" " Free Baptists	6	number Congregationalists 2
"	" " heathen	0	" Mormons Rand
"	" " intending to become ministers	3	
"	" " " " " lawyers	1	
"	" " " " " teachers	2	
"	" " " " " doctors	1	undecided 1
"	" " radical Republicans	8	Johnson men 0
"	who always thinks the same	Wood	number that swear 0
"	that sometimes gets mixed	Rand	
"	to whom it comes easy to write oration	Parsons	
"	that sing	8	
"	" " tenor	4	
"	" " bass	2	
"	" " all the parts	Stockbridge and Parsons	

Many other items of interest might be given, but time will not permit.

Surrounded by such good influences and pleasant associations, as we have been, our time here could have but passed pleasantly, ~~away~~ and all too quickly have flown the four years of our college Life. Here in our quiet school, far from the turmoil of the world about us, and free from anxiety and care, we have been strengthening our purposes and developing our powers, for the conflict which is to come. With thanks to God for His mercies towards us, as a class, in the past, and praying that in the future He will ever guide us, we close this record, knowing that henceforth our deeds, whether they be good, or whether they be evil, will be recorded ~~and rewarded~~ by the community in which we live. And, as they may deserve, by rewarded.

(F.E. Sleeper)