



Northampton, Mass.
Smith College, Sept. 30, 1882.

President J. H. Dawson;
Dear Sir; -

The Class of '83
of Smith College, extend to you a
very earnest and cordial invita-
tion to deliver the oration at
their Commencement, June 20,
1883.

The College is
young. Four classes have grad-
uated. The orators have been
Pres. Eliot of Harvard, Pres.
Gilman of Johns-Hopkins,
Rev. Alexander McKenzie of Cam-
bridge and Prof. Fisher of Yale.

The catalogue sent in
this mail, is last year's, those for
this year having not, as yet, been

issued.

Although writing in behalf
of the class of '83, it is with
the knowledge and advice of
the Faculty of the College.

Hoping that the
sincere and earnest request
may command itself to you,

Yours most respectfully,

M. Louise Woodward.

Care. J. W. Dawson.
Mc Gill College
Montreal, Canada.

Smith
College
Alfred

A CHOICE BIT OF BIOGRAPHY.

"DEAR HOME INTERESTS: As often as I have read in your paper of efforts for self-improvement I have thought I would give a few items of my experience for the encouragement of struggling young women. I believe there are *few* obstacles that need prevent any *determined* girl from obtaining a thorough education. Ill-health is the most serious, but even that has its compensations and opportunities. I speak of myself in this instance only because it may be an inspiration to some discouraged heart. I am a farmer's daughter, the eldest of six children, and the stony hills of Vermont yielded but the necessaries of life. From a child I was eager to learn, and two or three terms at an academy in a neighboring town, together with my six months a year district-school advantages, gave me sufficient learning so that I was considered, at barely fifteen, competent to teach a country school. I had paid my way at the academy by domestic service a few weeks at a time, and by hop-picking in the autumn. My teaching enabled me for several years to attend the spring and fall sessions at the academy. Here I began at eighteen the study of Latin and Greek. Still teaching and studying alternately, I prepared myself for entering college. Greek I was forced to give up, as I found it would so materially retard my progress. I had chosen Oberlin as my alma mater; first, because I believed in coeducation, and its course was broad as well as free; second, and with me a very important point, means for self-support were offered. By boarding myself, something which is systematically managed in this school, by teaching in the preparatory department and during winter vacations, I paid all my expenses for three years. In the meantime my friends had followed me, to give the advantage of education to the younger members. Much urging on my part had brought first my eldest brother and later the rest, so once more I had, after several years of 'roughing it,' a home, and the completing of my course was comparatively easy. From the graduating platform I went at once to my chosen work of teaching. Three years in a neighboring city enabled me to help my fathers and brothers in their efforts to establish a new home, about which there had been embarrassments. My leisure in these years gave me, under private teachers, a good knowledge of French and music, only begun while at school. At this point, finding that thoroughly trained normal-school teachers commanded a higher salary than I was getting, I entered the New-York Normal and took the course in methods. For this year of instruction I had to borrow money, but my health was good and I did not hesitate to venture. From here a position in a Western normal called me, where I trebled my former wages, paid my own debts, and in three years saved enough to pay the remaining debt of \$3,000 on our Ohio home.

"My opportunities here for self-improvement I had expected to be very small, as this school was in a quiet and rather dull Western town of only a few hundred inhabitants. But I soon chanced to meet a lady who had finished a course at the Cooper Union Art School. She consented to take me for a pupil. I was fond of art work in any form, and my three years of practice in odd hours of leisure did good service. I also availed myself of summer schools, and, to make my long recital short, in the college where I was that year called to take the ladies' department this, so late acquired knowledge, has formed ever since a part of my work in teaching. It is seven or eight years now since I entered on this college work. I have married and have a house and home to care for, but still I find time to study some and teach—no longer from necessity but pleasure.

"There are so many avenues of enjoyment open to women to-day that I marvel how any one can be content with graduating from a high school, perhaps at sixteen, and spending the after years in a round of devotion to the trivialities of society. And if one wishes for *more*, there are always 'straws of opportunity floating by.' Energy and will-power are the chief things needed.

"Quite likely my long sketch may be useless from its length if for no other reason, but I send it, as it may serve to prove what you so often urge in one form or another—no one need despair of being able to do something."

charge of Mr. and Mrs. Mosher, of New-York, who appeared exceedingly pleased to have charge of so charitable a work. The day was very warm and sultry, and the children showed plainly the fatigue of their dusty journey. But although their countenances were begrimed, their happy smiles spoke their appreciation of the country through which they passed, and of the many strange sights they witnessed on their first trip to the country. This happy group occupied two cars. The lunch prepared for them by the ladies consisted of sandwiches and eggs and iced milk, and was distributed in paper pouches by a number of gentlemen headed by D. N. Green, esq., of the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company, in the absence of the Rev. Mr. Beeber. A fragrant bouquet was presented to each child. The children were neatly dressed and full of life, and they departed for Coventry, N. Y., where accommodations have been prepared for them for two weeks, in the happiest of moods. Eighteen children will be left at Greene Station, near Coventry. Three little girls of the party who were left in New-York will be received here to-morrow afternoon. The following ladies of the Second Presbyterian Church were instrumental in making this second reception of TRIBUNE children here so successful: Mrs. Colonel Boies, Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. H. E. Cogswell, Mrs. E. C. Fuller, Mrs. C. R. Fuller, Mrs. Barnard, assisted by D. N. Greene, esq., Postmaster Fuller, C. R. Fuller and others. The Scranton people all welcomed the little strangers and a movement is being started to have some farmers in this vicinity make arrangements for the reception of a number of them.

ON THE NEW-JERSEY COAST.

METEDECONK, N. J., Aug. 15.—Few of the children sent out by THE TRIBUNE on account of its Fresh Air Fund have more healthful summer homes than those at this place and in its neighborhood. The air is heavy with the odor of the pines, and is said to be very beneficial to persons affected with throat and lung diseases. Several of the children are at Lakewood, six miles from here, and at Holmansville, near there. THE TRIBUNE correspondent rode down here last evening from Lakewood. The road runs through the pines, and now and then there would be a place where the pines had been cleared away and a farm-house surrounded by cultivated fields could be seen. At every one of these the correspondent would be sure to find some of the city children, and in every case they were full of newly acquired health and happiness. At one house a man came out to the carriage and introduced himself as Mr. Goble. With him were two girls sent out by the Fresh Air Fund. "These are my two girls," said he, "and there are not two better-behaved little ladies in the whole country." When the elder of the two first came to her country home, she said to Mr. and Mrs. Goble: "Now you shall be my papa and mamma for two weeks;" and she has refused to call them anything else.

Several miles further on the village of Metedeconk, or Burrsville, as the people call it, was reached. It is one of the most quiet villages imaginable. Ex-State Senator Havens, superintendent of the Life Saving stations on the New-Jersey Coast, was found at home, and two sturdy little boys with cheeks browned by the sun and made plump by wholesome country fare soon made their appearance, and told in their own peculiar way of the good time they were having. All the children in the neighborhood are doing well, and the people are delighted with the little guests. S. F. Blackman, at Lakewood, is the originator of the movement to entertain the children here, and to him and to ex-Senator Havens is due its success. The children here and in the neighborhood are being entertained by the following persons: Samuel L. Wardell, State Senator A. C. B. Havens, H. E. Havens, J. G. W. Havens, the gentleman mentioned above; Jonathan Goble, B. H. Fielder, Mrs. Ashbury White, Dr. George S. Tunis, George P. Wolley, Miss Hattie Todd, Mrs. Webster, and S. F. Blackman.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

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| Previously acknowledged..... | \$19,088 85 |
| Four Great Neck (L. L.) Boys..... | 50 00 |
| John C. Tappin..... | 50 00 |
| "In memory of my dear mother," E. C. H., Pequot House, New-London, Conn..... | 40 00 |
| Proceeds of an entertainment given at the Wilson House, New-Preston, Conn., through Fred B. Bassett..... | 35 81 |
| Nash, Whiton & Co..... | 30 20 |
| Mattie and Charlie, Danbury, Conn..... | 12 00 |
| Mrs. E. Simons, Portchester, N. Y., through Lettie S. Willis..... | 10 50 |
| Magges, Flushing, N. Y..... | 10 00 |
| Mrs. S. W. K. and Mrs. F. W., Berlin, Conn.... | 12 00 |
| Two Little Boys..... | 6 00 |
| A. W. W., Deer Creek, W. T..... | 5 00 |
| M. C. T., Deer Creek, W. T..... | 1 00 |
| M. A. B., Newburg..... | 3 00 |
| Mrs. Neil Wilkie, Douglass, Kan., through <i>Christian Union</i> | 3 00 |
| M. S. Page, Woodbury, Conn..... | 3 00 |
| Helen, Saugatuck, Mich..... | 2 00 |
| Mrs. S. A. Congdon, Yantic, Conn..... | 2 00 |
| K. Q. H., Long Branch..... | 3 00 |
| Willie Lord Sexton, Merrick, L. I..... | 3 00 |
| L. P., Geneva, N. Y..... | 2 90 |
| Mrs. Elizabeth A. Conklin, Ocean Grove, N. J. | 3 00 |
| Three children, J., L. and S..... | 15 00 |
| S. W. E. Rye..... | 5 00 |