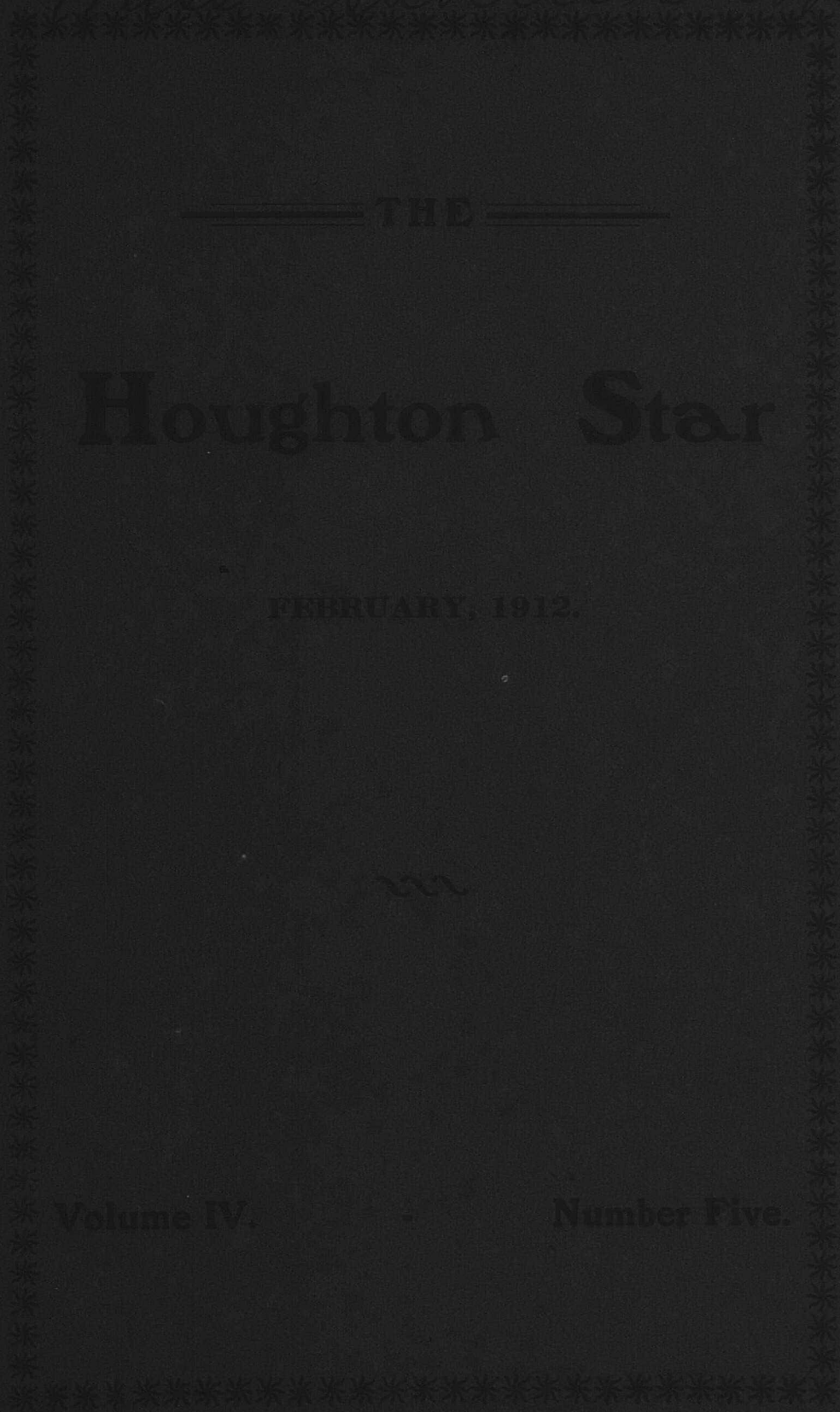


Miss Isabelle Stebbins



THE

Houghton Star

FEBRUARY, 1912.



Volume IV.

Number Five.

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Smoothed the locks that once were
gold,
Whispered, "In my heart, my darling,
You are dearer than of old;
Though your brow is crowned with
silver,
Roses from your cheeks have flown
Since I kissed you at the altar,
You have never older grown."

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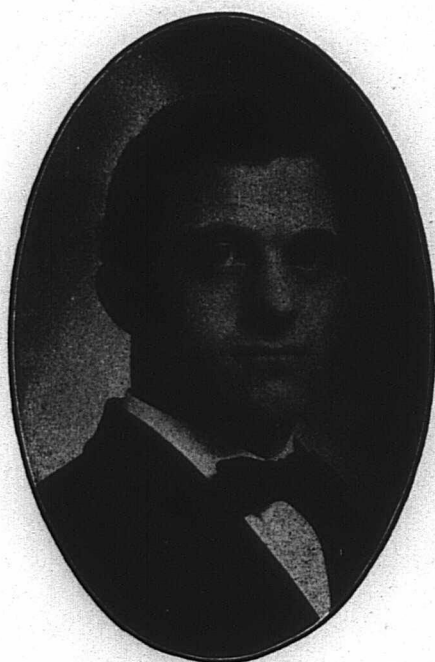
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REV. EDWARD L. ELLIOTT.

THE HOUGHTON STAR

Vol. IV

FEBRUARY, 1912.

No. 5

Prayer

Ray A. Sellman, '13

"And He said unto them, when ye pray, say, Our Father." Luke 11:2.

What a depth of meaning in this simple saying of the Master to his disciples. Eternity alone will be able to reveal its fullest import.

Sometime in the unbegun eternity which has passed, the heart of the infinite God with its superabundance of love and mercy sought still other channels than those already existing in which to pour out its affections. In the divine councils it was determined that the objects upon which God could consistently bestow his love must be beings capable of independent choice and by the exercise of such choice to possess and develop a moral nature. Therefore in due season God created man in his own image and placed him in the Garden of Eden with abundant liberty but also with sufficient restrictions to secure his highest development. He and his posterity were destined for eternal fellowship with God.

But what a story is told in the contrast between the first and the last words of the book of Genesis: "In the beginning God," and "in a coffin in Egypt." Man had fallen and had become a bondsman to the powers of darkness, or as Paul in the eighth of Romans says, "subject to vanity" or aimlessness as the original means. No longer did he have that definite purpose in view of preparing himself for endless fellowship with his Creator.

The penalty of man's sin was

death and eternal banishment from the presence of God. But the heart of God, infinite in love had provided for the contingency of man's failure and Jesus Christ was given as the ransom price to buy back out of their servitude and to release from the penalty of death, the slaves of sin. And not only this but they were to resume their preparation for eternity and the end for which they were created. What infinite condescension to reach down and redeem us while we were yet in the slavery of sin and doomed to die and what infinite love to raise us up and make us as Paul says, "children of God: and if children then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ."

But the condition of eternal fellowship hereafter with God is the acceptance of His fellowship here.

To have fellowship with God here requires a oneness of purpose with Him. To have a oneness of purpose with Him requires communion with Him to ascertain His purposes. This converse of the words of Amos: Can two be agreed except they work together is true as well as were his words. Fellowship with God implies communion with Him.

"Prayer is not a monologue but a dialogue." He reveals His will. We speak forth our praise and seek His guidance and grace to perform our duties and bear our discipline. He is in a position to qualify us for His own fellowship when we have acknowledged our dependence upon Him. He purposes that not everywhere upon our pathway shall be a noon-tide

glow but that part of it shall be cast with shadows. When we walk in the twilight hours and through the gentle haze, how faith leaps up and hope is begotten when we are conscious that He holds our hand and we can look up towards Him and say, "Oh, Our Father, I trust thee." It is but incident to our preparation.

How important then it is that in the very youth of life when we are most susceptible to moulding influences, that we learn the true significance of the prayer life, of communion with God, realizing that our fellowship hereafter depends upon our fellowship here.

We are busy now, it is true. But we ought never to be less busy. If we cannot find time to pray now, we never will be able to. Luther said, "I have so much business that I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer." Every child of God should pray enough every day so that the spirit of Christ manifestly pervades every word and deed and sweetens every task.

O that men might realize that the prime object of living is not to attain to some lofty social eminence or high prominence in any worldly sphere or to please and gratify self but that God has made us creatures upon whom to bestow his boundless love throughout the ages of the ages and what He asks of us is that in our short span of years, we prepare ourselves to receive His eternal riches.

Nothing has been said of the intercessory prayer life of the believer in behalf of lost humanity that the fundamental reason for prayer might be emphasized. Suffice it to say that if we are co-heirs with Christ there, we must be co-laborers with Him here.

The two stanzas appearing in the Sunday School Times a short time ago seem fitting as a closing word.

Oh, the love in His face
And the joy in His heart,
As He looks into mine
While I'm praying apart,
And says, "When ye pray,
Say, Our Father"

Oh, the faith He begets,
And the praise He inspires,
When I look back at Him
With the love that He fires
And say as I pray,
Oh "Our Father."

A Letter from an Alumnus

A phrase of especial interest appeared in the December editorial columns of this magazine. (Mirable aidu!) This is that phrase, "It is the business of the Faculty alone to find out and bring to a stop violations of rules." This was given as the objection urged by "about one third of the college men" to a resolution under discussion by the college department.

Is the objection urged valid? And if valid does it fit into the present advanced ideas of government? To be sure it smacks very much of that period when it was considered the privilege of all not in authority to violate law and the duty of those in authority to punish such violation if they could. Have our present ideas of government advanced beyond that state or not?

I assume that I am not discussing this question with anyone who is not an advocate of democracy. If I am he is out of place for he should long ago have transported his ungrateful self from American soil to Russia or perhaps Japan where he would have the size of his house, the flavor of his food, the color of his necktie, and the length of his mustache regulated by law. But we all believe in democracy. Political scientists agree that no better definition has ever been given of democracy than "Government of the people, for the people, and by the people." A one-thousand page manuscript will not contain the significance of that quotation. Its vital principle, however, is that every subject is a sovereign; that he who fears least the marks of authority is as vitally responsible for the maintenance of government as he who is the nominal governor. I cannot conceive how the logical thought of any consistent believer in any kind of democracy can do anything but lead the thinker in exactly the opposite direction of that which leads to any such conclusion as: "It is the business of the Faculty (or government) alone to find out and bring to a stop violation of rules (or laws)."

But grant the objection and see if the objections will not defeat the realization of their own conclusion. Suppose the Faculty be forced to go into the business of "finding out and putting a stop to violation of rules." Immediately a cry is raised that men and women are being treated like

children; that the Faculty, paid to give instruction, is going around spying on student activity; that college men and women know enough to behave themselves; let the Faculty attend to its business, but just here we are reminded that "it is the business of the Fac—," let us cease. Who raises this cry? Here logic balks and we must appeal to experience. Let us quietly withdraw our inquiry and let echo answer "Who?"

The principle of democracy places the objection out of consideration; a granting of its premise seems to reduce it to an absurdity; now what is the trend in the college world concerning the principle voiced in the objection? A few days ago Pres. Thompson of Ohio State Uni. said that in his opinion the whole student body should be as free from Faculty oversight as possible. I do not know the full meaning of that. I do know, however, that it presupposes a complete disappearance of any such idea as that "it is the business of the Faculty alone to find out and bring to a stop violation of rules."

Stanley Wright, '10.

Miltonvale

We were highly pleased with the Women's Edition of the "Star." In fact, every edition is awaited with expectancy and received with pleasure.

Mid-year examinations are passed and all have settled down to business with a determination that indicates good work and high grades during the remaining months of the year.

Rev. A. P. Lienard and wife of Rome, New York, are visiting relatives here. The student body recently enjoyed an instructive chapel talk from Rev. Lienard on the subject, "By love serve one another."

The orchestra made its first appearance at Literary the other evening. It consists of eighteen members who are progressing under the leadership of Misses Grace Wade and Maude Scoggan, instructors in piano and violin.

The first oratorical contest of the Prohibition league of Miltonvale is dated for January nineteenth. Nine orators entered the contest but on account of a change in the date of the State contest four of them were obliged to drop out. However, we are expecting great things of the remaining five. Enthusiasm will be created by the band and selections by a

ladies and a male quartet.

"O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as others see us!"

If the faculty have ever felt the sentiment of this little extract from Burns, we know it not. Be that as it may, they were given the privilege Friday evening at Literary, when the Seniors reproduced a faculty meeting. Judging from the smiles and hearty laughter of some of the originals, we conclude that they consider themselves very amusing characters, indeed.

S. S.

The Man on the Fence

Abbie L. Churchill, '11

Some people never can decide,
They waver to and fro;
They never know just where they're at
Or where they want to go;
They don't know how to take a stand,
Because they lack the sense.
When asked what their opinion is,
They say, "I'm on the fence."

When voting day is drawing nigh,
They chant their old refrain.
If votes go "wet," or votes go "dry,"
To them it's all the same.
You ask them if they're "Prohi," or
Republican or "Dem."
They'll shake their head, with "fishy grin"

And loudly cough and "hem."
They do not look you in the eye,
But slowly, they commence,
"I'll be a 'Prohi' by and by,
But now I'm on the fence."

It's just the same with politics
And with religion too
You never know just what they think,
Or what they're going to do,
You ask them if they're Methodist,
Or Baptist, or the rest,
They seem a little out of sorts
When put right to the test.

They say they never joined a church,
Just out of common sense;
They have a mixture of beliefs
And so are on the fence.

Such men are always at the foot,
They never seem to climb.
It takes them ages to decide,
And folks have not the time.

They're kicked around from post to post
No party and no church.

And when election day comes round
It leaves them "in the lurch."
When people see a great demand,
And want a man of sense
They leave these men just where
they are

To hang upon the fence.

The Houghton Star.

Houghton, N. Y.

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Editorial.

Our student activities are probably one of the most important parts of our education, at least they seem to be one of the most practical. They are the only means that most of the students have of putting into practice and applying many of the things they learn in the class room. But there is a sense in which even these should be made a means of teaching, because there are things that must be done in them for which no instruction is given in the class room. There is in them ample room for instruction without meaning, in any sense whatever, merely to pick flaws or to find fault, we do insist that there are many ways in which cer-

tain features of our organizations could be greatly improved much to the advantage of our students.

The greatest essential to the successful operation of any enterprise, is system. Without system nothing could be done in a factory employing several men and much machinery. Without system the financial accounts of a business man would be a mere mass of confusion, meaningless to him and to everybody else. Without system many farms and farmyards look like the sack of Rome by the Barbarians.

Another essential to the successful management of any business enterprise, is the use of the best and most approved methods. That which is awkward, cumbersome, and inefficient has no place in the modern way of doing things.

Our reasons, as students, for doing things here are two: first to be efficient in expediting whatever business we may have in hand; and second, to learn further the principles of efficiency.

We may safely lay down the proposition that in order to learn to do a thing right one must do it right. It is, we believe, a principle generally understood in the instruction, especially of younger pupils, that there is nothing gained by allowing a pupil to do a thing wrongly and then giving him a low mark for his work, and letting it pass at that. If the pupil is to profit by his work, he must be made to do it right.

There is a certain and a very important sense in which that very same principle must, or ought to be carried up and applied to school work of higher grade. It ought in some way to be applied to our organizations. We do not believe in "red tape" for its own sake, but we do believe that everything connected with the management and business end of our organizations ought to be carried on in a model way, and that

nothing that is half done, or done at all in a slack way ought to be allowed to pass as done,

The finances, for instance, of some of our organizations, how are they looked after? Or perhaps the question might be more accurately put: how are the books kept? We shall have to reply that in some instances they are looked after in a very careless and unsystematic way. More than once have we heard the admission of a treasurer that he had forgotten to make out his report for the time that it ought to be forthcoming; and we have witnessed such a thing as the conspicuous absence of a treasurer when he should have been present to report, and when he did not so much as send an excuse for his absence nor some one to make the report for him. Often have we seen reports inexcusably deficient of nearly everything that ought to characterize a decent report of a treasurer of an organization of Houghton Seminary. We do not mean to charge anybody with dishonesty, for there was none, and probably no one thought that there was any neglect of duty; but looking at these things from the standpoint of living young Americans, we cannot commend them.

Then there is another thing. Could every organization in our school produce a set of minutes properly kept from the date of its birth? We think not. Perhaps most of them could look up some records covering the greater part of their existence, but for the most part they would be meaningless because of incompleteness or lack of systematic arrangement.

As to whether loose ways need correction or not there can be no doubt. It is a question of vital importance to many of our young men and women that these things be corrected. We cannot clearly see just what can take place to a young man, when the president hands him his diploma,

that shall change his habits of carelessness with regard to detail and neglect of common business system, and so transform them that he shall be fit to take important and responsible positions among men and hold them with honor. We are firmly convinced that no such change does take place; and that if a college man's habits ever become good, it is while he is forming them. Here we might digress just enough to say that this principle admits of much wider application than we are giving it now.

But this condition of slackness along these lines ought not to be so. It need not be. But how about correcting it? There may be several ways of doing that. Each organization ought to demand of each of its officials that he do his work in a parliamentary, business-like manner and according to its rules. But such is supposed to be the case now; so that the question demands some other mode of settlement.

There might be a committee of the Faculty appointed—or the present committee on organizations might do—to see that organizations did their work in a way commendable to themselves and to the school. But such a proposal would surely not meet with favor either on the part of the faculty or on the part of the students.

A final method is suggested by the opinions of some politicians and economists of the present time. It is beginning to be thought in progressive political circles that certain great business organizations ought to be compelled to keep even the minutia of their business open before the eyes of properly appointed officials and that books be kept in such a manner that it can be known just what is going on and how it is being brought to pass. The Student Body could elect such an auditing committee whose business it would be to see that general or specialized student interests were handled properly and efficiently. The Student Body has a right to do this in case they wish to and it would doubtless, in spite of some objections that might be urged, be productive of much good.

We, as a body, may be far from taking such a step immediately, but we do think it not a little unlikely that something of that kind will be done in the future. It will make the organizations feel that they are responsible, not to themselves alone, but, as factors of the student body, responsible for adding to our school an atmosphere of dignity and order not present now.

The Star extends to Mr. and Mrs. George Sprague heartiest congratulations.

Exchanges

OWEN M. WALTON, '15, EDITOR

A few of our regular exchanges failed to make their appearance this month. May we not greet you next time?

We wish the "Red and Black," the "Owl," and "The Hour Glass" could visit us oftener. They are complete in all their departments. The "Hour Glass" is especially commendable.

The Christmas numbers of the "Forum" and "Cascade" have fine cover designs.

Judging from recent articles in the "Alfred Monthly," the Mutt and the Professor are widely at variance. We notice that the paper itself refrains from taking a stand editorially.

The "Miltonvale Monitor" is improving. We note with pleasure the addition of an exchange department.

The stories of the "Albright Bulletin" are interesting. The editorials and literary numbers are also well written.

We are glad to place the "High School Argus" on our mailing list. It is to be congratulated for its neatness.

The athletic number of the "Hermonite" does credit to that branch of activity at Mt. Hermon.

The Christmas stories in the "Oracle" and "Griffith Institute Echo" are very interesting. An editorial on the spirit of Christmas in the "Echo" deserves especial mention.

The "Purple Pennant" could add to its literary department with profit.

The "Item." Why mix your advertisements with your literary matter?

We also acknowledge the "Somerset Idea," The "Volcano," and the "Ogdensburg Academy."

Organizations

R. A. SELLMAN, '13, EDITOR

The Philomathean Society

We have recently elected new officers and our Society is progressing splendidly. Our programs are increasing in interest and we have a good attendance at each meeting.

The Society laments the loss of one of its most faithful members, Miss Fancher. Her example of loyalty will spur us on to a larger devotion to our Society and its work.

We are expecting better work from each member this Semester and we have begun the New Year with a resolution to put ourselves more fully into our Society work, and make it mean all that it can to each of us.

E. J. A.

The Neosophic Literary Society

The programs have been especially good lately. Such interesting subjects as "Capital punishment" and the "Government of Great Britain" have been presented. Our program two weeks hence is on Athletics with a debate on intercollegiate games. This program ought to attract the attention of as many students as are interested in the subject.

The society voted to postpone the meeting for the week of the 18th on account of examinations but after that the work will go on as usual.

P. C. S.

Young People's Foreign Missionary Society

The Young People's Foreign Missionary Society held its first meeting for the year 1912, Tuesday evening, January 9. The opening part of the program was a duet by Misses Ruth Readett and Dorothy Peck and a reading by Miss Grace Sloan. After this Rev. G. H. Clarke gave an interesting talk on African Mission boys and girls. Although the night was very stormy, the meeting was well attended.

We are glad to welcome to our Mission Study Class as a new member, Miss Sloan.

L. A. M.

Miss Grimes, (To Chorus class singing "The Bridal Chorus")—Please hold that "fair maid" a little longer.

Athletics.

R. W. Hazlett, '14.

Since the holiday vacation basket ball has languished somewhat. Lest the reader hastily conclude from this brilliant and original introduction that the good old game of basket ball is going out of favor here and is likely to expire, let me hasten to add that there were at least two valid reasons why the aforesaid condition has existed. Outdoors old King Boreas has gripped us in his frigid clutch while indoors a no less dreaded foe has held us in thrall—Regents Exams.

However, the Preps. and College Freshies braved zero weather and zero grades in the dizzy scramble for fame and honor, and played two games. This year, contrary to the general rule, the Prep, department has been very weak in athletics. By dint of strenuous effort, however, they have whipped a truly unprepossessing bunch of recruits into a fairly good team. In the first game they were beaten by the Freshies 14 to 28. But they were gaining in skill and experience as was evidenced in the second game when they retaliated on the surprised Freshies with a score of 14 to 20.

As a proof that basket ball is now as popular as ever, witness the game Saturday evening, Jan. 20. Some inspired genius originated the somewhat bizarre innovation of playing a game by moonlight with the assistance of a few lanterns. Accordingly on the above night, a coterie of such kindred spirits assembled at the old Sem, chose up sides and played by the fitful illumination from a half dozen lanterns. The spectators were literally in the dark about the game all of the time and the players most of the time.

If we all ran would Paul Fall and Clare Dart?

Sprague-Churchill

On Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 30, 1912 at four o'clock, there occurred in the Wesleyan Methodist church at Houghton the marriage of Mr. George Sprague and Miss Miriam Churchill, both students of Houghton Seminary. Because of the fact that Miss Howlett of Iowa and Miss Yorton of Houghton could not go to Africa as missionaries as was intended, Mr. Sprague and Miss Churchill consented on short notice to take their places. It was only about a week before the wedding that it was known that a change in plans might have to be made, and only a very few days before it was certain.

The church was prettily and simply decorated for the occasion in green and white. The middle section of pews was reserved for the immediate relatives and friends of the bride and groom. The ceremony was performed by the pastor, Rev. D. S. Bedford, assisted by Prof. H. W. McDowell. The best man was Mr. Chase Benjamin of Haskinsville, N. Y., the maid of honor was the bride's sister, Miss Abbie Churchill. The bridesmaids were the Misses Florence Yorton, Verna Hanford, Miriam Day and Lura Miner. The ushers were Ward Bowen, Floyd Hester, Clair Beverly, and Harry Ostlund. Miss Ella Hillpot played the wedding march.

During the evening the Young People's Missionary society gave an informal reception in the College Building. The program consisted of songs and addresses by President Luckey, Rev. G. H. Clarke and H. J. Ostlund.

Mr. and Mrs. Sprague left on the five o'clock train Wednesday for New York there to be joined by Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Elliott, sailing Thursday, Feb. 1.

The best wishes and prayers of teachers and students and friends in Houghton go with Mr. and Mrs. Sprague and Mr. and Mrs. Elliott on their long journey across the sea that their way may be prosperous and their work successful.

Locals.

J. W. ELLIOTT, '14, Editor

College Items

Ray Sellman preached at Short Tract in place of David Scott, during the Christmas Holidays.

Opal Smith has discontinued her college work and is taking only music this semester.

A company of ten College students went on a sleigh ride to Fillmore and vicinity the evening of January 22.

Nearly all the young people who are in the Prohibition Contest this year are College Students.

All the officers of the Student Body now are College Students. La Rue Bird is president, Mabel Dow is Secretary and Ward Bowen is treasurer. M. L. C.

Preparatory Notes

We regret that Miss Cecil Smith has left her school work. She is at her home in Olean keeping house for her Father.

Miss Bessie Fancher, one of our promising seniors has been unable to return from her Christmas vacation and complete her year's work in school.

A few nights ago some of our Prep girls and college boys went in a sleigh load to Fillmore to hear the Toronto Male Quartette. A good time and poor sleighing were reported.

Some of the Prep. students, as well as others have been contending with the regents. Victories and defeats are the results of the struggles.

Miss Verna and Miss Elsie Hanford, Miss Belle Plumber, Miss Lulu Benning and Miss Bernice Button are now boarding at the Dormitory.

We are sorry to learn that Miss Leta Calhoon's health prevents her from returning to her school work. She is now visiting Miss Edna Chase at Gouverneur. A. J.

Musical Notes

The second semester has now arrived bringing with it the renewed responsibility and possibility. The semester may come or the semester may go but the music department goes on as ever. The teachers inform us that there are several new

pupils enrolled for both instrumental and vocal work.

Because of the absence of Hon. D. W. Hillis, the second number of the lecture course, the music department had no small place in the splendid entertainment given to the people who came to hear Hillis. This is one of the strong proofs why Houghton should be a hearty supporter of her music department.

Some of the music students said they enjoyed the concert given by the Toronto Male Quartette at Fillmore. They ought to know whether the concert was good or not. We shall have another chance to test our taste of good music when the Dunbar Male Quartette and Bell ringers come to Houghton Jan. the 31st. D. H. S.

Alumni Notes

G. T. McDOWELL, '15, EDITOR

Splendid reports have been received of the work being done by Miss Hanna Greenberg and Shirley Keyes, '10 in Chicago University. Miss Greenberg writes that their instructor in English declared that the University had no work high enough for a recent paper of Miss Keyes. Miss Greenberg also is getting what she deserves, the highest grades.

Arthur Karker, '11 is as usual putting his very life into his work. Last year he overworked in Houghton while this year he is laboring constantly to cover several widely separated appointments in Michigan.

The Rev. Edward Elliott, '11 and his wife, Anna Davison Elliott, expect to start for the Wesleyan Mission in Kunso on the first of February.

Miss Delia Howlett, who also expected to sail for Africa on Feb. 1, will be forced to remain here on account of the severe illness of her father.

An interesting incident in Miss Florence Yorton's work as a teacher in Sierre Leone has recently come to light. A missionary at Miss Yorton's school asked one of the little black boys what he had been studying. After deep thought he finally replied "much affliction." It seems that small Africans and small Americans have much the same opinion as to multiplication.

Town Chat

Mr. Will Tarey and family have moved into the Kausas Block.

On the nineteenth of this month Mrs. C. A. Hauser was pleasantly surprised by several of her lady friends who came to spend the day with her in honor of her birthday.

Mr. A. H. Smith has returned after several weeks' stay at his home in Brighton, Michigan.

Miss Rena Lapham is visiting her parents.

The pastor, Dean S. Bedford has announced his intention of moving his family upon the hill onto the Raleigh Houghton Farm, which his father has purchased. Mr. Houghton and family will move into town, into the house formerly occupied by Rev. S. Bedford. Rev. D. S. Bedford will discontinue his pastorate here.

Mr. George Walldorff is slowly convalescing after three weeks' attack of the gout.

Mrs. Edna Bedford Wright has returned to her home in West Chazey after spending the holidays with her parents in Houghton.

Mrs. Will Francis has been very ill with LaGrippe. At present she is much better.

We learn with deep regret that Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lapham, who have lived in Houghton for nearly forty years, are to move soon to Burt, Niagara County, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Lapham will be greatly missed, especially by the older residents of the town most of whom are their life long friends.

Mrs. Calhoon is spending her vacation visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain spent a day recently at the Parsonage.

Mrs. Peck attended her aunt's funeral at Moscow recently.

Revival services are to begin at the church February fourth.

O. L. S.

Odds and Ends

She. (Discussing Canada with him). Do they have rein-deer up there?

He. (Somewhat surprised) Why-er, they have snow, darling at this time of year.

L. H. T. (in College Rhetoric after Professor Smith had completed a twenty minute lecture) "Professor, can't you give us a little more air?"

Celebrities

Red	Mickie	Tumble
Fweddie	Mac	Dad
Bugs	Sib	Bob
Razley	Pete	Smitty
Kip	Pempo	Billover

A Houghton student who is a good authority on the subject recently defined love as a ticklish feeling around the heart which it is impossible to scratch.

A drawing room—the dentist's office.

A great hardship—an ironclad.

A singular person—an old maid.

Kellogg's Studios

Will be open as follows:

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Studios closed during February, unless advertised differently in local papers.

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