

The Houghton Star.

VOLUME IX

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NUMBER 14

To the Oriole

Robert S. Chamberlain

Silently as the dawn,
The black-throated oriole wings
Joyfully to my window,
And in his joy he sings
Songs of love, and of nature,
And all green and animate things.

Blindly suffused with rapture,
Heart in a merry thrill,
Hear how the notes fly bounding,
Over the dew-kissed hill,
Born of the new-gray morning,
Joy-trembling to the full.

Only a gem of music,
Shining so wondrous-fair,
But, in its strong rich chorus
Angels are singing there,
Echoing softly the joy-sounds
Singing from everywhere.

Only a burst of sunlight,
Over a garden lawn,
Bringing the flowers new sweetness,
Fresh as the waking dawn,
Deep'ning their fairy colors
Painted of suns agone.

Bird of the new-bright morning,
Singingest thou from thy heart
Songs of the rose-gay Southland,
Or do thy clear notes start
Out of the sky above you,
Wrenching the clouds apart?

Can you feel the joy rebounding
To my heart and cheek and brow,
With the new-blown echoes rising
From thy notes melodious flow,
Till the hills chant round in chorus
The song you are singing now?

I love thee, bird of the springtime,
Thine be the happiest days,
And a sheltered nook in the oaktree,
In the depths of the forest ways,
And thy shy mate swinging beside thee,
To the tune of thy amorous lays.

And the joys of the life thou singest,
Shall lift from the gloom of the day,
The clouds that hang darkly above it,
And bring the joy of the May,
To many an earth-worn traveler,
Trudging on his arduous way.

And soft on the sunrise mountains,
The angels shall list and know,
That the song from thy heart arising,
In thy notes melodious flow,
Blends softly the bliss of heaven,
With the sorrows that press below.

How to Study Birds.

Robert Kaufmann.

I have received much genuine pleasure while pursuing that branch of nature study afforded by the birds of our land, but I shall never forget the joy I experienced upon sighting the first bird that was an absolute stranger to me. I had wandered far thru fields and woods, enjoying immensely the scenery and the summer day, but I had had little success in finding birds. Upon emerging from a wood deeply cut by a ravine, I entered a clearing bordered by a promiscuous growth of dense shrubbery. At an unexpected moment I spied a bird unlike any I had ever seen. I quickly focused my bird glass and with rapture took in every detail of the black and buff striped head; the olive back, wings and tail; and the buffy white breast—a charming picture of grace and beauty. Referring to my bird book I soon found my subject to be a worm-eating warbler. Since that time I have had many similar experiences. In fact bird study affords a delightful succession of surprises; a pastime which never grows wearisome if followed in a systematic manner.

To make such a study the student needs some simple apparatus. The first requisite is a good bird guide. To secure best results the guide should be a vest pocket edition containing colored plates of each bird species. Accompanying each plate should be a description of the bird giving notes concerning its size, habits, song and range. It should contain an index and a section devoted to a grouping of the birds according to any conspicuous coloring. The color table aids in learning the name of the bird in question, and the index in locating the page where accompanying plate and description is found. Another requisite is almost as indispensable as the first—a bird glass. For this purpose a glass should be found which gives a very clear image, magnifies about four times, and has a very large field of view. If the latter quality be lacking, the task of locating the bird is extremely difficult. If a pencil and notebook be added to the above mentioned paraphernalia, the nature lover is prepared to make a detailed study of the secrets of his feathered friends.

In studying an individual bird, the procedure should be as follows: on sighting the subject, the bird glasses should be focused and the bird studied carefully from where it is first seen. When all that is possible has been learned from the first vantage ground, move forward a few paces, perhaps changing the angle at which the songster is viewed. If the bird remains quiet, study again. Continue the forward advance until the bird flies. In this manner the student will get at least a glimpse of the subject, whereas if he should attempt to approach too abruptly, the bird is likely to be frightened. If it be a rare one, the student may be deeply chagrined to see the object of his search elude him before his glasses are brought into play. While thus studying the bird, the following points should be noted: eye rings, wing bars, white on its tail, what are its characteristic calls or songs; does it keep on or near the ground or high up; are its movements quick or slow; upon what does it appear to be feeding; was it seen in the woods, swamps or pasture. With this data anyone should be able to identify any bird, but usually all that is necessary is a glance over the pictures in the guide book and find the name of the bird in question.

The time of day best adapted for bird study is difficult to designate specifically, for some varieties are most easily seen in early morning, others at midday, others in the evening while still others are seen only at night. The whip-poor-will, for instance, is rarely seen in daylight save by accident; for its protective coloration renders it practically invisible in its hiding place among the leaves and bark. If however, fortune favors others as it did me once when I was a child, this nocturnal singer may be studied to the heart's content. My home was near a dense woodland. On the side of the house facing the woods was a high porch, beneath which was a space devoid of grass. This spot seemed to be the place chosen by a certain whip-poor-will to speak the passions of his heart to some coy mate in the nearby forest. When he made his first visits, we children crept stealthily to the edge of the porch and rapturously watched our guest. But after a few nights the

novelty of the thing wore off, and we then amused ourselves by throwing at our serenade, sticks, stones and other convenient missiles.

The seasons best adapted for this branch of nature study are spring and fall. During these seasons the birds are congregated in great migratory bevy, while the birds light in the trees which are stripped of their foliage, thus giving an unobstructed view. Furthermore, in these seasons one has a chance to study many migratory birds which are not native. The study should not, however, be confined to these seasons because some varieties visit us only in winter, and others only in summer.

Many of the more common species of birds and some uncommon ones may be studied in the shrubbery on the lawn, in the orchard and along the roadside. But real joy comes when one swings free from the beaten paths of men. Out into the green fields, thru dells, over hills, across brooks, in tangled brush and woods; out into God's great out-of-doors; out where the bird songs are not mingled with the discordant hum of industry and civilization; but where, under the canopy of heaven in a solemn stillness that seems almost reverential, the bird songs are sweetly accompanied by the swishing and sighing of the trees, and the babbling of the brooks. Here is where bird study takes place in its fullest sense. Here the student will experience the satisfying joys of discovery, for here will be found rare, shy birds met with only in these secluded, shady nooks.

However one must not get the idea that bird study must be limited to times when he can get his apparatus and sally forth with nothing to do but hunt birds. Granted that this is the most enjoyable method and the method that secures the best results, still it is not always best to do so. If one's ears are alert to catch the faintest sounds, if his eyes are quick to detect the swiftest flash of color, splendid results may be expected when at work, when driving, or when following any ordinary pursuit of life. One day while working in the garden, I noticed a meadow lark was flying past me at regular intervals. I also noticed that it always flew in the same direction and that in going one way its beak was invariably laden. The thought dawned upon me that this bird was going to and from its nest. I noticed the place where it alighted and after a short search in the tall grass, found the birdlings safely housed in a snug nest of grass.

Very often the bird student will go out with his guide and glass in search of some rare specimen only to return disappointed. Perhaps the very next day, while going about his daily work, the desired bird will burst upon his delighted vision. This has been my experience in regard to American redstarts, summer tanagers, scarlet tanagers, evening grosbeaks, black and white warblers, and others, most of which I have been privileged to see but rarely. All naturalists praise the beauty of the rose-breasted grosbeak and some say that its song is not excelled by that of the cardinal. For these reasons, I was very anxious to see this singer, but all my searches proved futile. One day when I drove into the barn with a load of hay, I heard an excited chirping among the rafters. Looking up I beheld a rose-breasted grosbeak flying backward and forward, searching in vain for a means of escape.

Though much time may be spent in bird study, it cannot be made a vocation, nor should it be made an occasion for loafing. If properly directed, it can be made one of the purest and most uplifting forms of recreation, for in the beautiful bird life of our country is manifested one of God's greatest blessings to mankind.

N. Y. State I. P. A. Convention McKinley of Houghton wins 2nd prize

Houghton Quartette Render Music

Tho the morning of April 20 was cloudy and somewhat threatening yet it did not daunt the courage of our loyal I. P. A. delegates. Soon three auto loads of fifteen delegates were spinning their way to Cornell, a trip of about 150 miles where the state convention was to be held.

After arriving on the hilltop at Ithaca we heard Dr. D. Leigh Colvin give the opening address, "The Answer to the Challenge." Following Dr. Colvin's address was the campus tour in autos. The fact that the Cornell campus ranks third among the three finest in the United States made the tour especially interesting.

The evening session was given to addresses. Professor Comfort of Cornell gave the address of Welcome. Mr. Comfort said that Cornell was just about twenty-five years behind the time in the progress of the liquor question. The response was given by our State President, Leon Carnell. We were then given a treat in the form of an address by Hon. James H. Woertendyke of California.

Mr. Woertendyke is an orator with a simple style and a pleasing manner. We shall have the pleasure of hearing him in the near future from our own school rostrum.

Saturday morning was devoted to various conferences in which such men as John L. Warner, Neil D. Cranmer and Rev. L. B. Tucker took prominent parts. The afternoon was given to brief speeches by Professor H. H. Hester and Mrs. Ella A. Boole, Ph. D.

The oratorical contest was the order of the evening. Every oration was strong and each school's choice orator did his best. Houghton's man was there "with the goods." Our men in the audience were confident of Houghton winning a place as soon as Mr. McKinley had finished so immediately set about to formulate a yell. Nor were our hopes ill-founded for Mr. Darrow of Colgate and Mr. McKinley tied for first place in rankings, the decision being made on the percentage basis. Mr. C. W. Darrow received first prize of fifty dollars on his oration, "The Maelstrom." Mr. McKinley received second prize of twenty-five dollars on his oration, "The Challenge to American Patriotism." Mr. Darrow will represent N. Y. state in the next interstate contest to be held at Washington, D. C.

We realize that this is no little gain for our school in as much as Cornell, Syracuse and Rutgers had strong orators as their representatives. This is a practical example of the work being done by the Houghton league.

Sunday morning Honorable W. J. Bryan preached a most excellent sermon on the first commandment. His treatise on the false gods and especially the intellectual god was very fitting and appropriate.

In the afternoon Mr. Bryan handled the liquor problem without gloves and with no uncertain sound. The large Bailey auditorium was packed and many were turned away. The simplicity of the great Commoner is charming, his fluent speech captivating and his clear argument gripping.

The convention closed with Mr. Bryan's address. Fully five thousand students and citizens heard Mr. Bryan that day. The convention was the largest and best in the fifteen year's history of the state organization. The next convention will be held at Rochester Seminary.

The delegates from Houghton were Professor and Mrs. Hester, David Scott, Lawrence Woods, Robert Kaufmann, Arthur Russell, Warren Jones, Earl Barrett, Glen McKinley, Glenn Molyneux, Mrs. Van Buskirk, Mrs. Lowe, Mr. Lynde, Harry Meeker and Claude Ries. Professor Hester, Dave Scott, Mr. Woods and Mr. Barrett comprised the quartette.

THE HOUGHTON STAR

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Editorial

The Crisis.

The United States of America has joined herself to the arms of the allied nations in their gigantic and well-sustained attempt to defend democracy against autocracy, international law against its violators, human rights against the policy of anything to win. Many of us have counseled peace, but now that war is declared there is nothing for loyal and patriotic Americans to do but to stand behind the government.

We, the people of the U. S. have no quarrel with those who refuse from conscientious scruples to join themselves to the cause. We have no quarrel with freedom of conscience upon this matter. But we do unalterably oppose those who for personal safety or pleasure, refuse to place themselves among the nation's defenders.

Our president's proclamation will go down in history. But what America will mean in this war must be written in deeds as well as words; in deeds decisive and conclusive, as well as in words that ring honest and true. We must finance, feed and munition as well as strengthen by army-power the allied forces. To do this will require exertion, sacrifice. Extravagance must cease. Expenditures must be limited. Labor must be made more productive. The liquor traffic must be ex-

terminated. Our harvests must be increased as well as our army and our second line of trenches must be found in the furrows upon all our available arable land before we will reach the highest standard of efficiency.

To bring about these conditions will demand real patriots, who love their country to the core of their existence; red-blooded Americans who place their country above personal considerations, men of the type of Washington, Lincoln, Nathan Hale and Woodrow Wilson, women of the type of the noble Clara Barton. We will not find them parading their colors in the street, or loudly declaring their allegiance. We will find them humbly serving in the field and factory as well as in the ranks, in the home as well as in the hospital.

Let it bring a thrill to the hearts of loyal Americans, when deserted by sunshine patriots and left to fight alone, to think that though posterity may forget, it will enjoy the bounties their sacrifice has won, as long as the Stars and Stripes wave in the breeze.

R. S. C.

A Word from the Management.

This issue is six instead of eight pages because the Star treasury is low and the management will not run it in debt. The size of the next issue will depend largely on the renewals received in the next ten days. **Is yours due?**

How large shall the Commencement Star be? That depends on our subscribers, as the management will put all the available funds into it, but **not one cent more.** Your renewal will mean a 50c better number. Incidentally, we might say that if all whose subscriptions have expired will renew at once, we will put out something nicer than ever before. Also, that the Commencement number will not be sent to any whose subscriptions have expired.

Tell us, please.

Which do you like better, a twice-a-month Star in newspaper form as it has been this year, or a once-a-month Star in magazine form as it has been heretofore? The change was made as an experiment and the question is now up as to how it shall be put out next year. Drop us a postal and tell us which you prefer.

Our next issue will be of special interest to German and French students. It will also contain an interesting writeup by C. Floyd Hester of the I. P. A. work in the University of Wisconsin.

Exchanges

We are glad to note that a considerable number of exchanges pass greetings with us this issue. Among them are the following; The Purple and Gold, The Dickenson Union, The Cazenovian, The Wisahickon, Wheaton College Record, Altheia, Junta, Awgwan, Dynamo, The Orange, College Monitor, The Pioneer, The Hemnica, The Walking Leaf, The Voice, The Wesleyan Methodist, The Vista, The Black and White, Better Schools, Cuba Patriot, Middlebury Campus, Apokeepsi-an, and Everett High Clarion.

The Junta especially has a very tasty cover design. It also contains an Easter story, original in its details, but with its principal motive force laid in "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight." It is didactic and interesting, especially to note how as in Longfellow's case knowledge from literature may be applied today.

"Conservation of Natural Resources Thru Education," and "Is There a Need of More Reality in the Elementary School Curriculum" found in "Better Schools" are especially instructive and helpful to every person studying for the teachers' profession.

Village Notes

Mrs. Frank Lowe recently visited her daughter, Esther Busch, at Ithaca.

Mrs. Harriett Tucker has returned to her home in Houghton to spend the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Farwell visited at their daughter's, Mrs. R. C. Lynde, several days last week.

Mrs. Fred Daniels has returned from the sanitarium at Alden. She is somewhat improved in health.

Mr. Chester Provorse of this place and Miss Cora Coolege, of Hume, were married at Fillmore, last week.

Mrs. Nina Burr of Perry has been visiting friends in town.

Rev. and Mrs. L. W. Strong, who had been visiting their daughter, Mrs. Fero, returned to their home in Falconer Thursday.

Mrs. Merville, of Fillmore, N. Y., called on friends here Tuesday.

M. G. M.

Locals

Nathan Capan has returned from his home in Vermont, where he spent his Easter vacation.

During the evening of April 21, Misses Shaver and Parmelee entertained a large number of young people at a birthday party held in honor of Misses Kelly and Douglass. Everyone present reported a splendid time.

Houghton Seminary with her fifteen representatives at the State I. P. A. Convention at Ithaca, N. Y., April 20-22, carried off the honors of having the largest delegation.

Harry Meeker is ambulating with great difficulty because of a sprained ankle.

April 26 was hailed as a great day at the home of Harry Bullock, on account the arrival of a baby girl.

Military drill is progressing in fine style. By Commencement the boys are expected to be in form to give an exhibition drill. R. V. Walrath is drill master.

Harvey Miner has gone home to take up productive farm work in accordance with the provision made by the state.

Rensselaer Johnson of Oberlin College visited school one day last week. He expects to work on a farm near Lockport, N. Y. Clare Dart is also expected home in the near future.

G. E. H.

A. E. Moses, Houghton, N. Y.

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JOHN W. NUGENT, Registrar.

Organizations

Neosophic Notes.

At our meeting of April 22 a pleasing program was rendered, despite the fact that several who had parts refused to act.

A reading by Laura Steese gave an interesting story of an adventure of a brave railroad engineer.

An excellent, well written essay on Militarism, given by Mr. Walrath, showed that the writer had great interest, and a deep knowledge of that subject.

Miss Parmele played an instrumental solo, which delighted her hearers.

Mr. Markell read "The Charge of Gettysburg" to the society.

A mixed quartette from our own society rendered "Just Before the Battle, Mother," in a pleasing manner.

M. G. M.

At the Athenian.

Mark Twain Number.

Athenians assembled in good spirits as ever Friday evening, April 13, in anticipation of the promised humorous program. To say the least, nobody went away disappointed.

Singing was led by our new chorister, Robert Kaufmann. Perhaps we might say of his ability along this line as was once said of another, "He has a fashion of making us sing—and we do!"

"Life of Mark Twain" by Claude Ries was a biography of the great humorist given in a graphic and decidedly original style!

We were pleased by two readings from Mark Twain by Samuel Miner and Helen Sicard. The humor in evidence was funny enough to make us laugh yet every time we think of "Our Guides in Genoa" and "The Interview."

Another splendid number was the accordian solo by Arthur Bryan. Those patriotic were filled with the "spirit of '76 and '61." It was indeed a rare, out-of-the-ordinary treat.

Humorous original rhymes were another feature. We all agreed that the following by Harry Meeker takes the prize:

"We're going to have a great war,
To stay at home I implore,
Some think it is sleek
To get married quick.

My! I'd say that the woe would be more!"

Plans were taken up in regard to ac-

cepting the challenge of the Liquor Problem Class for a debate. It will very likely an interesting event of the future.

L. K. H.

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Athletics

In a meeting of the boys' athletic association some weeks ago, there were a number of stirring speeches made to the effect that the baseball field and tennis courts should be fixed right for once and that immediately. The result of the above speeches, whose sentiments were heartily seconded by nearly every fellow, were as follows: first and foremost, the baseball diamond is nicely skinned about a rod beyond the base lines. Then there is a neat little grandstand back of the backstop; the base lines are marked off with lime and new bags mark the bases. As yet the tennis courts are not ready for use but our motto this year is, "No half way jobs," and they too will be shining soon with the drubbing that is awaiting them.

The desire to play baseball seems to be more general among the fellows this spring than I have ever known it to be. Besides the two regular teams I have heard rumors of at least three other teams that bid fair to make the benefits of baseball recreation beneficial to a larger number of students than usual, if nothing more.

The first game of the season opened with a zest on the sunny, windy, cool afternoon of April 24. The sides were divided on a Varsity-Theolog vs. Prep-Freshman College basis. The line up was:

Varsity-Theologs	vs.	Prep-Freshmen
Bruce	c	Stugart
Woods	p	Laug
Hubbard	ss	Lapham
Shultz	1st. b	Luckey
Barrett	2nd. b	R. Russell
R. Kaufmann	3rd. b	McElheny
Lee	lf	W. Kaufmann
W. Russell	cf	Leete
Markell	rf	Jones

The game was partly a tryout and the above lineup was not permanent. McKinley and A. Russell played part of the game for the Varsity-Theologs and Bullock for the opposite side. The game opened with Varsity-Theologs at the bat and they distinguished themselves by batting around and pocketing six runs in the first inning. The remainder of the game was rather uneventful. To Pete belongs the honor of the longest hit but in the fifth inning he squelched his boast of never having broke a bat. Woods and Bruce exchanged positions pitching for the Varsity-Theologs as did Laug and McElheny for the opposite side.

The game ended with a score of eleven

to three in favor of the Varsity-Theologs. There is a rumor of a baseball game, to take place during Commencement week, between any nine players now in school vs. alumni and old students. Pull yourselves together, alumni, we appreciate your metal but shall try to, at least, keep you interested.

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Alumni Notes

The following quotation was received from Shirley Keyes Thompson, Prep. '10, in March but limited space has prevented it from appearing until this issue.

"At present I am in Lisbon—my old home town. My young son, Dean Vincent Thompson, is just five weeks old and weighs over twelve pounds. He's a fine big man and is going to make a football star, I think.

"Just as soon as possible, Dean Vincent and I shall return to my home in Biggar, Saskatchewan. My husband just left here last week, father going with him to do the early seeding. Mother also will return with me. We live on a wheat ranch of 640 acres. Last year's grain crop was over 6000 bushels from 200 acres. I like the west far better than the east now. I enjoy the bracing western air—the big appetite it gives—and especially I enjoy riding 'Peggy,' a broncho."

We have also the following message from Myrle Woodbridge, Music '09.

"I graduated in music from Houghton in the class of 1909. Have been teaching music continually since that year. I have enjoyed the highest success, having had a class ranging from twenty to fifty pupils.

"In regard to my estimation of Houghton, I would say that I love Houghton for what she has meant to me. Not only did it make me proficient in my chosen work, but her splendid moral and spiritual training has helped me wonderfully along life's rugged path. I love Houghton for the many noble boys and girls she has started out in life and for the work that she is doing in carrying out God's great purpose. I always recommend Houghton to any one who is considering a place to get an education. Because what she has done for me she will do for others."

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