

Editors' Table.

MICHIGAN FEMALE COLLEGE.*

"Come in, little Michy, so healthful and fair;
Come, take in our Uncle's best parlor a chair;
Come in! we've a pretty large household, 'tis true,
But the twenty-five Sisters will make room for you."

So sang the late Mrs. Sigourney, in 1837, on the admission of a new State to our American family, and in the welcome thus pleasantly given she mingled some good counsel with her predictions of prosperity for the new-comer, when she added:—

"Those ladies who sit on the sofa so high,
Are the stateliest dames in our family.
Your Thirteen Old Sisters, don't treat them with scorn,
They were notable spinsters before you were born."

This was reason as well as rhyme; but the young State has now a record that will compare favorably with those of her older sisters in the beginning of a great educational enterprise within her border. The Michigan Female College (whose name we hope will soon be altered), is, so far as we know, the only institution in this country, with the exception of Vassar College, that offers to American women an education professedly collegiate; embracing the same subjects that form the curriculum of Harvard or Princeton, and aiming to teach them in a manner equally thorough. Thirteen years ago this college was established by private contributions and efforts; since then it has grown and prospered, until now there is strong hope that the State legislature may adopt and indorse the institution as its own. We give below extracts from a letter of one of the lady Principals—Miss A. C. Rogers—recording the progress of the college, the course of the Michigan legislature and that of Congress in the matter of feminine education.

FOUNDING THE COLLEGE.

"In 1855 the subject was first brought before our legislature, and an unsuccessful effort was made to secure an appropriation from the 'Swamp Lands' for founding a college for the young women of Michigan, which should be to them what its noble university is to young men.

"Since that time, in some form more or less urgent, the claims of the daughters of the State have been pressed upon each successive legislature. In 1863 our legislature *unanimously* passed a joint resolution asking Congress to appropriate lands to aid in founding colleges for young women in all the States.

"At the next session of the legislature in 1865 this resolution was again passed, and the governor was requested to send copies to the legislatures of all the loyal States asking their co-operation. At the last session, in 1867, they again passed and sent this resolution to Congress. 250,000 acres have been given to found agricultural colleges in every State that would accept the gift; in this State a township was given to found the university, and the fund derived from it amounts to over half a million of dollars, and I think the land is not yet all sold; but, though the State has spoken three times, Congress does not yet listen, and no other State except Vermont has joined her in making the request. Yet surely the women of the loyal States have, during the last seven years, proved themselves worthy of all a generous and liberal government can do for their advancement. Let the sick, the wounded, the desolate, the dying, whom their busy hands and ungrudging hearts have clothed, fed, and nursed, speak for them! And if the women of the North and West may be said to have established a new claim upon

the gratitude of the nation, the women of the South have equally proved that they must be elevated by education to a nobler ideal than they have yet known, if we are ever to secure there a loyal generation of citizens. Justice and generosity plead for the one, pity and self-protection for the other, and to these fourfold claims Congress will yet be constrained to respond. That woman has *other claims* upon the State than simply to be governed has ceased to be a *dream* and become an *idea*; some time in the future it will cease to be an *idea* and become a *fact*.

"Since 1855 we have been laboring here at the capital of the State to build up such an institution as the wants of the time seem to demand, with the hope that the State would ultimately accept what we have done and become responsible for carrying out the plan, nor have we yet abandoned this hope. Last year the legislature passed an act enabling the city to raise (\$50,000) fifty thousand dollars by tax upon property to finish the buildings, and a bill passed the Senate appropriating (\$100,000) one hundred thousand as the commencement of an endowment fund. It failed in the House, defeated by the eloquence of Theodore Tilton, who urged that the university should be opened to young women. So the representatives contented themselves by passing a resolution asking the regents to open the university, though they joined the Senate in asking Congress to make appropriations of land to all the States for female colleges. The regents considered this question some years ago, and decided against it; they have, at the request of the House, reconsidered it, and decided again in the negative."

IMPORTANCE OF THE INSTITUTION.

It is hardly creditable to the country that this record of earnest and laborious effort should be almost without a parallel. If our nation were backward and unenterprising, the apathy in regard to women's training would be more natural. But we have given many proofs of readiness to comprehend and willingness to meet the claims of education, so far as men are concerned. Within four years the enormous sum of nine million dollars has been bestowed by private munificence upon the endowment of colleges; and Congress has devoted to the same purpose a liberal portion of the public lands. Women, on the other hand, have been left entirely to the mercy of private schools. We would not condemn these institutions altogether; but those who are familiar with their practical working are thoroughly dissatisfied with the results. They are undertaken as a money-making business by teachers whose chief desire is that their profits will enable them at length to retire from a distasteful drudgery. The methods of study are hopelessly wrong; the means of the establishment are rarely sufficient to purchase the expensive apparatus needed in physical studies; a great number of branches are taken up, but nothing is done thoroughly, and few scholars receive any permanent benefit.

The one sufficient remedy is in co-operation. There must be colleges for women, with large classes, good apparatus, able teachers—colleges like Yale and Harvard, with only the difference warranted by the different practical needs of the sex. The subject is too large for the end of an article; but the considerations that are leading men to believe that Greek and Latin now occupy in the curriculum a place too prominent for their real importance would have double weight in the training of women. Vassar College, and this little University in Michigan, are so far the only attempts made to meet this urgent need; both of them have been built up by private generosity and labor. How long will it be before the public will see the necessity and the advantage of national liberality in this matter?

* Would not the name of this Institution be improved by dropping the animal and inferior term of *Female* (as Vassar College has done), and styling it Michigan College? The public would know it was for young women.

**WOMAN'S
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.***

We have before us the "Nineteenth Annual Announcement" (for 1868-'69) of this excellent institution. There is a "Woman's Hospital" connected with this college. The Corporators and Faculty, in their address to the public, do not consider it necessary to go over the history of these institutions, or to answer objections that have been made to the medical profession when committed to women. They have wisely left these vexed questions to be answered by time and experience; they confine themselves to a brief but forcible statement of the sure progress which has been made, and the good results that have been secured. We would like to give the whole of this address, but have only room for the following extracts:—

"The session which has just closed has been one of much interest. All the chairs of the college have been filled, and the clinical advantages of the students have been increased both by the greater number of patients treated in the various departments of the Woman's Hospital, and by a more systematic course of clinical lectures by the professors of the college. This department of instruction will be further extended and improved before the opening of the next college term. Materials and facilities are evidently accumulating for making this city and institution a centre for medical women, where the aspects of disease may be inspected, and the action of remedial agencies observed on a larger scale, and in a more satisfactory way than has hitherto been practicable.

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"The success which thus far has attended the career of a number of the graduates of this school, is a source of deep satisfaction. Social position, pecuniary profits, and the contentment springing from thoroughly interesting and satisfying work, have been theirs; and in viewing the various fresh channels of activity opening to the energies of American women, no other seems to promise a fuller and richer career to a capable, true woman, when conviction, natural attraction, and favoring circumstances lead her in this direction."

According to the report of a reliable journal of our city, there are now in Philadelphia six ladies practising medicine, whose incomes range from \$2000 to \$10,000 per annum. Thus we see that the friends of "Woman's Medical College" have good reason to be encouraged; with its present able Faculty—four ladies and three gentlemen—devoted to their object of doing a great good for humanity in thus restoring woman to her rightful position of guardian over the health and delicacy of her own sex, we may look for the best results. Good men are becoming the advocates of medical education for women, as they perceive its advantages in educational establishments. Rev. Edward N. Kirk, of Boston, described this influence on a school for girls—320 pupils, all residing in the house—which had a lady physician as medical adviser.† Mr. Kirk was one of the guardians of the school; he asserted that "with a larger family we never had so little sickness in the family as since this arrangement was made," and says:—

"It would need, gentlemen, perhaps simply an appeal at once to your own judgment and feelings as parents, to determine whether you would not prefer a well-educated, sensible lady residing as a friend and teacher in the very family with your daughters, to any gentleman of the medical profession residing outside of the family, and visiting your daughters only when disease has reached so severe a stage as to demand a professional visit."

* Communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the Faculty, Mrs. E. H. Cleveland, M. D., Woman's Hospital, North College Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

† This lady was a graduate from The New England Medical College, of which we shall write in a future number.

Yes, the educated lady physician should have her place in all seminaries for young ladies and schools for girls. We have heard most encouraging reports of the success of these medical advisers; one is resident in "Vassar College," the other in "Mount Holyoke Seminary." We should like to hear from all the institutions in our country where a lady has the care of the health of the pupils.

A PLAGIARISM.

In our January number, page 58, we published a poem sent us by a person signing herself "Mrs. W—." We have since learned, in a manner that leaves no doubt upon our minds of the truth of the information, that the two verses then given, with another not published, were written by Mr. G. Roscoe Day, Editor of the *Free Press*, Galesburg, Ill., under the signature of "Rex." The poem is worth claiming. We publish it below.

DESERTED.*

BY "REX."

The river flowed with the light on its breast,
And the waves went eddying by;
And the round red sun went down in the west,
When my love's loving lips to my lips were prest,
Under the evening sky.
Now, weeping, alone by the river I stray,
For my love has left me this many a day,
Left me to droop and die.

As the river flowed then, the river flows still,
In ripple, and foam, and spray,
On by the church, and round by the mill,
And under the sluice by the old burnt mill,
And out to the fading day.

But I love it no more; for delight grows cold,
When the song is sung, and the tale is told,
And the heart is given away.

Oh river, run far! oh river, run fast!
Oh weeds, float on to the sea!
For the sun has gone down on my beautiful past,
And the hope, that like bread on the waters I cast,
Has drifted away like thee.
So the dream it is fled, and the day it is done;
But my lips still murmur the name of one
Who will never come back to me.

NOTES AND NOTICES.

NEW SCHOOL OF ART.—A new school of art has lately been established in this city by the distinguished Professor Van der Wielen, of Antwerp, brother of the painter of "The Siege of Leyden," which has hung so long against the walls of our Academy of Fine Arts. He has now about sixteen pupils of both sexes under his tuition. Those who wish particular information can obtain it at the school, N. E. corner of Fifteenth and Market Streets.

ELEGIAC POETRY.—We are sorry that we cannot "assist the afflicted mother" in her desire to obtain "a poem commemorative of the death of her only child—the dear little boy." But we will insert here a prose poem—as it may well be styled—more tenderly consoling, as we think, than any "verses for the occasion" we could select or write. We are compelled to decline nearly all the "Elegies" sent us, or their number and length would become wearisome to our readers:—

Death of a Child.—Leighton, writing to a bereaved friend, says: "I am glad of your health, and the recovery of your little ones; but indeed it was a sharp stroke of a pen that told me your little Johnny was

* I never supposed the above was worthy of being plagiarized, or, to use a less objectionable term, perhaps, appropriated, and for that reason never gave it publicity myself; but learn that it has appeared two or three times in different parts of the country, each time by a different author.

Yours respectfully,

"REX."