The Crucible, v. 2, no. 1

W. A. Allen

W. Balentine

J. I. Gurney

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other Fine Repairing done to order.

DANIEL WHITE,
NO. 2 KENDUSKEAG BRIDGE,
BANGOR, ME.
THE CRUCIBLE.

PUBLISHED BY
THE STUDENTS
OF THE
MAINE STATE COLLEGE.

EDITORS:
W. A. ALLEN. W. BALENTINE. J. I. GURNEY.

EDITORIAL.

The experiment of publishing a paper conducted by members of this College was tried for the first time a year ago.

The success which followed the trial was such that the Literary Fraternity determined to repeat the experiment, and as a result we present this number of the Crucible.

The year that has elapsed since the last publication has brought some changes to the College, but in general the affairs of the institution have moved on quietly.

Three new members have been added to the Faculty, Prof. Aubert, a graduate of Cornell University, as professor of Chemistry, Prof. Whittier, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as assistant professor of Engineering and Modern Languages, and Prof Hamlin, a graduate of this College as instructor in Engineering.

The success which has attended the efforts of these professors speaks more highly for their ability than anything we may say.

The courses in Agriculture and Mechanical Engineering have been more fully developed during the past year, and all the courses now stand on a firmer basis.

The raising of the standard of admission seems to have had the desired effect of bringing the entering class here more mature and better prepared to undertake the four years course. As each year passes away the College becomes more and more settled in its aims and methods, and the newness which is always apparent around a lately organized institution is fast disappearing.

The number of students increases each year and when Seventy-Four's place is filled by this year's entering class, the rolls will present a still more favorable appearance.

The exercises in the Military Department have been reasonably well sustained, but there is still room for some improvement. One thing seems to be imperatively demanded if the drill is to be carried on successfully, and that is a Drill Hall. A development and more progressive arrangement of the exercises of this department would also be beneficial.

The maintenance of order in the Halls has been left in the hands of the students during the year. The council has held or has been supposed to hold weekly meetings, and occasionally some unfortunate has suffered in consequence of its decisions. The Reading Room still remains under the charge of the Literary Fraternity, and since the procuring of a case for containing the periodicals they have been much
better preserved. Before closing this editorial it seems fitting that some mention should be made of those two who do not appear to-day among our number. We little thought that Reed's good bye that pleasant August morning would be his last words to his class! How this loss has saddened all our Senior year we may not express, but his vacant place and the memories of the days when he was with us speak louder than mere words. The gloom thrown over the commencement of the year by his death, was increased by the death of his brother a few weeks later, who had just entered as a member of the Freshman class.

And now, committing the interests of the Crucible to those who may be elected to succeed us, we drop the editorial pen with the best wishes for the future success of the paper.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Various causes have operated to prevent the agricultural department of this College from attaining its appropriate position. Three years ago the number of students who wished to take the agricultural course of study was small. Moreover, while it was an easy matter to procure a teacher of Engineering, and was not difficult to fill the chair of Chemistry, a thorough teacher of scientific and practical Agriculture was hardly to be found, and if found would demand a higher salary than the institution could well afford to pay. In consideration of these facts, the Trustees deemed it not expedient to go to this large expense. While it would, doubtless, have proved a wise expenditure, as a good teacher would soon draw students to the department, the funds went towards developing other departments. A practical agriculturalist was chosen to take charge of the farm; and, with him in that capacity, and an agricultural chemist in the laboratory, it was thought the department would not suffer. Such a chemist was obtained; but a neighboring State offering greater inducements than Maine could afford, he was not retained. Efforts were then made to obtain a thorough teacher of Agriculture; but without success. Meanwhile the farm superintendent gained the confidence of all concerned and proved himself to be a progressive man. Finally the Trustees placed him at the head of the agricultural departments; and time shows the wisdom of this act. But, while new duties were imposed upon him, the old ones were not abated. We hope, however, he will soon be relieved, in a measure, at least, from his duties as farm superintendent, that he may devote his energies largely to the work of teaching. Then will the department prosper.

But, before it can attain its appropriate position some of its many existing wants must be supplied. We will mention briefly a few of these needs.

The need of an agricultural cabinet is keenly felt. Occupying a prominent position in this, should be models of farm implements.

No student can get a good idea of the merits and defects of an implement by mere descriptions alone; and as this need is imperative, we trust it will soon be met. It is next to impossible to teach the guiding principles of the cultivation of grain and fruit without samples. The fruit would need to be in wax, and would be somewhat expensive; but the grains might be obtained at a moderate outlay of time and money. Friends of the College could easily contribute needed articles, and thus the work would be greatly facilitated.

In order for the department to flourish, the needs of the farm should be supplied.
We may mention, as among the most pressing, the need of money for the purpose of carrying on experiments. Questions are constantly arising which cannot be answered until determined by direct experiment. Experiments should be made to determine the profit or loss of steaming food for cattle; also, on the subject of grasses, to determine the amount of seed, manner of sowing, and number of varieties to be sown on the same ground. So we might prolong the list indefinitely, but we desist. The dairying interest in this State is constantly increasing, and, indeed, is now, in many localities, the leading branch of agriculture. In consideration of this fact dairy conveniences will soon be demanded here, not only as a source of profit, but for the instruction of students. We will mention but one thing more. The farm should be thoroughly underdrained that the crops may be doubled.

The course of study will probably soon be extended and we predict that this department will take its place in advance of those earlier developed. The thorough agriculturist is a man of the most liberal and extended culture. He is not only familiar with plant growth, the miracle of life from death, but extends his researches to the geologic formations of the earliest ages. In short, Nature, he will study, in all her varied forms, and make every science, every art, subservient to his calling, while, by his extended culture, he will stand in the foremost ranks of honored men.

There is a strong feeling among a large number of students in this College that the literary studies have not received attention commensurate with their importance. In Engineering—both civil and mechanical—and in Agriculture, fully developed and symmetrical courses of study have been prepared, which students may pursue with some degree of satisfaction, knowing that each effort made tends to a definite end. In Chemistry and Natural History he can pursue the studies specially connected with the science chosen as long as he remains connected with the institution. But the student whose tastes do not incline toward either of these courses, has before him a somewhat indefinite curriculum. An unsuccessful attempt has been made to provide for his wants by the establishment of a course in which the studies shall be in a great measure elective—a course which has been aptly described as “beginning nowhere and leaving off in the woods;” which may be something or nothing, according to the whims of the student, or as circumstances may dictate. But, even in this, the studies are often of such a character that a choice between them would be something like Hobson’s.

Now what we have in mind is this: The institution professes to be a people’s College, in which those of limited means can acquire such an education as shall fit them for the practical duties of life; and as such it should endeavor to meet the wants of all as far as possible. There are many here who wish to become teachers in our higher institutions of learning, who feel that, even after graduation, they will be deficient in the literary training necessary to enable them to fill such positions. It may be said that if a literary course is what they desired they should have gone to a college specially devoted to such study. But this is no answer. The majority of our students are young men of limited means, who come here because they desire an education, and cannot go elsewhere; and it is only just to make the best provision possible for them, to give them here the advantages of which their slender means deprives them elsewhere.

The necessity for more literary studies
might not exist, perhaps, if students came here as well prepared in those branches as are those who enter our best classical Colleges. But it is a fact that some who seek and obtain admission here are somewhat deficient, even in the moderate amount of literary knowledge necessary for a successful examination; and unless this is supplemented by thorough training during his College course, the graduate will always labor under the disadvantage of having his superstructure built upon a shaky foundation. It is useless to say that students are supposed to be prepared in those things previous to their admission; if they are not they are not, all presumption to the contrary notwithstanding.

Give us then more literary studies. Make Latin—the best introduction to the study of modern languages—either a requirement for admission, or a required study after admission. Make German a required instead of an optional study; pay more attention to oratory, and the preparation of themes; and, in short, give the students of this College such culture as will place them on a level with those of other institutions.

FRANCIS ARAGO.*

Francis Arago, the French philosopher, was born on the 26th of February, 1786, in Estagel, France. In the primary school he learned the rudiments of reading and writing, and received lessons in vocal music at home.

It is said, that he was no more advanced at that time, than other children of his age.

Estagel was a halting place for soldiers, and being with them much of the time, he was inspired with a decided military taste.

Before he was seven years old he had several times followed the soldiers, as they marched away, and had been found, two or three miles from home, by his parents. Soon after, his father removed to Perpignan, and he was sent to school, where he occupied himself with literary studies, and in reading the classic works of his countrymen.

One day while walking on the ramparts of the town, he saw a young man, an officer of engineers, directing repairs on the works.

Young Arago took the liberty to ask the officer how he came so soon to wear an epaulette. The officer told him he came from the Polytechnic School, and gave him directions for obtaining information in regard to it. Arago soon obtained the desired information, and at once decided to fit himself for entering that school.

He abandoned his other studies and applied himself wholly to mathematics. As he could not obtain much assistance from those around him, he was obliged to depend upon his own resources, and states that he thinks he found his true master in these words of advice, which he saw on the cover of an old algebra, "Go on, sir, go on, and conviction will come to you."

In a year and a half he had mastered all the studies in the programme for admission to the Polytechnic School, but his health did not permit him to go to Paris, to undergo the examination.

He was then sixteen years old, and although his health was poor, he pursued his studies, and was able a short time after, to go to Toulouse, in company with another candidate, to be examined for admission to the above named school. His comrade did not pass the examination, and when Arago's turn came his examiner suggested that if he could do no better, it would be well to save the trouble of questioning him; but Arago answered that he was ready and willing, and wished him to proceed. He was kept at the board two hours and a

*Autobiography of Francis Arago.
quarter, at the end of that time his examiner was fully satisfied.

At the next examination, for passing from one division of the school to another, the one who was to have been examined before him, fainted, and was carried from the room as Arago entered.

The examiner was very stern, and told him that he was not a Frenchman, but he assured the gentleman that he was a very good Frenchman.

He was then set to work, and in a short time his examiner began to take great interest in him, and heartily congratulated him at the close of the examination.

In the year 1804, the school was a prey to political passions, and the students were invited to make a manifestation in favor of the institution of the Legion of Honor.

This they refused, and Napoleon was about to have all those who had refused, sent away from the school, but seeing the name of Arago at the head of the list, he decided to let them remain, for he thought he could not afford to lose the first in advancement.

Soon after this, Arago was appointed to a position in the observatory at Paris, and in a short time was sent into Spain to take observations, and establish signals.

In that country he met with many strange adventures, among the robbers and monks, several times barely escaping with his life, but he went on with his work, which was of so much value to his country.

In 1808 the arrival of the French army in Spain, caused great excitement, and Arago was soon obliged to flee to a strong castle for safety, but he did not long feel safe, even there, and managed to escape, obtaining a passage to Algiers, where he arrived on the third of August.

Procuring a false passport as a strolling merchant, he secured a passage on board a vessel bound to Marseilles, which left Algiers the thirteenth of August.

As they entered the Gulf of Lyons, they were captured by a Spanish man-of-war, and taken to Rosas, where they were detained for some time, and only furnished with enough food to sustain life.

After a while Arago succeeded in obtaining a release from the Spanish authorities, and as soon as possible again set sail for Marseilles, but was met by a gale and blown across the Mediterranean and landed on the African coast.

From the place of shipwreck, he in company with several other persons, made his way, through many difficulties, to Algiers, arriving there in December 1808, and after remaining until the next June, he again took passage for Marseilles, and was again detained by the way.

At length, after the lapse of eleven months from the time he first left Algiers, he arrived at Marseilles.

After visiting his parents, who had long thought that he was dead, he went to Paris and deposited a record of his observations,—which he had succeeded in preserving,—at the Bureau of Longitude and Academy of Sciences. On the eighteenth of September, 1809, he was elected a member of the French Academy. He was then not quite twenty-four years old, the youngest man ever admitted to that body.

He was a very active member and had great influence in the business of the Academy.

In the year 1830, he was elected perpetual secretary of the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences. One of his leading traits of character was self-confidence, always feeling able for his task, and not afraid to try it, whatever the circumstances in which he was placed. There probably have been many other men of equal abilities, in other respects, who, if they had only possessed the pluck to push ahead, would have stood as high on the Roll of Science as Francis Arago.
THE CRUCIBLE.

A susceptible Junior when returning from vacation became enamored of a young lady on the train, and with killing politeness assisted her at Leeds Junction in changing "her traps" (as he afterwards expressed it) into the Farmington cars. While he stood on the platform of the station talking with her through the window, the Bangor train quietly moved off, taking with it Junior's over coat and pocket book, leaving him without a cent to his name, and with no possible chance of leaving that place for twenty-four hours. After bidding the young lady an affectionate farewell, he turned to get on board again, when, to his great astonishment he discovered the train had disappeared. With great presence of mind, Junior rushed to the telegraph office and telegraphed the conductor to take charge of his coat and money. After having done all that could be done by mortal man, he turned and was stalking majestically out of the office, when the operator politely accosted him and requested payment for the telegram. Junior wheeled around like a lion brought to bay, and shouted, "Geegogletiwollops! These confounded girls are always getting me into trouble. Here I am left behind without any money to pay my bills, all on account of a pretty face; and there is that scrape in Orono last summer, and "—. There is no knowing what disclosures he might have made, had not a friend of the family stepped in at this moment, and seeing his excited state loaned him money enough to pay his bills.

We have had a slight touch of the great crusade movement here. One afternoon several weeks since, a few Juniors and Seniors were talking over the condition of the times, and particularly the deplorable condition of a certain room on the second floor of the Brick Hall. They, feeling the responsibility, determined to use their influence in reclaiming the few wayward youths that were then having a friendly game of Don Pedro in the above mentioned room. So resolving themselves into a "little praying band" they armed with small dictionaries, sallied forth, meeting in front of the door, they commenced by singing the good old tune of Old Hundred.

Their leader then uttered his words of exhortation. That brought them, for soon the form of the proprietor of the den, T. P. Pursh, appeared at the door and inquired the reason of the disturbance; they told him the object of their visit, and asked permission to enter; were refused and told to vacate; they probably misunderstanding the reply, closed up and were about to enter, when there was a sudden change observed in the proprietor; he grew red in the face, commenced to swell, and finally went into violent convulsions, while the leader of the crusaders was to be observed on his Lack on the floor, and was heard to groan, "boys, let's go home." The grieved look with which the leader and his followers picked themselves up to depart, was distressing to see.

Natural History Rooms. Prof. to visitor evidently from the country.—"These are the Natural History Rooms. You see here the students pursuing their studies with the objects in hand, and gaining information more from them than by depending upon text books. This is regarded and is, the only way to give an accurate and comprehensive knowledge of Natural History, not having time to take anything like a thorough course, for any one of these studies would require a lifetime, we devote our time principally to those objects which will be of use to the student in after life, beside giving him a general insight into the whole."—Visitor, (quite impressed) "Jes so."
THE CRUCIBLE.

A CHEMICAL LAY.
Sing we of acids and bases,
Of solids, liquids and gases;
Of hydrates and chlorates,
Of nitrates and borates,
Of blowpipes, test-tubes, and watch-glasses.

How blest is the being to chemistry wed!
Monads and dyads will watch o'er his bed,
Triads and tetrads will come at his call,
Pentads and hexads like blessings will fall,
PH always illumine his way,
And N O make him feel happy and gay.

A plague on the classics! who now cares to hear
Of the fables of Ἀσος, or wiles of Medea;
Of "breathings" in Greek, or the sacking of Troy,
Though Paris was doubtless a "broth of a boy;"
Yet the game that he played with another man's wife
Should have sent him an exile the rest of his life.

A shelf full of bottles all labelled to show
Their contents; as, HCl, C H
2
\text{O},\text{H}_{2}\text{O},\text{H}_{2}\text{O}_{2}.
(The latter were safer unlabelled perhaps,
As a favorite it is with the \textit{temperance} chaps,)
Is all that we ask; and we'll get up a fume
That would drive all your classical \textit{spoons} from the room.
With their noses turned up, and so very profane
As to put e'en an "artist" in swearing to shame.

Handiest thing that was ever found out
Is this chemical science, beyond any doubt.
Does your water taste bad? Just bring a drop here,
And whatever ails it we soon will make clear;
No charge will be made; 'tis nothing but fun
To show you how nicely the thing can be done.

See here in this test-tube the liquid I pour
And chlorhydric acid, a spoonful or more;
I close with my finger, and—heavens, 'tis bitten!
For the precipitate I have thrown down is a kitten;
There's a cat in your well, sir; go home, clean it out,
And in future keep none of the wretches about.

Then a pean for acids and bases,
For solids, liquids and gases;
Come fill up each glass, let all merry be,
And drink to each other in H N O.

LOCALS.
Have you seen the new Binocular?
The Repsold has been ordered.
The Freshmen have their class supper at the Orono House on the evening of August 1st.
The Fourth of July celebration was a success, and reflects credit on the committee who originated and managed the affair.
The meetings of the Scientific Society are increasing in interest. The next semi-annual session will occur during the second week in October.
The new barn is at last completed, and is really a magnificent building, but we learn that the report that it is to be carpeted is incorrect.

We would suggest that some of the members of the Junior class read Longfellow's "Beware," before entering upon another year of their college course.
The college orchestra is receiving many compliments from their town friends, in the shape of invitations to perform at various entertainments which are held at the new hall.

There was seen on a postal card taken from the college mail box, the following message from a student to his friend in the country, "Dear Jim:—I saw a nest of kittens in the boarding house shed this morning. Had hash for supper. Kittens gone. Yours, etc."

There is a prospect that one company of the Cadets will go into encampment with the State Militia.
The idea of having those students who pursue either of the engineering courses write theses in place of the regular commencement essays, seems to be gaining favor among the students. Whether or not the Faculty will adopt the plan next year is not yet certain.
Prof. M. C. Fernald, with a party of the College students and other gentlemen, proposes to visit Mt. Katahdin again this season to continue the barometrical observations for a careful determination of its altitude. Mr. F. L. Scribner will again have charge of the botanical observations, and other scientific work is also planned. The party will leave Orono on Thursday morning, Aug. 6th, and be absent about two weeks.

COMMENCEMENT WEEK.
The following is the order of arrangements for Commencement week:
Saturday evening, Aug. 1st,
Sophomore Prize Declamation.
Sunday evening, Aug. 2nd,
Baccalaureate Sermon by President Allen.
Monday evening, Aug. 3d,
Junior Exhibition.
Tuesday evening, Aug. 4th,
President’s Reception.
Wednesday, Aug. 5th,
Exercises of the Graduating Class at 11 o’clock, A. M. Address by Rev. Thos. Hill, D. D., at 3 o’clock, P. M.
Concert by the Beethoven Quintette Club, and Miss Annie Louise Cary at 8 o’clock P. M.
Tuesday afternoon there will be Military Drill at the College.
Thursday the first examination for admission will be held in the Chapel.
The second examination occurs Aug. 25.

PRIZES.

CLASS OF ’74.

SOPHOMORE PRIZE.—Declamation, J. I. Gurney.
JUNIOR PRIZE.—Composition, W. A. Allen, and R. D. Hunter.

CLASS OF ’75.

SOPHOMORE PRIZE.—Declamation, E. D. Mayo.

COLLEGE FACULTY.

REV. CHARLES F. ALLEN, D. D., President and Professor of English Literature, Mental and Moral Philosophy.
MERRITT C. FERNALD, A. M., Professor of Mathematics and Physics.
ALBERT B. AUBERT, B. S., Professor of Chemistry.
WILLIAM A. PIKE, C. E., Professor of Civil Engineering.
CHARLES H. FERNALD, A. M., Professor of Natural History.
RANDAL WHITTIER, B. S.—C. E. Assistant Professor of Engineering and Modern Languages.
GEORGE H. HAMLIN, C. E., Assistant Professor of Engineering.
JOSEPH R. FARRINGTON, Farm Superintendent.
CAPT. JAMES DEAN, Military Instructor.
JOHN PERLEY, Instructor in Book Keeping.
REV. A. W. REED, Steward.

COBURN CADETS.

OFFICERS FOR ’73 AND ’74.
Major of Battalion.—W. A. Allen.
Company A.
Capt.—J. I. Gurney.
1st Lieut.—W. Balentine.
2nd Lieut.—R. D. Hunter.
Company B.
Capt.—G. M. Shaw.
1st Lieut.—A. M. Goodale.
2nd Lieut.—E. F. Hitchings.

OFFICERS FOR ’74 AND ’75.
Major of Battalion.—A. M. Goodale.
Adjutant.—C. F. Colesworthy.
Company A.
Capt.—G. M. Shaw.
1st Lieut.—L. F. Coburn.
2nd Lieut.—E. D. Mayo.
Company B.
Capt.—E. F. Hitchings.
1st Lieut.—F. P. Gurney.
2nd Lieut.—W. L. Stevens.
LITERARY SOCIETIES.

LITERARY FRATERNITY.

OFFICERS:
President, G. M. Shaw; Vice President, C. F. Colesworthy; Secretary, W. H. Jordan; Asst. Sec., A. G. Mitchell; Librarian, H. M. Estabrook; Treasurer, W. Webb; Directors, W. Balentine, C. F. Durham, E. F. Hitchings.

SOPHOMORE DEBATING SOCIETY.

OFFICERS:
President, F. R. Reed; Vice President, F. A. Haseltine; Secretary, C. M. Brainard; Asst. Sec., E. M. Blanding; Treasurer, S. M. Jones; Executive Committee, N. H. Martin, C. E. Oak, F. M. Bisbee.

FRESHMAN DEBATING SOCIETY.

OFFICERS:
President, C. F. Andrews; Vice President, F. H. Goud; Secretary, H. C. Townsend; Treasurer, J. C. Lunt; Directors, S. W. Gould, A. De O. Blackinton, J. W. Weeks.

Q. T. V. SOCIETY.

MAINE CHAPTER.

Seniors.
W. A. Allen, W. Balentine, J. I. Gurney, R. D. Hunter.

Juniors.

Sophomores.

Freshmen.
A. De O. Blackinton, S. W. Gould.

CLASS OFFICERS.

'74.—President, W. A. Allen; Vice President, L. H. Ramsdell; Secretary, J. I. Gurney; Treasurer, W. Balentine; Committee of Arrangements, W. H. Gerrish, R. D. Hunter.

COLLEGE ORCHESTRA.

L. C. Southard, 1st Violin and leader.
W. W. Dow, 2nd Violin.
S. W. Bates, Flute.
T. B. Seavey, 1st Clarinet.
M. F. Herring, 2nd Clarinet.
A. D. Blackinton, 1st Cornet.
E. Abbott, 2nd Cornet.
F. H. Bacon, Trombone.
C. F. Andrews, Violincello.
S. Shaw, Bass.

KELLER GLEE CLUB.

H. M. Estabrooke, 1st Tenor.
A. J. Harvey, 2nd Tenor.
A. D. Blackinton, 3rd Tenor.
S. Shaw, 1st Bass.
W. W. Dow, 2nd Bass.

COLLEGE NINE.

W. A. Allen, Captain.
W. A. Bumps, c.
A. De O. Blackinton, p.
W. A. Allen, s. s.
L. C. Southard, b.
F. P. Gurney, 2 b.
A. M. Goodale, 3 b.
F. L. Partridge, l. f.
F. P. Whittaker, c. f.
C. F. Durham, x. f.
**Time Table of Passenger Trains Between Orono, Bangor, and Oldtown.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORONO FOR BANGOR</th>
<th>BANGOR FOR ORONO</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:15 2-5.........</td>
<td>A. M. 8-45 5:00 11:40</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:55 3-22........</td>
<td>A. M. 7-00 8-00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:11 3-45 3-38.</td>
<td>P. M. 1-00 3-15</td>
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</tbody>
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**NOTE.** - 7:28 A. M. for Oldtown leaves Webster Station.

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