

THE IOWA STATE NORMAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC,
AT IOWA CITY.

(Concluded from page 77.)

IN the performance of classical works, no similar institution in the United States can show a brighter record. All of these choral performances have been under the direction of the principal. The solos in "Elijah" were well sustained by Miss Gibbs, Miss Annie Cotton (soprano), Miss Hattie Glenn (contralto), Mr. H. S. Perkins (tenor), and Mr. Jule E. Perkins (bass), Messrs. Otto Schmidt and J. E. Perkins accompanists. The choruses were presented with great spirit, precision, and taste, such as has always characterized similar performances in the Academy, although this surpassed every previous effort. The great change which had taken place in the minds of the people in regard to oratorio music, and their ability to appreciate, were indeed very marked.

These happy results were highly gratifying to the principal, who had labored indefatigably and hopefully through weather "fair and foul," and against "wind and tide," to bring these things to pass. "Achieved was the glorious work," and it is no wonder that he entered into the performance of "Thanks be to God," that magnificent chorus, with great enthusiasm, and with inexpressible satisfaction. Both in detail, and as a whole, it was such a *recherche* musical entertainment as Iowa City may not have the privilege of enjoying again for many a day.

There were 130 students in attendance, many of whom were teachers, either of music or in the public schools. A better class and grade of learners seldom assembles. Each department was characterized by earnest work; and rapid progress was the result. The same liberality was extended to each county in Iowa to send two representative students

the same as in 1870. The press of the state was solicited to give publicity to the "Liberal Proposition," without charge, inasmuch as each county was offered gratuitous instruction, to the value of \$40. This request was cheerfully and generally complied with, excepting by the *State Register*, *Head Light*, and *Atlantic Messenger*, which papers refused, preferring instead, to appropriate space for mis-statements and weak sarcasm, too silly to appear in any sheet with the pretensions of the above. The same space might have been more wisely appropriated for the benefit of their county patrons and readers. There was a wide difference between the narrow-minded stinginess of these papers, when they refused to give the notice one insertion, as requested, and the magnanimous liberality of the Academy, in giving to the citizens of the state free instruction in the institution to the amount of *five hundred and sixty dollars*, without receiving *one farthing* therefor; which was done during this session of 1871. The evidences of appreciation and expressions of thanks, and "God bless you," from various sources have, thus far, been highly satisfactory both to the principal, and managers of the musical Academy. The exceptions have been few and insignificant. But the best citizens, and all good people, are naturally disgusted whenever any friction or disturbance occurs in the music ranks. In fact, the same degree of charity is not entertained by the people towards the musical profession as to other avocations, when discord is heard.

The trustees of the University were indeed in a degree excusable for not favoring the engrafting of an institution which contained the elements of discord into that of the state. It would not have been consistent, even if the department to be added was regarded as an essential branch of education, when discord existed in its ranks, and its own officers and pretended friends had become warlike. Had the real and true friends of the Academy wrested it from the hands of its worst enemies, its pretended friends, in season, they might have witnessed the consummation of

their desires in the permanent establishment of a Normal Academy of Music in Iowa City, which, doubtless, would eventually have become an integral section of the University, imitating the good example of Oberlin College, Ohio. We must add, however, that this discord in the Academy would have had no influence upon the action of a board of trustees or regents, had they acted wisely, and appreciated the worth of a musical department in the University to the state, if well managed, even if their early musical education had been sadly neglected. At this time, as during the past few years, the normal department, even, is destitute of musical instruction, and the score or more of graduates who go out into the state annually, as teachers of the youth, are as ill-prepared to instruct in singing as the pupils are before whom they stand. In this particular the Iowa State University is not doing justice to the people.

At the close of this (fifth) session of the Academy of Music, the principal presented a diploma of graduation to Miss Annie E. Cotton, of Pella, Iowa, and to Miss Nellie V. Hutchinson, of Iowa City. Certificates of proficiency were also issued to other students.

Although several other similar enterprises of the kind have been inaugurated in Iowa, at various points, including Davenport, Council Bluffs, Mount Pleasant, etc., yet none have met with the success that has attended the Iowa State Normal Academy of Music.

Considering how little attention is paid to art and music in a new section of the country, the condition of the finances during the past few years in the west, the success of the Normal Academy has been in the highest degree satisfactory — almost unprecedented.

Recapitulation. — Attendance in 1867, 105; in 1868, 107; in 1869, 140; in 1870, 128; in 1871, 130.

Classical Works Performed. — Session of 1867, Haydn's "Creation;" of 1868, Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise;" of 1869, Handel's "Messiah;" of 1870, Rosini's "Stabat

Mater," Mozart's "Twelfth Mass;" of 1871, Mendelssohn's "Elijah." In addition many selections from other oratorios and from operas were studied, and given at public concerts.

The students of the Academy at their last meeting unanimously adopted the following:—

"*Resolved*, That we extend our thanks to Prof. H. S. Perkins, principal, and to his able assistants, Professors Jule E. Perkins and Otto Schmidt, and Miss Mary E. Gibbs, for their untiring devotion to us while pursuing our studies under their direction.

"*Resolved*, That we recommend Prof. H. S. Perkins as an able and skillful manager of normal music schools, and as an able conductor of conventions and choral organizations.

"*Resolved*, that our best wishes for the success of the faculty will go with them as we separate."

At a subsequent meeting of the board of directors the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

"WHEREAS, The Iowa State Normal Academy of Music, of Iowa City, has now completed its fifth annual session, for which term of years scholarships were issued and notes given therefor, we, the board of directors, deem it fitting to embody our sentiments in the following resolutions:—

"*Resolved*, That we, the board of directors of the Iowa State Normal Academy of Music, take pleasure in saying we have been highly gratified and pleased with the success and musical management of our Academy since its organization in 1867, to the present time, during which term of years it has been under the principalship and musical direction of H. S. Perkins; we therefore extend to Prof. Perkins our most hearty thanks, accompanied with sentiments of highest respect and esteem, and recommend him cordially to the musical world at large for his constant zeal, fidelity and acknowledged ability in the musical management of our Academy of Music, which has thus far met with almost unprecedented success.

Resolved, That, as this Academy is legally incorporated under the laws of the state of Iowa, and although five annual sessions have expired — the term of years for which scholarships were issued and notes given therefor by parties receiving said certificates of scholarship — that we intend to provide for and continue its annual sessions, and earnestly solicit that Prof. Perkins continue as musical director, believing that, with him as principal, its marked success will be uninterrupted.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS.

BY HAWKINS TAYLOR, WASHINGTON, D. C.

AT the first election under the territorial organization of Iowa in Lee county, in 1838, the contest was for the location of the county seat. "Fort Madison" and "anti-Fort Madison" — the real contending points being Fort Madison and West Point. The "Half Breed Tract," that figured so largely in politics and law afterwards, was scarcely taken into account in this contest. There were few voters then in the district, no title to the lands, and not much hopes of there being any title to them soon. The Wisconsin legislature had, the winter previous, appointed a commission, consisting of Edward Tohune, Thomas Wilson, of Dubuque, and D. T. Brigham, of Wisconsin, to adjust and settle the title to the lands. This commission was then in session at Montrose; at least Tohune was there and looking after the matter, what time he could spare from shaking with the ague and protecting himself from the fleas, a legacy left that place when the dragoons went away, and enjoyed by the citizens for many years, and, for all I know, up to the present time.

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