

DOCUMENTS

DIARY OF S. S. HOWELL, 1868

Edited by Frederick J. Kuhns

It was Friday, July 24, 1868, when the *Golden Age* steamed into the port of San Francisco. Among her passengers were seven from Iowa: the Olneys from Pella and the Howells from Iowa City. Warren Olney, his wife Mary (Craven), and a baby daughter were accompanied by their relatives, S. S. Howell, his wife, and two small sons. Saul Sylvester Howell, at the age of twenty-six, was a professor of Latin and Greek. He was hopeful that his health, undermined by a soldier's duties in the late war and further weakened through overwork, would benefit by a residence in California. His wife, Rhoda Elizabeth (Craven) Howell, born near Washington, Iowa, was only twenty-four and likewise hopeful. The Olneys and Howells had left Iowa City on June 23, seen Niagara Falls on the way, sailed from New York, crossed the Isthmus by the new railway, and spent fourteen days aboard the *Golden Age* in getting to California.¹

Saul Sylvester Howell, the second son of John Gilson and Eliza Ann (Henkle) Howell, was born on December 25, 1841, at Springfield, Ohio. His only brother, John Gilson Howell, Jr., was nearly five years older, while his only sister, Anna Clarinda Howell, was nearly six years younger than himself. The father was a physician, having been graduated from the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati in 1852. After the death of the children's mother, Dr. Howell removed to Pella, Iowa. In 1856 he married Margaret Stout Goudie from Brookville, Indiana, who, as "Mother" Howell, was admired by the entire Pella community, especially for her marked hospitality to the college students.² A famous Iowa family, doubtless known to Dr. Howell, also came from Brookville — Coker F. Clarkson and his sons, James S. and Richard P. "Father" Clarkson bought

¹ Lloyd A. Howell of Iowa City has Professor Howell's Bible containing many entries about the family from which these data have been gleaned. Another source of family information is Anna Howell Clarkson, *A Beautiful Life and Its Associations* (New York, 1903), *passim*.

² Clarkson, *A Beautiful Life . . .*, 97-100.

good land in Grundy County, while Richard and later James worked on the Des Moines *Iowa State Register*, a paper which the three Clarksons bought in 1870.³ As Professor Howell notes in his diary, his sister, Anna, married James S. (Ret) Clarkson on December 26, 1867, at Pella.

Howell started out to obtain his higher education at Central University, then a Baptist college in Pella. Since Central was a coeducational college, Howell and his friend Warren Olney soon discovered how congenial could be the company of their fellow students, Rhoda and Mary Craven of "Cravendon" — the old farm place near Washington, Iowa, belonging to their father, Calvin Craven, one of Central's most generous donors.⁴

But these were days that tried men's souls, for the American flag had been fired upon, and the life of the Union was at stake. Almost every Central University man put on the uniform of his country and went to war — including, of course, Olney and Howell, both of whom enlisted on May 21, 1861, the one as a private, and the other as a fourth sergeant. Both were mustered in together, served in Company B of the Third Iowa Infantry Regiment, and fought at Pittsburg Landing in April, 1862. Howell was made a first sergeant and by April 20 was commissioned a first lieutenant. In October he resigned his commission, coming home in a weakened condition, a victim of fever.⁵

Interrupted though it had been, Howell's formal education was completed at the State University of Iowa in June of 1864, with the B.A. degree. He was valedictorian of his class. Three years later he received an M.A. degree.⁶ From 1864 to 1866, Howell was on the teaching staff of Central University — the first Central student to occupy a "chair" in that school.⁷ Howell and Rhoda Craven were married February 2, 1865.

³ For the Clarksons, see Fred J. Lazell, "Some Prominent Editors," *The Palimpsest*, 17:139-40 (April, 1936); and George Mills, "The Des Moines Register," *ibid.*, 30:283-9 (September, 1949).

⁴ Clarkson, *A Beautiful Life* . . . , 71-3.

⁵ See *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers* . . . (6 vols., Des Moines, 1908), 1:338, 365.

⁶ "Alumni Register Number," *The Iowa Alumnus*, 8:52 (September, 1911). Howell's valedictory was delivered in the Methodist church, "with unusual warmth and feeling." *Iowa City Republican*, July 4, 1864. The young graduate took as his theme the words of the poet Horace, "*Dulce est pro patria mori*," developing out of his own recent military experience illustrations of the sweetness of dying for one's country. The address, in manuscript, is in the possession of Lloyd A. Howell of Iowa City.

⁷ Clarkson, *A Beautiful Life* . . . , 71-3.

In 1866 Howell accepted the trustees' invitation to teach at the State University of Iowa. Before picking up and packing up for California, he taught Latin and Greek during the 1866-1867 school year; in 1867 he was made principal of the Preparatory department, which was in a flourishing condition during his tenure. Efficient high schools gradually became more prevalent in the state, and the department was abolished in 1879.⁸ But in the time of Howell, its work was absolutely essential, and he was its spirited head for the academic year of 1867-1868.

A university's best reporters of its life are, of course, those members of its own staff who take the time to jot down or write up what goes on, campus-wise and otherwise, in the university community. In that war-torn, strife-ridden decade of the 1860's many kept journals, and one who did this was Professor Howell, whose leather-bound, vest-pocket diary for the year 1868 has been well preserved by his descendants. This diary brings back the goings-on of city and University folk as they were in 1868.

The University, during Howell's years on the campus, was passing through a period of marked transition in so far as the organization of the departmental work was concerned. It was also experiencing a recovery from the war years, when most of the male students "of suitable age" were serving in the army. In the two years, 1865-1867, however, there was a substantial gain in the enrollment as a "large body of young men who had returned from the army, entered the University." Pickard has said: "At no time in the history of the institution has there been so large a proportion of mature men graduated as between the years 1866 and 1870."⁹

The University campus at this time consisted of ten acres, "tastefully laid out with graveled walks." There were three buildings: Old Capitol, South Hall, and the New Chapel (North Hall), the last having been completed in 1866.¹⁰ The University itself was without a president, but Professor Nathan R. Leonard of the mathematics department was filling the office of acting president. Serving with him were the four regular members of the faculty and a tutor, included on the Collegiate staff, and the

⁸ J. L. Pickard, "Historical Sketch of the State University of Iowa," *Annals of Iowa* (third series), 4:33 (April, 1899).

⁹ *Ibid.*, 39.

¹⁰ *Catalogue of the Iowa State University at Iowa City, 1866-67* (Des Moines 1867), 47-52.

members of the Preparatory department, consisting of the principal, four young ladies as assistants, and two music teachers. As president *pro tempore* Professor Leonard in 1867 drew the handsome salary of \$1,800; the other full professorships paid \$1,400 each. S. S. Howell, as principal of the Preparatory department, received \$1,250. The Board of Trustees had abolished the tuition fees in all the departments; but each student was still required to pay, in advance, an "Incidental Fee" of \$5.00 per term. It is of interest that "all Iowa soldiers now citizens of the State," and who had served in the Union army or been honorably discharged from the service of the United States, were entitled to "the privileges of the University without the payment of the Incidental Fee."¹¹

On reading the diary of Professor Howell one discovers the range of interests which predominated among the more than 6,000 Iowa Citizens of that day: there were churches for the church-goers; while lectures, recitals, musicales, circuses, singing families, the University literary societies, and Y.M.C.A. meetings provided an almost endless variety of entertainment and instruction. In 1868, a presidential year, in addition to the prevailing excitement of the impeachment proceedings against Andrew Johnson, the nominating conventions of both the major parties swept popular feeling to a new high, the November election of General Grant providing the climax. Yet, as the diary reveals, the various professional, cultural, and scientific interests of the Latin and Greek professor were but the complement of the life of his home where, according to all indications, peace and quietude reigned. Howell loved his family and took delight in making a circular sewing stand for his wife, or a chair, or doing over an old lounge. There was wood to cut, a cottonwood tree to take down, and a cistern to clean — witness enough that he bore his end of the load at home.¹²

This 1868 diary covers Howell's last six months in Iowa, his journey to California, and the beginning of his new life in the West. Only that part dealing with his life and work in Iowa City is here reproduced. The diary has kindly been made available to the State Historical Society for publication by Professor Howell's grandson, Lloyd A. Howell of Iowa City.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 52; Pickard, "Historical Sketch . . .," 39; J. L. Pickard, "State University of Iowa," in "Historical Souvenir, 1830 to 1889," *The Iowa Normal Monthly*, 12: 314-29 (February, 1889); Leonard F. Parker, *Higher Education in Iowa* (Washington, 1893), 90-92.

¹² The Howells were active members of the local Baptist church where the professor sang in the choir and served as clerk.

Eleven years after bidding a final farewell to his hundreds of students and friends in Iowa City, S. S. Howell died at Oakland, California, on May 10, 1879.

Wednesday, January 1, 1868. With me the New Year's First day is occupied in examinations at the South Hall, State University of Iowa.¹³ My position as Prin. Prep. Dept. [Principal of the Preparatory Department] renders it necessary to conduct preliminary examinations of all students entering my dept. for the first time. The winter term opens to-morrow.¹⁴ Returned from Pella, with A. C., yesterday at 2 a.m. Little Irving sick.¹⁵

Thursday 2. Little son broken out with scarlet fever. Wife well. Andrew & I have been on a ten-day visit to Pella to see Anna & Ret¹⁶ married. They were tied by E. H. S.¹⁷ 26th December. Go to Pella via Des Moines — Distance (120 miles plus 46) 146 miles. Fare \$7.80. Weather beautiful. Very mild winter thus far — School opens well to-day. Good attendance at chapel¹⁸ at 10 this morning. Still examining new students.

Friday 3. Commenced recitations at 8 this a.m. Gave out schedules and heard my two Greek classes. This term I will teach only these two classes. Expect to have charge of the College Rhetoricals¹⁹ this term as I had last, in lieu of one class. Assistants this term — E. A. and C. A. Moore, Brown & Davis.²⁰ Good girls. I weigh 142 lbs.

¹³ In 1868 the University's buildings consisted of "the elegant stone structure erected for a State House; a large four-story brick building used for Society Halls, and Recitation Rooms, and the New Chapel." These were Old Capitol, South Hall, and North Hall. *Catalogue . . . 1866-67*, 47.

¹⁴ The University calendar was divided into three terms.

¹⁵ "A. C." was Professor Howell's son, Andrew Craven Howell, born at Pella on November 15, 1865. He lived until April 15, 1949. For his obituary, see *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, April 15, 1949. Irving Clinton Howell, born at Iowa City on May 18, 1867, died on September 24, 1868, at Healdsburg, California.

¹⁶ Howell's sister, Anna, and James S. (Ret) Clarkson. See introduction.

¹⁷ "E. H. S.," the initials of the Rev. Emmanuel H. Scarff, the Baptist minister in Pella and Principal of Central University. *Souvenir History of Pella, Iowa* (Pella, 1922), 66-7, 119.

¹⁸ Chapel service was held in the New Chapel, North Hall, and was compulsory. The faculty took turns in conducting these daily exercises. *Catalogue . . . 1866-67*, 50.

¹⁹ The rhetoricals, held in the Chapel, were required weekly exercises which were calculated to teach students poise and effectiveness in appearing before an audience. *Ibid.*, 51

²⁰ Lavinia Davis, Emma Brown, Ellen A. Moore, and Celia A. Moore. Miss Celia A. Moore later became Mrs. Amos N. Currier. *Ibid.*, 6.

Saturday 4. Examined students to-day and led choir at night. These 4 days I have been incessantly engaged at the college with my students from morning till night, and, in some cases till after dark. Covenant meeting this P.M., but my college work kept me away. Choir ran down recently. Had trouble with pastor. Congregation quite small — choir not as large as formerly. Use Jubilate by Emerson.

Sunday 5. This A. M. I gave up my place as Supt. Bapt. S. Sch. to E. A. Colburn the new Supt. I was re-elected but refused to accept. Am chorister of Ch and S. School, Ch. clerk &c. and want to be relieved from some of my work. Wife went to ch. and I kept the babies at home. Greek Bible class (N[ew] T[estament]) at 2 P.M. Prof. C[urrier]²¹ conducts it in church at night. New Year's sermon to (a few) young men.

Monday 6. School quite prosperous. Bot. a \$38 sofa — \$18 chair and \$3 stand this P.M. Traded off my silver English lever to Startzman for a new, chronometer balance, P. S. Bartlett, silver capped watch — Price of watch \$35 — of silver key & chain \$5. Am to pay him \$29 in cash. Weather turning very cold. Warm last week and I had my long hair cropped. Have cold continually. Expect Ret & Anna soon.

Tuesday 7. Ret and Anna came this P.M. They appear gay and happy. Ret is going to write up the University and the Deaf & Dumb Asylum.²² Ch. meeting to-night. New articles of incorporation. Election of officers. Hampton displaces Dea. Dennison. Sperry Treas. myself clerk. About 80 ch. members present. Still horribly cold, cloudy and windy.

Wednesday 8. Took Ret thro' college to some extent. Heard my two classes, briefly. We are in Frigid Zone still. Our visitors sleep in our bed-room and we on the floor in sitting room. Visited Prof. Hinrichs²³ this P.M. (late) He showed us many interesting experiments with the spectrometer. Musical convention in session here this week. I have a ticket & have called twice. Good.

²¹ Amos N. Currier, professor of Latin and Greek, also librarian in this period, and acting president in 1898. *Ibid.*, 5. The latest work on Currier is Luella M. Wright, *Amos Noyes Currier* (Centennial Memoirs, Iowa City, 1947).

²² In 1853 a school for the blind was opened at Iowa City; two years later a school for the deaf was founded and also located at Iowa City. In 1862 the school for the blind moved to its present location at Vinton, and in 1870 the school for the deaf was transferred to Council Bluffs. See *State of Iowa Official Register*, 1949-1950, 197-8.

²³ Gustavus Hinrichs, professor of natural philosophy and chemistry. *Catalogue* . . . 1866-67, 5.

Thursday 9. Ret and Anna left on the noon train to-day. It seems lonely since they left, altho' I am very fond of my wife's company and of my boys'. Mercury 5° below zero, Prof. Parvin²⁴ says, tho' it seems 15° or 20° below to me. Am making a work stand for wife. Very tedious — but will be pretty when done. Awful cold, 4 mos. of age — not much on lungs.

Friday 10. A very successful week closes to-day. School not quite as large as last term, but classes are quite large.²⁵ This year we will have over 100 students commencing Latin — over 90 in Algebra, 6 in Anabasis and 11 in Com. Greek. Weather moderating to-day, but still cold. All of us have terrible colds. Wrote G. J. Johnson about my life membership in Am. Bapt. Pub. Society.

Saturday 11. Carpenter business to-day. Made a circular sewing stand for wife; also a wooden chair for A. C. Rigged up an old lounge. Cut wood. Weather very cold again. Colburn & I only at choir meeting. Heard Rev. Milburn,²⁶ the Episcopalian, lecture on "Success: Real and apparent." It was a strong effort. He has rare vocal powers. Highly cultivated.

Sunday 12. 92 at Sunday School. We sing from the "Fresh Laurels," and have used the book from its first publication this fall. Wife went to church both times to-day. In the P.M. to the Epis. ch. to hear the Rev. W. H. Milburn preach. She came home feeling that there was very little religion in the service. Attended Greek Test. class at 2 P.M. We now meet at the college, instead of at the Room of Y.M.C.A.

Monday 13. Weather moderating, but a cutting, damp, east wind prevails all day. Am going to have a very nice work stand for wife. The covering & leather, tacks &c. cost only \$1.25. The lumber, worth 25c. I cut all our wood. Have paid but about \$2.00 for cutting wood since we commenced housekeeping — & that was all at Iowa City.

Tuesday 14. Two or three inches of snow last night. Slight sprinkle

²⁴ Theodore S. Parvin, professor of chemistry, geology, and history. *Idem*.

²⁵ The enrollment in the University for 1867-1868 was 445 students. *University of Iowa News Bulletin* (February, 1927).

²⁶ The Rev. William H. Milburn, a partly blind Methodist minister, lectured in various parts of the West on subjects of national or regional significance. See *Iowa City Republican*, Jan. 15, 1868. See also, Luella M. Wright, "Culture Through Lectures," *IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, 38:115-62 (April, 1940). Milburn wrote the important volume, *The Pioneers, Preachers and People of the Mississippi Valley* (New York, 1860), besides other works on frontier life.

of it to-day. Wind south & weather warm compared with the below zero weather of last week. Have two fine Greek classes. Doing well. Attended a Tachygraphy [shorthand] class this P. M. at Coml. Coll.²⁷ Think I will join. . . .

Wednesday 15. Cistern pumped dry! Had a load of ice hauled last night. \$.40 pr load. We thaw the ice for water. Weather superlatively cold. Have staid at home every night this week. Wonderful! Am going to take a course in Tachygraphy.

Thursday 16. 11° below zero this A.M. Still. Cold air pipe in chapel makes the chapel quite comfortable. This term, for the first we arrange the students according to college classes. The collegiates proper occupy the body seats — next on either side the Prep. st.; next (walls) the Normals. The choir sit at the left of the platform — or east of it. Went to prayer meeting tonight. 20 [present].

Friday 17. Had rhetoricals this P. M. Fairbrother acted shabbily about his piece. He had been app[ointed] by Prof. Hinrichs last term. Did not perform to-day tho' he rehearsed yesterday. At Fac. meeting, Prof. Leonard²⁸ read an address showing the wants of the College & its comparative wealth, taking as standards Ann Arbor [University of Michigan] & other colleges. Fat contributor²⁹ to-night. Didn't go.

Saturday 18. Prof. Eggert³⁰ lectured this ev'g on "Bismarck & the Prussian Policy." Slim attendance. Employed by the F. S. I.³¹ Had an ordinary choir meeting — not very well attended. Finished the work stand.

Sunday 19. Wife went to meeting — she came home saying there was a called meeting. I slid up to the church just in time to see the vote taken on the question of receiving the resignation of A. H. Stowell & of giving

²⁷ The Iowa City Business College. University students could take summer courses or part-time instruction during the University year. *Catalogue . . . 1866-67*, 47.

²⁸ Nathan R. Leonard, professor of mathematics and astronomy, also vice-president in 1866 and acting president in 1867. *Ibid.*, 5.

²⁹ "Fat Contributor" was A. N. Griswold, editor of the Cincinnati *Times*. The Iowa City *Republican* for Jan. 15, 1868, hailed him as "a new light in the world of humor" and as "a rival of Parson Petroleum [Nasby]." His lecture subject was "Injun Meal." The *Republican* urged people to attend "that they may laugh and grow 'Fat.'"

³⁰ Charles A. Eggert, professor of German and French. Iowa City *Republican*, Jan. 15, 1868.

³¹ Franklin Scientific Institute, whose object was "the collection of valuable scientific information, and its presentation in intelligent form." Iowa City *Republican*, Jan. 15, 1868.

letters to himself, wife & daughters. I did not fully understand the motion — hence did not vote. The matter was legal but did not seem right. Had a call by Bixby, Mordoff, Hampton & Sperry.³²

Monday 20. Pastor came for his letters. I refused to issue them till next ch. meeting. He took on terribly. Besought, begged & almost threatened. My duty seems perfectly plain and I am determined to see justice done if possible.

Tuesday 21. Wife and I are having a fine time reading Dickens' *American Notes*. I think *He* will now find many changes for the better since his visit in 1842.³³ By the way he first went aboard the packet for America when I was an infant less than two weeks old, "mewling & puking in my nurse's arms."

Wednesday 22. On Monday last, we employed Mrs. Milliken³⁴ to teach 3 classes the remainder of the term. She has Analysis (2 cl.) & one cl. of Latin. Have about 310 students in school now & on my term book. My classes are very pleasant. Dickens in his tour thro' the U. S. reading to audiences receives from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per night — perfectly remarkable. How we pay our money to see a man, & how we avoid giving to a worthy object!

Thursday 23. Large attendance at prayer meeting. Had Rhetorical rehearsal to-day. This teaching business is glorious work. How lofty the occupation to be moulding immortal mind. I am lost on reflecting on its awful responsibility. Oh! for help divine in my work! Had special Faculty meeting.

Friday January 24. Invited to tea to Prof. Leonard's. Wife couldn't go. Present — Lady teachers, Mrs. Drinkwater, Prof. Parvin & wife, Prof. Eggert, Currier & myself. Fair supper. Good cheer. Separated at 10 P. M.

Saturday 25. Cut wood several hours. Had Mrs. Dexter & Cory Smith, Mrs. Hampton & Prof. Currier to supper. Stanton³⁵ is restored Secy.

³² The Rev. A. H. Stowell was minister of the Baptist church of Iowa City. No information has been discovered as to the cause of this church quarrel. The names mentioned are those of Iowa Citizens active in the church. G. P. Mitchell (ed.), *A Century of Iowa Baptist History* (2 vols., Pella, 1934), 1:222-3.

³³ Charles Dickens, *American Notes for General Circulation* (Boston, 1867), recorded the author's impressions of his first visit to America in 1842. His last visit was made in the winter of 1867.

³⁴ Priscilla E. Milliken, A. B., 1872, who later taught the Classics. Pickard, "Historical Sketch . . ." 43.

³⁵ Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, whose removal from office President Andrew

of War. Banner Bowen in legislature. Jno. P. Irish³⁶ is creating some stir in the legislature.

Sunday 26. 88 at S. School. Greek Bible class at 2. Sermon by Prof. Fellows,³⁷ on Theme, Child Life — a Type of Christian childhood given for Instruction & discipline. Child must have good food. So Christian. 2. Pure air. So Chr. Oxy. in air. Faith in Prayer — same — Must exercise — so Christian. Child has artlessness, teachableness &c. so Chr. Child faith in father. We should have. Child always trusts till deceived. Child loves with all his feeble powers. Do we? Child innocent. Are we? We are children. Spend manhood in heaven. Appeal to unconverted.

Monday 27. Severe article from Parker vs. Hinrichs in Reg. of 25th. Subject: Mohr's theory of Coal origin. Prof. Dana of Yale & Prof. Hinrichs have had a big fight on a charge of plagiarism, as urged against the former by the latter. Hence when Parker brings in Dana in proof of vegetable origin of coal Prof. H. is much annoyed. A sharp reply from him will appear.³⁸

Tuesday 28. Last night church matters were thus settled. The pastor agreed to resign at once; to accept as salary pay to Feb. 1, on basis of \$1,000 pr year; to receive a simple letter of dismission to which shall be appended a copy of the Com. on his moral & christian character. He hated to do this but had to yield. I was censored by Robert & Colburn for refusing him a letter last week.

Wednesday 29. 16° below zero!!! Semicircle from one Sun dog to another around the sun. Brightest I ever saw. Not much wind. 10° below zero in chapel, without fire. 30° & 28° at chapel exercises. At home last night and to-night. Family well.

Thursday 30. Have just had 500 blank orders on Bapt. Treasury printed.

Johnson sought to accomplish. See the editorials and the correspondence relative to this question in the *Iowa City Republican*, Jan. 22, Feb. 19, 1868.

³⁶ John P. Irish, of Iowa City, Representative to the Iowa General Assembly from Johnson County, was editor of the *Iowa City State Press*, a Democratic paper. Irish was eager to secure the passage of a bill for the enlargement of the University. Banner Bowen of Pella represented Marion County in the legislature of 1868.

³⁷ Stephen N. Fellows, principal of the Normal department, 1867-1873. See *The Iowa Normal Monthly*, 12:323-6 (February, 1889).

³⁸ This controversy over the land or marine plant origin of coal was between H. W. Parker of Iowa College at Grinnell and Gustavus Hinrichs of the State University of Iowa. Both letters were reprinted in the *Iowa City Republican*, Feb. 5, 1868.

Brainerd³⁹ asked \$3.50, Irish \$2.50. So went to latter. B. is exorbitant in other matters I am told. I see in his county printing about 75\$ were deducted from his bill. Nellie Moore spunky because I made certain Virgil suggestions.

Friday 31. Letter from C. F. C. in which he says he has written to the Gov. about Supt. Weights and Measures.⁴⁰ Hinrichs' article appears in Register of to-day vs Parker. It is biting sharp & severe. If P's fingers are not awfully pinched then I am much mistaken. Faculty had the article read at Fac. meeting.

Saturday, February 1, 1868. Weather mild again. Large covenant meeting. Heard Petroleum V. Nasby⁴¹ to-night. He had a glorious, sarcastic, cutting speech on "Cursed be Canaan." He dropped off the "Rev." but indulged in much satire. In person I think he's about 5.9, heavy built, rather coarse than otherwise, dark hair. Common looking whiskers. Big success. Cleared about \$125. Last year in the course we made some \$800. This year have lost some \$25. Made it up to-night.

Sunday 2. Granger⁴² preached today. Stowell girls at S. School & church. Ex-pastor & wife absent. Letter from J. G. Schaeffer yesterday. Had not heard from him before for 2½ yrs. He is at Sharon, Wis., at the head of a Collegiate Institute. Wrote him, father, Olneys & mother Craven this evening. Greek class numbers some 15. Quite interesting to all.

Monday 3. Senator [Liberty E.] Fellows of the Senate & Hon.[Charles G.] Trusdell of the house are now here to visit the University. At 2 P. M. had a meeting at the Library, of Messrs Irish, Blackwell, Kirkwood, Rush Clark, Haddock, Crum, Perkins, Currier, Leonard, Howell, Senator Fellows, Prof. Fellows, Eggert, Fairall, Parvin & Dr. White.⁴³ Had a full conference

³⁹ N. H. Brainerd, editor of the *Iowa City Republican*.

⁴⁰ "C. F. C." refers to Coker F. Clarkson. The Governor in 1868 was Samuel Merrill. The office of State Superintendent of Weights and Measures to which Howell was appointed had been created in 1862, with a salary of \$50 a year. According to law, the office was to be filled by a professor of the State University, *Laws of Iowa, 1862-1864*, Ch. 82.

⁴¹ Petroleum Vesuvius Nasby, whose rightful name was Donald Ross Locke. See the *Iowa City Republican* for Feb. 5, 1868. See also Luella M. Wright, "Culture Through Lectures," 147-50.

⁴² Granger W. Smith, the son of the Rev. Dexter Smith, a former Baptist minister at Iowa City. Mitchell (ed.), *A Century of Iowa Baptist History*, 1:222-3.

⁴³ A committee of the General Assembly, visiting the University and the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, preparatory to vote on the appropriations asked by those

about the University matters and hope the talk will result in great gain to the interests of education in Iowa — the State U. in particular.

Tuesday 4. Dropped in at the students' prayer meeting. Must have been sixty present. The exercises were impressive. As I was one of the original organizers of this prayer meeting, in 1863, I take a special pleasure in its growth. Of that number (some six or eight) poor Borland⁴⁴ is in the grave! Granger Smith & I are here. The others are gone.

[No entry for February 5.]

Thursday 6. Anna Dickenson [sic] spoke to a crowded house on "Idiots & Women," they two being classed together as those who should not vote. She spoke 1 hr 40 min. Had a few notes. She is about 4 ft. 6., dark complexion, long oval face, flashing eyes, ugly big nose.⁴⁵ Other wise looks like a cross between Minerva Prentice & Celia Moore. Cleared about \$140.

Friday 7. Wife and I visited a lecture establishment. Saw the wonders of the Yo-Sem-i-te valley (Cal.) spread on a sheet, in a dark room, boys screaming and whistling their approval. The big trees, El Capitan.⁴⁶ Prof. Eggert was married to a Miss French of Muscatine, last night. He comes here to-night.

Saturday 8. The Legislature are very busy passing laws, and doing good generally. The liquor question is greatly agitated [sic] them. Bushels of petitions have been rec'd on the subject — the most of them to secure a more stringent prohibitory law. Others to have a license law.⁴⁷

institutions, met with the trustees and faculty of the University. Fellows and Trusdell were chairmen of the Senate and House committees, respectively. Editor Brainerd reported that "they expressed themselves as highly pleased with the labors of those in charge of these institutions, and also with the moderation shown in appropriations asked for. . . . These gentlemen take liberal and just views of the demands and true purposes of the State University. They believe that Iowa should not lag behind the foremost in the character of her chief educational institution." *Iowa City Republican*, Feb. 5, 1868.

⁴⁴ Charles E. Borland, professor of Latin and Greek, 1863-1864; deceased while on the staff.

⁴⁵ Anna Elizabeth Dickinson, probably the best-known woman orator of the day, had gained fame during the Civil War years. For her background and importance, see James Harvey Young, "Anna Elizabeth Dickinson and the Civil War . . ." *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, 31:59-80 (June, 1944). For an account of her 1868 speaking tour in Iowa, see Wright, "Culture Through Lectures," 146-7.

⁴⁶ The lecture, delivered by a Mr. Veeder, was entitled "Panorama of the Yosemite Valley." *Iowa City Republican*, Feb. 12, 1868.

⁴⁷ The legislative acts passed in 1868 were a compromise between total prohibition and licensing. See Dan Elbert Clark, "History of Liquor Legislation in Iowa, 1861-1878," *IOWA JOURNAL HISTORY AND POLITICS*, 6:344-7 (July, 1908).

Sunday 9. Heard Prof. Fellows again. Have a good bible class, of young ladies. Greek Bible Class in P. M. Are in 8th Ch. John. Excepting the words seldom found in classic Greek the reading is very easy.

Monday 10. Rec'd this ev'g notice that I had been appointed Supt. of Weights and measures. "Ret" gives a graphic account of Anna Dickenson's lecture on "Breakers ahead" at Des Moines. Mercury 27° below zero this A.M. say at daylight & 23° below at 8 o'clock. Next coldest day on the 29th Jan., 16° below. Still. Do not suffer as much as from a damp East wind with mercury above zero.

Tuesday 11. Mercury 10° below this A.M. The Young People's Prayer Meeting at the college is well attended. This evening there must have been over 50 in attendance. I am trying to secure a complete set of the Adj. Genl's Reports for the library Y.M.C.A.

Wednesday 12. Jno. P. Irish is the author of a bill just introduced, establishing a Law Dept. at Iowa City — Appropn. \$25,000 to the College & levying 1/10 mill tax in the state. There is good reason to hope the bill will pass.⁴⁸

Thursday 13. Did not go to prayer meeting, or to Mrs. Savery's lecture.⁴⁹

Friday 14. Irving is unwell. Has cough and much uneasiness. Mrs. Savery's lecture is said by C. N. to be an imitation of Annie Dickenson's, hence not good. Subject was "Angels & politicians." Prof. Leonard returned yesterday from Des Moines. He thinks Univ. matters are O. K.

Saturday 15. Attended an oyster supper given by Prof. Eggert to some 25 students and the Faculty. Had a good time. Home at 9.30. Irving still quite unwell — has symptoms of the lung fever.

Sunday 16. Irving so sick that I staid at home all day. Prof. Fellows is preaching for us, once each sabbath. We all like him. Prof. C. & I took

⁴⁸ The bill, called the "Normal School and University Tax Bill," was introduced by Representatives Blackwell and Irish, both of Johnson County. The expansion of the State University was proposed by the levying of a tax of one-tenth of one mill, but this feature did not carry. An appropriation of \$25,000 was provided by the Twelfth General Assembly, however, which made it possible for the University to establish the Colleges of Law and Medicine, and to make badly needed repairs on buildings. See *House Journal*, 1868, and *Senate Journal*, 1868, *passim*.

⁴⁹ "ANOTHER LECTURE. — Mrs. Annie Savery, of Des Moines, will lecture . . . upon the subject of 'Angels and Politicians.' . . . There is this against her — She is an Iowa woman, and there seems an unwillingness to believe that an Iowa lecturer can be worth hearing. But we hope our people will make an exception in favor of an Iowa woman. Should they do so we feel sure . . . that they will have the satisfaction of knowing that Iowa has talent of the first order." *Iowa City Republican*, Feb. 12, 1868.

a walk this P. M. while Mrs. Sperry staid with wife. Weather very warm. No overcoat or shawl needed. Read a chapter in Greek.

Monday 17. Did not go to Chapel. Baby won't let me tend him. Wife up with him the most of last night. Have paid \$40 to the Am. Bapt. Publ. Soc. Have rec'd certificates of Life Membership, one for wife, one for me. At home. The Legislature is now taking a recess of nearly two weeks. They meet the 25th.

Tuesday 18. Baby still bad. We put a poultice on his chest, of onions. Give him cough syrup. Wife spent another restless night. I wish I could take care of the little chap but no one will do but mother. She does not want a girl to help. Very warm. Mud several inches deep now. There will soon be a break up & thaw out, if such weather cont[inues].

Wednesday 19. Have rec'd the Daily Register since about the middle of Jan. It is a welcome visitor. The "Blade" came to-day. H. G. Curtis bot. out Crosby, and he & Betzer "run" the "Blade."⁵⁰ They (for the first time I think) have just had the county printing given to them. T. P. Gregg is chm. of Board of Supervisors in Old Marion [County]. . . .

Thursday 20. Baby slowly improving — still very sick and cross. Did not go to prayer meeting. Weather quite warm. Yesterday & to-day (P. M.) cut up the branches of the old cottonwood tree. Prof. C. helped me cut wood. Played three or four games of backgammon.

Friday 21. Gov. Saml Merrill in town to-day. He met the Faculty this evening at Pres. Leonard's. He is the counterpart of J. B. Cotton of Pella. Has large frame—is about 5.10—weighs (say) 190. Large, smooth, rounded forehead. Has an easy, comfortable look, similar to that of Ezekiel Clark,⁵¹ and in fact he resembles him, tho' not quite so bulky.

Saturday 22 Henry Vincent, the English orator delivered a grand lecture on Cromwell, this evening. He is short and stout — quite gray. This evening he had a thin, squaking voice at first, which, however, grew stronger and fuller as he proceeded. His gesticulation was limited & mechanical. His impersonation quite good.⁵² Met Rev. Leroy Church to-day.

⁵⁰ The reference is to the Pella *Blade*.

⁵¹ Ezekiel Clark, prominent Iowa legislator, was one of the early settlers in Iowa City and a brother-in-law of Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood. *Annals of Iowa* (third series), 3:575 (October, 1898).

⁵² Henry Vincent's lectures are mentioned in Hubert H. Hoeltje, "Notes on the History of Lecturing in Iowa, 1855-1885," *IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*,

Sunday 23. Union service to-day. Mr. Burnell a lay worker, conducted three services to-day.⁵³ We had preaching at our ch. in A. M., by Rev. Tilly. Wife went to 3 P. M. meeting at college. I went to North ch. in evening. Burnell is a great worker — goes into saloons and tries to save men. Good meetings to-day.

Monday 24. Church meeting. Short. After it I attended a phrenological lecturer by name John Logan,⁵⁴ said by "the newspapers" to be a logical and eloquent orator. He is a very poor speaker & dry. I felt somewhat disgusted. He made public ex[amination] of Daniels & J. R. Hartsock (selected by Dr. Adams & me). The lect. delivers a course here.

Tuesday 25. Andy Johnson to be impeached!⁵⁵ Kept aloof from the lecture [by Logan]. Any Jackass can obtain a cartload of Recommendations. Regard as blessings all evils *Escaped*.

Wednesday 26. Y.M.C.A. to-night. I have not attended any this winter. Wife needs me at home. Rec'd my Commission as Supt. Weights and measures for the State of Iowa.

Thursday 27. Day of prayer for Colleges! Dr. Anderson of Davenport (Presb.) delivered a solid and interesting address to the students, on the Importance of Time to us. It is so short! So much must be done for eternity. We often stop our work to rest before we are tired.

Friday 28. Had better rhetorical than usual. Zim[merman] had a burlesque in favor of Indian suffrage. Zetagath. exhib. this P.M. Lasted till 11

35:62-131 (January, 1927). Regarding his voice, Brainerd suggested that it might be improved by removing his mustache: "No man can speak clearly through a bunch of hair, and there is no excuse for it." *Iowa City Republican*, Feb. 26, 1868.

⁵³ K. A. Burnell, of Wisconsin, a carpenter subsidized as a religionist by a New York merchant. On this particular day he addressed four Sabbath schools in Iowa City, spoke at the University Chapel service, and preached at both morning and evening union services of the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Congregational churches. *Iowa City Republican*, Feb. 26, 1868.

⁵⁴ Under the heading "Know Thyself" the newspaper gave "Prof." John Logan the usual "puff." His lectures covered such subjects as "the practical application of Phrenology; Health and how to preserve it; What and how to eat, breathing, exercise &c," and were "illustrated by paintings and by selecting from the audience such ladies and gentlemen as best represent the different temperaments and developments." In addition to the lectures, Logan held private conferences, by appointment. "Those who wish to know what is in them and what they are best fitted for will do well to call on him and get a map of themselves," concluded the editor. *Iowa City Republican*, Feb. 19, 26, 1868.

⁵⁵ The subject of President Johnson's impeachment occupied much space in the *Iowa City Republican*. See editorial, "The Traitor in the White House," in the issue of Feb. 26, 1868.

P.M. — Glass, a Latin oration, Preston (C. H.) Essay on Family of Nations. Debate on Catholic question by Lytle & Walker Aff[irmative] & Cook & Davis on neg[ative]. Decis[ion] for aff. Comic patent sermon, Z[immerman], orat[ion] by C. P. Rogers & valed[ictory] by L. H. Jackson. All good, but too long!⁵⁶

Saturday 29. Rec'd pay \$312.50 from Comm. Paid out \$171, debts. Helped clean cistern. Pd \$1.00. Have an elliptic sewing machine, on trial to-day. This week, weather cold; not like last, with its spring days. Covenant meeting. Slim attendance (about 25) — Good choir meeting. I am still leader.

Sunday, March 1, 1868. Snow, wind, sleet & bluster. S. School. Wife & A. C. to church. Greek Bible cl. as usual. Day very raw, much colder towards night. Rev. Tilly here still. He leaves to-morrow I believe.

[No entry for Monday, March 2.]

Tuesday 3. Gough⁵⁷ lectured to-night on "Eloquence & Orators." As a literary performance it can be equalled by any one of several men in Iowa City, but his delivery is so attractive and his reputation so fine that he completely carries his audience away with him. The Lancashire coal digger was acted to perfection.

Wednesday 4. Attended meeting of Board of Curators of Hist. Soc.⁵⁸ Discussed the flag question at length. Matter postponed. Daily prayer meeting changed from 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. A good change. Meetings well attended, and conducted. Bought a new two ply carpet for \$26.

Thursday 5. The Senate are nearly ready to try Andy Johnson, and I trust they will remove the bold, bad man from office. Did not go to prayer meeting. Wife wanted me to stay and I consented.

Friday 6. Prof. Leonard returned in the night. Rev. James Black (D. D.) of Washington & Jefferson Coll. Penn. was elected Pres.⁵⁹ Prof. Eggerts

⁵⁶ The Zetathean Society was one of the four literary societies on the University campus in 1868. The Zetatheans were all "gentlemen." *Catalogue . . . 1866-67*, 51. The "Literary Entertainment" here mentioned was reported at length in the newspaper, with the criticism that "there was a great want of modulation of voice," and that "Most of the speakers drove through over all sentences . . . on the same key." *Iowa City Republican*, March 4, 1868.

⁵⁷ John B. Gough, a principal organizer of the Washington Society in the 1840's and an ardent prohibitionist. *Iowa City Republican*, March 11, 1868.

⁵⁸ Howell was a member of the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society of Iowa. See *Annals of Iowa* (first series), 6:67 (January, 1868).

⁵⁹ "The expansion of the University in the direction of professional instruction began during Dr. Black's presidency." Pickard, "Historical Sketch . . ." 40.

salary raised \$150 to \$1400. Am sorry that Prof. Leonard was not elected as Pres.

Saturday 7. Brought home a Willcox & Gibbs sewing mach. Like it better than either of the others. It is a beautiful worker, and like some men makes very little noise. Our preferences are for this machine. No rain to-day; but cloudy. Granger & Bailey at Wilton holding meetings. Good!

Sunday 8. Sermon by Rev. Bowman of N.Y. Rev. J. F. Childs presented the claims of the State Convention. He rec'd in cash and pledges \$88.00. Very good. Prof. A. N. C. & I pledged \$20 each, making nearly half of the whole amt. Bro. Childs & Currier dined with us, and stayed till nearly dark. Very fine weather. Cleared up yesterday.

Monday 9. Dr. Simms,⁶⁰ Physiognomist, commenced a course of lectures to-night. He drew the largest crowd I've ever seen in Metr. Hall.

Tuesday 10. This P.M. worked faithfully all afternoon in re-counting guns and accoutrements, which are to be shipped to Adj. G. [Nathaniel B.] Baker.⁶¹ Prof. Currier took wife to Simm's lecture.

Wednesday 11. Wonderful rain. Mr. S. M. Hewlett⁶² lectured at the Chapel to-night, but Dr. Simms, the weather, & indifference reduced his audience to about 50. The Irving Institute⁶³ lose some \$50 by the operation. Staid at home.

Thursday 12. Granger elected Pres. Y.M.C.A. last night, vice Bailey.⁶⁴ Went to prayer meeting, and after it, to Simm's lecture. He has some 200 very good pictures of different worthies. His lectures partake considerably of the gross and rude, but still are quite instructive. He examines character &c at \$1.50 per head.

⁶⁰ "DR. SIMMS had a tremendous rush to his lecture . . . on Physiognomy. The Hall was jammed to its utmost and many were unable to get inside. . . . His great display of paintings is worth many times his admission fee. He will remain several nights longer and instruct our people in the tell tale character of 'the human face divine,' a most interesting subject. Admission only ten cents." *Iowa City Republican*, March 11, 1868.

⁶¹ Nathaniel B. Baker, Adjutant General of Iowa. For biographical sketch, see A. A. Stuart, *Iowa Colonels and Regiments* . . . (Des Moines, 1865), 16-21.

⁶² S. M. Hewlett of New Jersey, who lectured on the subject "Our Great Yankee Nation." *Iowa City Republican*, March 11, 1868.

⁶³ The Irving Institute was one of the four University literary societies; like the Zetaganthean, it too was "composed of gentlemen." The Erodelphian and Hesperian societies were the two formed by the women of the University. *Catalogue* . . . 1866-67, 51.

⁶⁴ The new officers of the local Y.M.C.A. were Granger W. Smith, president; S. D. Pryce, vice-president. *Iowa City Republican*, March 18, 1868.

Friday 13. Prof. Smith⁶⁵ helped me reduce the top of my big cottonwood. He and wife spent an hour with us this evening, after wh[ich] we three went to the Simm's lecture. It was on the mental operations, nervous system &c. He has a new theory of electricity — phosphorus & electricity, as agents of thot. in the brain cells.

Saturday 14. Had Simms give me a chart. On looking it over at home I found several flat contradictions and some mis-statements. Ex. gr. in music on a scale from 1 to 7 he put me 3. Heard a highly finished lecture by E. P. Whipple the Boston reviewer, on "Loafing & Laboring." It was highly toned and worthy a large audience.⁶⁶ Had a short Choir meeting.

Sunday 15. No preaching to-day. I feel all used up. We expect Cory⁶⁷ here next Tuesday to conduct a musical Sund. Sch. Convention. Staid at home nearly all day. A walk in P.M. Weather quite warm. More rain in prospect. Wind East. Read considerably in Greek Testament.

Monday 16. This term draws to a close. Considerable rain to-day. In evening, a big storm. Sewed on our new Willcox & Gibbs, finishing a comfort. We like the machine very much. My Greek class now numbers 12 students. They are doing finely. Pease, Glass, P. E. Milliken, Hanna, are the best. The second named is stubborn, but a good fellow.

Tuesday 17. Cory came in the night. This P.M. at 3 o'clock we opened fire with our music, at the church. Had 45 in attendance, which is first-rate, considering that to-day is the most blustering, windy day we've had for a long time. It is cold and bad for any one to be out. I *organ-ized*. Miss Stowell being unable to be present. At home tonight.

Wednesday 18. Last day of recitations. Good sing and good attendance this P.M. The little ones are very fond of Cory thus early.

Thursday 19. Examinations commence to-day. We are growing more

⁶⁵ A. T. Smith, professor of "Piano-Forte," organ, and singing in the Preparatory department. *Catalogue* . . . 1866-67, 6.

⁶⁶ Editor Brainerd differed with Howell on the quality of this lecturer: "The lecture . . . was a disappointment to most who heard it. It was very pleasantly written essay, upon a very common theme, composed of very common thoughts, and expressed in a very common manner. There was nothing in it to pay for a man to come all the way from Boston to deliver to the Hawkeyes, at 85 dollars a night. . . . Mr. Whipple has much talent and learning . . . but he is a failure, for western audiences. He is far more at home in the shades of Harvard." *Iowa City Republican*, March 18, 1868.

⁶⁷ Carlton C. Cory, professor of mathematics in Central University, Pella; later, Superintendent of Pella Schools and Superintendent of the State Industrial School for Girls at Mitchellville, Iowa. Clarkson, *A Beautiful Life* . . . 67.

rigid than heretofore in school matters. At prayer meeting to-night. Beta meeting after that. *I learn.*

Friday 20. Greek beginners examined. They sail'd thro' nicely. I still play the organ for the Convention. Am not at all pleased with my work. I send Term Reports to the parents of all the Prep. students. This is quite a tax.

Saturday 21. Three sessions of music to-day. The 3d was the choir. Cory & Currier to dinner with us yesterday. Weather quite cold this week. On Monday through the west, commencing at Ohio & going on to Kansas, South to Tenn. had a terrible storm — hail in many places, almost a hurricane in others. Here heavy wind & some hail.

Sunday 22. Grand time at Sunday Sch. 112 to-day. Cory is highly pleased with the result of his labors. To-morrow night we give a free concert to those that may attend. The school have made great improvement. I have played all the time. It is quite hard work. Wife to ch. to-day. All of us at 3 P.M. Sing. We then took a big stroll. Weather very warm to-day.

Monday 23. Ex[amined] my Anabasis class to-day. Sing at 3 P.M. Concert, free, at night. Had good attendance. House full & quiet. Pleasant time and Cory, Cur. & Roberts took tea with us. After sing we helped Cory off to depot, Dana & Prof. C. & I went with him. I sent some pictures and apples & nuts to the children. Mercury 80° in the shade this P.M.

Tuesday 24. Sent off nearly all the Term reports of the Prep. Department all but 1/2 doz. Worked vigorously & steadily. Weather cooler. Paid Cory \$20 last night. He has done a good work for us, and we all feel grateful. Another term's work is just done.

Wednesday, March 25. Installation of off. of Y.M.C.A. at M. E. ch. this P.M. Rain, cold and dreary the most of the day. Helped Prof. Currier send off all his (Coll.) reports to parents. He sends off all but Normals & Prep. Prof. Fellows takes the former. Interesting exer. to-night. Bailey's valedictory was good, as also was Granger's Inaugural.⁶⁸ Thin audience.

Thursday 26. Heavy, but brief, snowstorm about 7 A.M. Very large flakes. Snow all gone by 11. Worked hard putting down carpet in parlor. We have a beautiful carpet. Took out parlor stove and put it in sitting room. Its stove sent to Bixby for repairs. The Keystone smokes, but is a good

⁶⁸ Reference is to the installation of new officers of the Y.M.C.A. The retiring president was T. S. Bailey. *Iowa City Republican*, April 1, 1868.

stove nevertheless. The Laurel gives good satisfaction too. Expect the Olneys soon.

Friday 27. Am working on partition fence; going to make a solid fence 5 ft. high. John Cabbage is helping me a little in the work, he digging the holes. Have cut down the old cottonwood. The weather very warm & spring-like.

Saturday 28. Moved the big logs and brush into a pile. Hard work. Butter 40 cts. Ten penny nails 7c pr lb., fencing lumber $2\frac{3}{4}$ c, cedar posts 25c. 2x4 scantling $2\frac{1}{4}$ c, running measure. Am teaching Irving Glass & T. R. Cole in Greek, during vacation. They are just commencing and want to catch up with my class.

Sunday 29. Sermon by Prof. Fellows. He is a very plain, practical preacher, full of good sense and power. Very few Methodists in Iowa his equal. The M. E. folks are educating their ministers to a greater degree than formerly. Their system of sending out ministers works better than ours.

Monday 30. Hard at work. Health improving. Am just done my half of the fence. Looks quite respectable.

Tuesday 31. Weather winter like. Cold and disagreeable.

Wednesday, April 1, 1868. Still very cold. Freezes every night of late. Peter Matthews (Indian) & young Grover are here for school. Had B B reunion to-night at Snyder's. Good time though I felt unwell. Adjourned at 11.30.

Thursday 2. School opened finely to-day.⁶⁹ I am to have six new Grecians, making 18 in my class of beginners. The largest Greek class I ever saw. The new comers are: Irving Glass, T. R. Cole, A. B. Byram, Rowen, Saunderson & Peter Matthews. About 175 at chapel this A.M. Wife, babies & I heard the Thompson & Parkhurst troupe sing.⁷⁰ Excellent!

Friday 3. Have enrolled 118 in my term book, of whom 76 are Prep.

⁶⁹ This was the third term of the University calendar.

⁷⁰ "The Thompson & Parkhurst Troupe of vocalists, last Monday evening, gave our people one of the richest treats we ever heard. . . . We have not space to do them justice, but we must say that they are among the best singers we ever heard. Their selections were well assorted with mirth and pathos. They sang some choice Scotch, Swiss and German ballads, that were most beautiful. The echo song, by Mr. Thompson, was most wonderfully performed [*sic*]. The audience could not allow him to finish it, but drowned his voice in an out burst of applause. The comic singing, by Jno. Parkhurst was side splitting, while George Parkhurst sang most beautifully several touching pieces." *Iowa City Republican*, March 4, 1868. For a recent book on musical troupes in America, see Philip D. Jordan, *Singin' Yankees* (Minneapolis, 1946).

Had long faculty meeting. S. S. H. secretary. Caught cold. Went home just sick. Heated feet — took pain killer. Thompson & P. sing again to-night, & the Frank Lombard⁷¹ troupe comes to-morrow night.

Saturday 4. Bot. lumber for partition up stairs. Will make it myself. Am very fond of working in wood. Choir meeting not very well attended. Jo. Roberts is worthless as an organist, because he does not attend $\frac{1}{2}$ the time & is nearly always late on Sundays.

Sunday 5. Wife & A. C. went to meeting. I attended S. S. & Greek class. Took A. C. out on a long stroll in P.M. Been very cold for a week. Frost & freeze every night. Vegetation at a standstill, if not retrograding.

Monday 6. Another Grecian, Mr. Merrell, making 19!! My kidneys affected. Commenced to use Buchu.⁷² Maria Smith of Downey came to-day, to work for her board & go to school. Expected Olneys to-morrow but rec'd a Dispatch to-day stating that baby was sick & they will not come till Saturday.

[No entries for April 7-10.]

Saturday 11. Went to the depot and found Mary & baby, when the train arrived. Warren does not come for a few days. He goes to Muskegon, Mich., and intends to settle there if he likes the place.

[No entries for April 12-18.]

Sunday 19. To-night, at the instance of Warren, I wrote bro. John⁷³ asking his advice about our going to Cal. We have the fever badly, and we ask John to telegraph if he thinks we ought to go.

Monday 20. The reason that I have the Cal. fever is that my health is very poor from over work in Iowa City. Often go to bed about 3 p.m. & stay there several hours. Have lost my energy. The Far West promises restoration.

[No entry for April 21.]

Wednesday 22. I dislike very much to go away from dear friends & relatives, but I am afraid I can't last long here. Must have rest & relaxation.

⁷¹ "Another Concert. — Frank Lombard's Celebrated Concert Troupe will give one of their superior entertainments at Metropolitan Hall, Saturday evening, of this week. . . . Their troupe consists of six singers, male and female, one of them a wonderful little Miss of five years of age. . . ." *Iowa City Republican*, April 1, 1868.

⁷² Buchu is an herb used as a diuretic and diaphoretic.

⁷³ Professor Howell's brother, John Gilson Howell, Jr., who had preceded him in going to Healdsburg, California.

Would like to ask for a vacation of six months, but Currier advises me not to do it. I don't think it would be just right.

[No entries until May 7.]

Thursday, May 7, 1868. About 1½ inches water in cellar. Mr. Stowell just back from Ill. He moves away to Ill. next week.

Friday 8. Had a wire clothes line put up in yard. 95 feet at 3c pr foot. Have had immense amt. of rain this month & the last of April. Rep[ublican] State Convention in session yesterday. Platform adopted and electors for Pres. appt'd & delegates to National Convent. at Chicago, May 20, 1868.⁷⁴

[No entries until:]

Thursday 14. Rec'd a telegram to-day from John, dated Healdsburg May 13. It says. "Don't hesitate. All right for teacher & lawyer. Climate superb." That settles the question with me and I now positively decide to go. Will send the telegram to Olneys. Hope they may decide to go but duty is plain for me. So, off for California!

Friday 15. Put up a large poster announcing property for sale; another naming different household articles for sale.⁷⁵

Saturday 16. Some callers to look at property already. Am trying to sell to Jill. Williams. He has some notion of buying, but hesitates.

[No entries until:]

Wednesday 20. Rec'd on household goods \$6.70.

[No entries until:]

Wednesday 27. This A.M. ordered bills struck for Auction, to be holden at our house next Friday. Posted some 40 or 50. Have 75 in all, at a cost of \$2 for 50 and \$2.25 for 75.

Thursday 28. Big rain last night and to-day. Expect Olneys up here to-night, or to-morrow, to take wife home as soon as Saturday. *Tacked* up my bills. Hence many of them are *rained* off. Put up some more to-day. Have done well at private sale. Prof. Fellows takes the sofa at \$33 — cost \$38. Mr. Morse the Rocking chair & parlor table at \$16 + \$8.

Friday 29. Had auction to-day. Sold nearly everything we had left. Bid in the old two ply carpet. House & lot go to Anthony at \$1285,

⁷⁴ For a full account of the Republican State Convention, held to nominate 4 delegates at large and 12 district delegates (2 each from Iowa's 6 Congressional Districts) to the National Convention at Chicago, appears in the *Des Moines Iowa State Register*, May 13, 1868.

⁷⁵ Advertisements of the sale of the house and household effects were placed in the *Iowa City Republican* of May 20, 1868.

half cash & half time. If he pays all cash a reduction of 5% is made on the time payment.

Saturday 30. Settled up house matter. Sold my insurance for \$3. Rec'd in cash for the property \$1253 from Wm C. Anthony. Rec'd \$312.50 from College. Deposited in bank \$1680.00. Never had so much cash before in my life. We go to Wilcox's, wife to remain till Monday, I to board till school closes.

Sunday 31. Went to S. S. & meeting. Mr. Weston still preaches for us. He will probably go to Cal. in the fall. Dined with Prof. Currier at Hart's. Rush Emery & wife will be here this week from Germany. He has been there at school for some time. He may have a situation offered him in the University here. As my successor have heard mentioned Hall, Bush, Williams &c.

Monday, June 1, 1868, Was excused from the school to-day. Hired a team for \$4-1/2 and took wife to Richmond. Olney met us there at 3 O'clock. We chatted till 4, when I started back to the City. Home at 8-1/2 P.M. Church meeting to-night. My resignation as clerk accepted. Tremendous rain for miles on our trip this A.M. Wife has pluck. We started in the rain. Bless her courageous heart. The little boys looked cutely nestled up to their mother, in the drenching rain.

Tuesday 2. Went to old home. Packed a few more things in the large box. Fastened them up. Gave Mr. Wilcox boxes and many old traps.

Wednesday 3. Sent boxes to depot. Dined with Newton Hanna, at A. B. Lee's (must write the latter gentleman) The Hanna boys helped me strap iron my boxes at depot. Labeled them "San Francisco, via New York and Panama."

Thursday 4. Still rainy. Have had an immense amt. of rain, for the last month. Attended prayer meeting in P.M. The regret on the part of my friends that I leave is general, judging from their words. The students frequently express their sorrow to me.

Friday 5. Terrible rain storm this afternoon — much wind. Trees blown down.

Saturday 6. Dr. Dixon here to-day. He preaches to-morrow and lectures Monday night, on "Spurgeon." Had a first rate covenant meeting. Letters granted me and wife. Choir meeting well attended.

Sunday 7. Matt. 16.21,2,3. Dr. J. Dixon. Grand. P.M. Matt 14. 22-31 incl. North Ch. Over 150 at Sunday School.

Monday 8. Had a beautiful Bible presented to me by Miss Milliken on behalf of the Commencing Greek Class. She made a neat little speech, to wh. I responded as best I could in my excited state. The matter was entirely unexpected, and startled me very much. Six or eight students were present.

Tuesday June 9. Mr. Weston supped with me this P.M. and staid till 9 O'clock. He had a joke played on him by Dr. Dixon last night, and we continued the matter at supper. Blushes & confusion came. Yankee Robinson's show here 19th inst.⁷⁶ Original Baker family to sing here the 12th. George E. the "Lion Bass" will be worth hearing.⁷⁷

Wednesday 10. Had photograph taken of house, where Irving was born. Last Historical Soc. I attended to-night. Church sociable in the basement. Grand time. Large number out.

Thursday 11. Good & large prayer meeting. After the meeting had a general consultation about calling Dr. Dixon. Informal vote taken. No opposition to calling him. Informally, Bixby, Sperry & Mordoff apptd. a com. to see if we can raise \$1500 for Dr. D. Eight bro. pledged \$50 each, on the spot. Had teeth filled this P.M.

Friday 12. Ella Wilcox suspended to-day. Falsehoods. Heard "Baker" family sing to-night. George E, Bass, Jasper A., Baritone, Sophy M., Alto & John C., Tenor. The latter played on the melodeon. Had one instr. piece, 2 guitars & mel. 2 strings broke, but they played on. As a troupe they are greatly inferior to the Thompson & Parkhurst trio, but George's voice is like the belching of cannon, or the deep mouthed thunder. Not heavy on high notes. Goes down on Double C with power. Heaviest voice I ever heard.

Saturday 13. Four hours (8 to 12) with dentist. Six cavities filled. He uses what an old lady calls *amalgamation*. It is soft but soon hardens.

⁷⁶ Yankee Robinson's circus was advertised as a "Mass Meeting of all the Rare Specimens of Zoology from both Hemispheres." Attractions such as "Mounted Knights in real steel armor," a "Veiled Persian Beauty Riding her trained Dromedary," an "Egyptian Wallapuss," and a "Sea Cow" were promised in the column-long advertisement in the newspapers. Two performances were given in Iowa City, together with a parade "worth 100 miles of Travel," on June 19, 1868. *Iowa City Republican*, June 10, 1868.

⁷⁷ "The Bakers Are Coming. — The celebrated Baker Family of vocalists, who delighted us twenty years ago with their sweet harmony, will sing at Metropolitan Hall next Friday evening, June 12. This is the *best* family of singers we ever heard sing. John is a splendid tenor and George a most wonderful bass. The other members of the quartette were very superior. . . ." *Ibid.*, June 10, 1868.

Weather intensely warm. A Prof. Ebersole may be elected to fill my place in the College.⁷⁸ He was here yesterday looking around. Hull is trying hard to obtain the position.

[No entries until:]

Sunday June 21. My last Sunday in Iowa C. Granger preached. Dined with Ret, Anna & C. F. C[larkson] at the Pennsylvania House. At 4 P.M. we all went to the Chapel & heard Prof. Fellows lecture on "What is Truth." Took tea at Wilcox's. Prof. Cur. made one of the party.

Monday 22. Completed my school duties to-day. Went to the Re-union at chapel this ev'g. Staid till about 11 P.M. Anna & Ret went to the hotel to stop to-night. Father will be at Wash. tomorrow and I too.

Tuesday 23. A. F. Craven met me at Richmond at 1 P.M. Left Iowa C. on hack at 8. Went over to town at 7. Saw Anna & Ret & C. F. C., A. N. C., Prof. Leonard & others. Mr. Weston was at Wilcox's on my arrival there on the hack. Put aboard my trunk and was off for Wash. Farewell to Iowa City! . . .

⁷⁸ To succeed S. S. Howell, E. C. Ebersole of Western College was appointed as Principal of the Preparatory department. *Iowa City Republican* July 1, 1868.