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The Experiment, December 26, 1845

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THE EXPERIMENT

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“No Effort Is Lost.”

Volume I

Linden Wood, December 26th, 1845

Number 3

Sociality

There are some who speak rapturously of the charm of Solitude, & granting that *it* is not destitute of attraction, we are far from admitting that they can compare with the joy afforded by intelligent & refined society. For myself, give me a circle of friends to love, & serve; tried friends whom I cannot doubt, friends who act not from interested motives, but who love me for myself, & that, too, well enough to endeavor to correct my imperfections. The greatest blessings conferred on the human race are friendship & love, the latter perhaps is friendship more exalted to a higher degree.

We have many interests of true unyielding friendship portrayed in God's most "Holy Word." There this principle so clearly incalculated for it is said "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: & in the case of Abraham & Lot, how strikingly do we find this exemplified. They had dwelt together many years in brotherly unity until there arose a contention among their servants, then Abraham gave his brother his choice to depart, or tarry, & they separated their possessions, still retaining their friendship for each other.

It is praiseworthy to mingle with our fellow creatures. Not exclusively with those who are wealthy, & prosperous, but with those whose road lies in the vale of poverty, who are struggling with misfortune, & stemming the tide of adversity with a hand that has not been accustomed to endure. Those who are suffering under disease & poverty, we should visit in their lowly habitations & bestow upon them according to our means. In doing so we are not without reward, for are not the pleasures of life far sweeter when shared with others. Then we can wear an unclouded brow, & a conscience clear as noonday; & realize in our inmost hearts that giving "Does not impoverish" if it be only a kind act, a word, or smile. WE do not mean by this that we should associate unreservedly with the abandoned, but with the worthy poor; yet do all in our power to reclaim the wicked and degraded. We should recollect it is in a great measure the circumstances in which persons are placed which makes the differences in their character, & that it is not impossible that had we been placed in a like condition in life, our state might have been one of deeper degradation; & our being more favored by a kind Providence only increases our responsibility. This seems to be particularly that province of woman, & it has ever been her delight to minister to the wants of the afflicted, "Last at the cross and first at the sepulcher" of Christ she seems to be particularly adapted to disseminate the seeds of friendship & love in the world.

An individual who has the interest of his fellow creatures at heart, who feels a lively sympathy for the misfortunes & misery of others, and rejoices with his whole soul at their prosperity, is one of "Nature's noblemen;" he has friends, & often finds though stripped of wealth, & rank, yet in their abundance he also abounds. On the contrary he whose heart is closed against his fellow men, who mistrusts every one about him, who is not interested for the happiness & prosperity of those with whom he is associated, is lower than the brute creation; for they invariably fulfill their sphere of existence. He is

hedged about by his own selfishness, & is worshipping an idol that he will soon find, 'though it has eyes,' sees not the trusting look of love beaming in the countenances of his associates, & having ears hears not the kind, warm, grateful words, fresh from friendly hearts, uttered for him alone. No, he is so rapt in the forbidding mantle selfishness, that the most tender, & trusting ones dare not approach him; & he is left a beacon on the highway of life, unloving and unloved.

Wanted – at the office of “The Experiment” a young lady who is skilled in the art of typesetting with the goose quill. A liberal compensation will be given for an experienced hand; none need apply unless they come well recommended.

NATURE'S NOBLEMAN – Selected from Tupper

Away with false fashion, so calm and so chill,
Where pleasure itself cannot please,
Away with cold breeding, that faithlessly still
Affects to be quite at tis ease;
For the deepest in feeling is highest in rank,
The freest in first in the band,
And nature's own noblemen, friendly and fresh,
To a man with his heart in his hand.

Fearless in honesty, gentel yet just,
He warmly can love an can hate
Nor will he bow his face in the dust
To fashion's intolerant states:
For best in good breeding, and highest in rank,
Though lowly or poor in the land,
Is nature's own nobleman, friendly and frank
The man with his heart in his hand.

His fashion is passion, sincere and intense
His impulse, simple and true,
Yet tempered by judgement & taught by good sense
And cordial with me and with you;
For the finest in manners, & highest in rank
It is you, man! Or you man! who stand
Nature's own nobleman, friendly and frank
A man with his heart in his hand!

Winter fashions just revived from Texas at Mrs. Loosingirths fashionable millinery & dressmaking corner of Squash & Gourd. Bonnets, Dresses & Cloaks to the latter we

would invite the attention of Equestrains as it is something quite new being easily transformed into riding dresses.

EDITORIAL

The Editresses of this paper now issue their third number, with renewed hopes of its being useful to themselves and its contributors, as well as serving as a standard of monthly news to the city of St. Charles. We hope the contents of our paper this month will not disgrace tis former directors, and trust that our humble efforts may meet the encouragement of an indulgent audience who in their forbearing to criticize us very severely will stimulate us to persevere in our efforts for improvement. And we hope that all due allowance will be made for the diffidence in persons whose lives have hitherto been comparatively retires and who are thus unexpectedly elevated to the responsibility station of the Editorial Chair. We forbear entering the devious windings of the political world, regarding that as forbidden to us all together; we only attempt to give the news in a general and concise manner with little comment. We would apologize to our contributors for omitting to publish in our last number all of their communication as our paper was not sufficiently ample in its dimensions and some of them did not come to hand in season. We hope that this will be considered sufficient excuse especially where there is so much in this progressive age to engage our attention. New and astounding facts and discoveries are made daily many of which had they transpired in the days of our revolutionary Sires would have made them more superstitious than they were, yet it have been better for us had we inherited more of their sterling qualities and blended more of the purity of their primitive manner with the improvements of this age. But the "march of intellect is onward" and we trust "upward." Among the improvements of this age we must not omit to mention advertising. If the benefits of which were now generally known we might not need to allude to it here but we would gladly make it apparent that it is altogether a piece of mistaken economy not to advertise. We often have this proved by ocular demonstrations in the case of two merchants, whose stocks are equal, and both equally skilled as salesmen, the one, advertises and his store is thronged, the other does not, and he has plenty of leisure and it is easily seen which the prosperous. And lately our own personal experience has convinced us of the fact. In our last V1. we advertised for a capacious sleigh and a comfortable school-room, both of which articles we have gained. It is true we have not procured a new school room but we have through the kindness of Mrs. R. and Col. E. had our old one so remodeled as it regard the stove location of desk and a self-closing door which silently defies the uncomfortable principle of open door hospitality, and a blackboard that we think is better than a new one, and we take this opportunity through the medium of our paper, to acknowledge our gratitude, for the promptness and liberal spirit with which our advertisements were met. We therefore earnestly recommend to our friends and all who wish to prosper in any pursuit, to advertise, and pay the printer which will make their consciences less burdensome, and our word for it they will succeed.

We are much gratified at seeing in a St. Charles paper that some one of our brothers of the quill, has kindly given his idea of what woman should be and feeling as we do, sure of the approbation of all sensible persons, we are determined to persevere

in the attainment of all that can make us useful, however, much some gentleman may detest “blues” (to which honor we do not aspire) only that we can be intelligent, holding it to be self-evident that the ignorant can never be “help-meets indeed.”

We are pleased that some of the junior members of the school have sent in contributions this month. Their corner shall always be ready for them and we hope they shall always fill it.

We should say to those who have expressed a desire to exchange with us that we cannot extend this courtesy to every one as there is an increasing demand for our paper and not wishing to be partial we must deny ourselves the privilege of exchanging at all.

Now having too long already trespassed upon the patience of those who hear us & as the old year will take its leave of us in a few days, we close by wishing all our contributors a Happy New Year.

We take occasion to inform the public that Mr. Humbug, having arrived from the East, will deliver a course of lectures on Mesmerism, & experiment on any who may wish it. It is recommended by a friend that the landlords of hotels, learn this useful art, & having thrown their boarders into a mesmeric state partake of food themselves & thus appease the hunger of each individual boarder. The “St. Charles Advertiser” please copy for the benefit of the Landlords of the city.

For Sale – Several canaries, at Linden Wood, price \$3 a pair; with a cage \$4/ For particular information respecting their musical talents, & beauty of plumage apply to Mrs. M. E. Sibley Linden Wood, St. Charles.

Lost – A very valuable, cotton, hem-stitched, pocket handkerchief, between St. Charles, & Flint Hill. \$50 reward will be given to the finder.

To Let – A small quantity of gratitude, of the best quality. Whoever wishes to lease it on reasonable terms can do so by calling at No. 83 Providence Street.

CORRESPONDENCE OF “THE EXPERIMENT”

Misses Editresses.

Mexico, August, 1845.

Dear Ladies:

According to my promise I address to you these few lines hoping that though they may not be worthy of a place in your columns, yet they may perhaps be in some degree interesting to yourselves coming from a friend. I am now standing where no human being never before stood. On the brink of the most horrible abyss in the Candelleros mountains. Below me rages & foams the torrent, pouring their waters into, to

me, impenetrable depth, while above my head the calm placid sky alone is seen without a cloud to mar its serene beauty.

On the highest pinnacle I rest my weary foot, while my eyes wander over boundless space unobstructed by any earthly object, & my mind dwells with delight, on Him who framed this vast universe, & who guided me to the summit where I stand, wrapt in awe at the sublimity of the scene. There as I stand my whole soul stirred within me with feelings that I cannot find language to express – Below me for thoudands of feet my wandering eyes gaze on the bare rock without one green shrub or even moss to hide their weather beaten projections. No lay of the songster of the countries below me greet my ears as it trills notes to those of its mates, or its praises to that adorable being who created it. I look again & behold the storm & clouds raging below while I am as though I had been tranferress to some upper regions above my fellow mortals. I hear the muttering of the thunder & see the lightning flash whil I myself and far above it. Here also I behold nothing of the art of man, but my thoughts rest alone on Him who created it, & me – Night verges on the Eastern horizon, the storm had passed away & I descend to my fellow travelers once more - - - Ever yours sincerely,

I. Larden.

Montbella, Dec. 10/45

Dear Ladies:

Your letter of the 3rd. ins. was duly received & I feel highly honored in being invited to write an article for your paper, to be read at the approaching examination at Linden Wood & should be very happy to do myself the pleasure of attending on that interesting oocasion, if circumstances would permit; but you are well aware that young Ladies while at boarding School are not at liberty to visit on all occasions.

We are to have one week holidays at Christmas & are anticipating a great deal of pleasure & I suppose you are to have the same, at least I hope so, and “reckon” you are “calculating” upon much pleasure in visiting home. All the young ladies at Montbella who reside near enough to expect to visit their friends at that season. We enjoy many privileges here such as visiting Saturdays, attending Singing School, Sleigh riding & all such amusements as our teachers so not deem injurious to our progress in our studies, which we obviate by attending to them properly during School days. I hope you have the same enjoyments at Linden Wood for a little recreation after hard study us in my opinion an improvement to the mind – however imperfect these lines may be I hope they will find a place in the columns of your paper.

I remain your affections friend, Clara Smyth.

There has lately been discovered on the Western bank of the Dardenne a very valuable, & extensive mine of sand. It is at present in the possession of Mr. Samuel Goodspeed, who will sell it at the rate of \$5 per oz.

For Sale – 30 bottles of the extract of Polk week at Wm. Butons; - also some used up blue clay pencils, originally of the finest quality but rather injured by age, & hard W-riting.

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

The Traveler

One cold, dreary morning in December I was looking out of the window of my Uncle's snug, warm house, and thinking of the many poor who are destitute of a house to shelter them and warm clothing.

I suddenly observed a Poor Traveler who was on foot coming down the road. He passed our house and went into one of our acquaintances, at length he came back to our door, and asked permission to enter and warm himself. I told him he was welcome, and when he was seated I inquired where he was from. He said "Alabama" and that he was on his return home, and that he resided in Mass. and that he was a poor man and earned his living by cutting wood. At length he left us better clad, and went on his way warmed and filled. This is all I know of the Traveler.

Fanchette and Lucella.

Enslaved

The Missouri river is now in icy chains and we hope that some of our warm "Native" citizens will join us in trying to release her from bondage for she has been sinking very fast and we think if she is left under the command of such a hard task master as "Jack Frost" until another snow storm she will be fit for sleighing upon and completely trodden under foot of man & beast. Therefore we call our friends of freedom to the "rescue."

POST OFFICES

Post offices are places established for the forwarding and reception of letters; for the benefit of the community. It is there, the mails are deposited and arranged in their proper order of travel, and there all classes of people assemble to get their letters and papers, and hear the latest news. And how different are the character & manners of the persons frequenting the Post Office whether it be in the great Metropolis of the Western Hemisphere or in some remote village in some frontier state.

The politician who wishes to learn that state of political affairs which is his principal study never misses a mail, and talks very wisely if it is a few minutes too late; on the bad arrangement of national affairs, & suggests important improvements.

The lawyer with a very important and business like air enquires of "His mail" taking it for granted that he always has letters, or papers, and (if there will be any) he reads them as though he cared little for their contents. But, while observing him we may have overlooked yonder modest little girl who is anxiously inquiring for a letter, perhaps from a dear Mother, or kind Father, or some affectionate friend. She waits with throbbing heart lest it might be answered in the negative.

The Mother, inquires, with an anxious heart, eagerly for a letter from an absent son, almost fearing to open it when handed her, lest it might contain sad tidings of him whom she loves so tenderly.

The anxious wife too is there, seeking a letter from her husband who is absent, and how great is her joy when she peruses its contents which tell her good news of all comes the “Bashful young man,” who endeavors to assume a very different countenance and casually remarks, “I suppose there is nothing for me today,” while he sincerely hopes there might be one neatly folded letter from his “Lady Love” bearing good tidings. Young friends, if thy heart is as pure as thy face would indicate we wish thee full success. –

Lena and Etta.

TREMENDOUS COLLISION

Saturday evening the 13th inst. as the “Great Western” now called from its being rebuilt from its Hull “The Linden Wood Enterprise” was entering Post at Wheatland he Starboard came into contact with a pillar of the front Porch of the Mansion, & it fell with a crash. The gentlemanly Host who had come to the door to receive the precious cargo was only saved from a hurt by his agility in avoiding the falling fragments. There is some doubt as to the exact cause of the collision, certainly no one who has seen the “Chief Engineer” of “The Enterprise” can doubt that he has sufficient color to exonerate him from all blams. – A Passenger

The Editress have this month issued an “Extra” half-sheet in order to publish the following card which were found on our table. We trust their matter when heard will justify this departure from the rules by which we are associated.

A CARD

Miss Editress – A grateful stranger desires through the medium of your columns, to offer acknowledgment for kindnesses untiringly bestowed while a residence of near 3 months in this far “Western State.” From the moment I entered its hospitable bounds all my wants have been anticipated. In its chief city, (Justly called the Empress City of the West) I was welcomed as a friend, & set on my way thitherward with the kindest solicitudes. And on entering St. Charles, when the Post boy refused even for money to turn out from his course to take me to my “western Home”, and kind One, in true Western Hospitality offered “right quickly” to conduct me safely to my destination. And not overlook is the continued kindness of those who met me at the threshold & bade me enter; & her whose hand first grasped mine most friendly, telling me I was expected & “my room was waiting my arrival.” Most welcome words to the weary, and next her who “at sight” gave me a “sister’s love”. Nor is forgotten forbearance & gentlemanly respect ever waiting me from the honored head of my “Western Home” nor the cheerfulness with which I was admitted to the care & communion of the church. Nor the generous hospitality with which the people of St. Charles have admitted me to their friendship. Indeed, so steady has been the effort of all to render my stay in Mo. pleasant that instead of my being “Homesick”, to use an expressive word, I know not how to be sufficiently grateful to the Kind Providence who has supplied me, the Home & friends I have left. My first desire for those who have received me so kindly is that they and theirs may, wherever their lot be cast, ever meet with true friendship.

Epsilon.

A CARD

Missess Editress – The undersigned; Proprietors and Teachers of Linden Wood Seminary, solicit the favor of your columns at this close of the year to express their gratitude to the pupils in their charge for the affectionate and ladylike deportment which has characterized their intercourse with one another & ourselves during the time we have been associated as teachers & pupils.

We desire particularly to not your cheerful acquiescence to the rules of the establishment even when they deprived you of some desirable pleasure. The progress you have made in your studies, your improvement in Penmanship, & the neatness of your Copy books. The readiness with which you have grappled with (to beginner) “Giant Composition” and sustained your paper, has afforded use during the past month many congratulatory remarks. We would not have you suppose us so weak, as to consider you all things, but the good had predominated so far that we feel that we have much ground to hope that the future may find you improving in an ever increasing ratio. Your skill and industry with the needle when out of school in the case of your clothing, we have also noted with pleasure & trust that it will be continued with equal assiduity & advantage to yourselves.

To our Patrons and those who have so kindly attended our Reviews, we offer most sincere thanks & hope by unremitting attention on our part, to merit a continuance of your favor. Our next Review will be on Friday the 30th of January when we shall be gratified to see you & all who feel an interest in our school & education generally. Our school opens the next Monday morning, 9 A.M.

Wishing all Pupils, Patrons and friends a “Merry Christmas” & “Happy New Year” for this & many coming year, We remain most affectionately,

Yours friends M. E. Sibley,
E. D. Roseter,
Eliza Ott.