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The Experiment, January 30, 1846

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THE EXPERIMENT

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“No Effort Is Lost.”

Volume I

Linden Wood, January 30th, 1846

Number 4

“Little Things are no Trifles”

Misses Editress:

The subject of my communication seems at first glance to be of rather a doubtful meaning, yet I hope by using the best of my abilities to clear it of what insignificant cast to prove that there is nothing too small to be unworthy the notice of intellectual minds. It is too true in this world that we often overlook little circumstances, which the philosophizing mind recognizes as the starting causes of great incidents & to make this more striking let us contemplate a few facts.

A war between the French & English which lasted for fourteen years and caused the shedding of much blood, originated from a petty strife between two Captains. And how small an affair caused the suffering & many lives; merely the gratification of a revengeful spirit in two men.

Our first parents disobeyed the command of God & brought sin & ruin upon themselves & entailed a curse upon all, by simply partaking of the forbidden fruit: & to that simple act we can trace the commencement of all our sin, all our suffering & sorrow in this world.

The constitution of our mind is such that it is not unfrequently that some little thing entirely changes our character & circumstances. Some report circulated about a person, whether true or false may affect him for life. A kind word spoken to a wicked person may, & frequently does, change his course of action for life; & a rude or selfish act, may drive from us some loving heart that otherwise would have been our friend and solace during many weary years; but, who through our thoughtlessness perhaps was thus deprived of our companionship & support as well as we of theirs. And are we not answerable for our conduct to those around us? We should therefore guard against even careless words and actions for they are not unfrequently attended with dreadful consequences to others as well as ourselves.

A single spark of fire on a prairie in the fall of the year when everything around is dry, is a small matter in itself; but watch it as it gradually spreads & before you are aware of it, you are surrounded by flames, all of which have sprung from perhaps the burning wedding of the hunter's gun. In a few moments for miles around, you behold nothing but the red flames hissing to welcome the clouds, or stretching their long lashes against the tall grass and trees which speedily disappear before it. This little spark may be the cause of great damage perhaps to some wealthy merchant & emigrant who may be traveling with all their substances: & to have it all destroyed by so small a matter convinces us at once of the truth of our title that

“Little things are no trifles.”

Many of the most useful missionaries have had their thoughts first directed to the state of the heathen by reading some little story in childhood, & after years

carrying out their projects they become very useful men in the vineyard of the Lord, all from reading a simple story of heathen degradation.

Who can limit the smallest matter? Some of the proudest ships that have dashed boldly over our oceans have been sunk by the gnawing of a worm in her timber or burned by the accidental spilling of a few drops of turpentine or some other combustible in her hold.

What an indifferent circumstance caused the wonderful discovery made by Newton. The falling of an apple, illustrated to his mind the law of gravitation.

Also by what accident, as it were, was the law of the vibration of the pendulum brought to light?

The discovery of Galvinism also sprung up from a trifle. Another example is, the inclination of the earth on its axis to the plane of its orbit which single circumstance produces all the changes in the seasons, the variable length of days & nights, & many other like blessings.

I think I have faithfully explained why in this age of revolutions no trifle should be overlooked, as the most insignificant circumstances are often attended with the greatest consequences.

Found – 30 paces from Exaltation Mount, a few valuable ideas. They are now in the treasury of the city. The owner will place call & claim his property. The gratitude excited by recovering so important a loss will pay all expenses of advertising.

A great discovery

Several mines of nutshells we discovered lately in the desks of our young ladies. As they were of all sizes shapes & kinds perhaps some person would be glad of them. We would be obliged to any of the neighbors who feel the need of them if they would bring their carts & carry them off as books are of more importance & we fear there will be no room for them if the mine is allowed to increase.

Hope for the Best – Selected

Oh, why should we ever be shading
 Moments of pleasure with pain?
Though the rose we have cherished be fading
 Time will bring other roses again!
Though Fate may our destinies sever –
 Though for a brief season deprest –
Trusting in Providence ever,
 Still – let us hope for the best.

There's a star ever burning above us,
 Still shining for happier days;

There's a spirit that ever will love us;
 Beaming beyond that star's rays!
Though for a time we may suffer,
 Clasp this deep truth to thy breast –
Trusting in Providence ever –
 Come what there may – It is best.

E d i t o r i a l

We present ourselves again before our friends at the beginning of a New Year hopefully. If this number is not more perfect than the last we hope before the expiration of the year many improvements may appear not only in our paper, but also in our school, as the great object of our assembling here is improvement. But as nothing can be gained without labor, & study is surely mental labor, we do not think our progress this month has been equal to that of the preceding ones, & this we suppose to be the effects of the habitual dissipations of this particular season of the year. For on returning to school after Christmas our minds were so occupied with what had transpired during holidays that we found it quite difficult to resume our studies with the same persevering spirit as before; but we rely on the forgiving dispositions of our audience for proper allowance if we have failed in any of our studies, or if this monthly offering is inferior to the preceding ones, which we fear will be the results of so much pleasure as we have enjoyed in those bright days.

We must not forget to present our most humble thanks to an elderly Gentleman known on both continents by the name of "Santa – Claus" who makes it his practice to call on his friends during Christmas times, & who did not pass unnoticed while going his rounds. He entered our study room on New Years day, burdened with a large package which laying on the table he merely said, "It is for Miss Eliza to open" & left the room. But greatly to our astonishment it contained a large assortment of books each of which was directed to one of the pupils of the School. They were selected with great care with reference to our needs & we will endeavor to improve by their excellent contents.

There is a great responsibility delving on Editresses which we did not properly estimate until the duty came to us, but now we find the labor of typesetting & printing to be a small share; for if the matter in its columns should fail in accomplishing that which we most desire for it, the amusement of our friends and hearers as well as our improvement, we should be very sadly disheartened. And indeed we do not enjoy its contents now third as much now that we are Editresses when we are merely contributors, for it has cost us so much anxiety that it has almost overbalanced the pleasure we have anticipated in preparing it for this day's treat.

This is the first month of the year & how quickly it seems to have fled. Should this not be a warning to us to improve each moment of time, for the will pass comparatively quickly as a month. Each month should be marked with some important progression in our studies that we may not look back with regret to the days given us here. If we learn to count & improve the months as they pass, then we can the years, & our lives will be pleasant in review.

Discovered – 13 miles below this city on the banks of the Granides the remains of an extensive city. It is supposed to be a part of the great city of Tyre which was brought here by some violent hurricane. However this does not seem hardly possible.

Found – “On Loafers Corner” in this city a love letter directed to the owner, & when ever he wishes to call for it, he can have it by paying the advertisement.

The following question directed to the Principal of Linden Wood Seminary were lately found in the archives of the institution & have been responded to by a friend. Thinking that they may not be entirely void of interest to our friends the Editresses have thought fit to publish them.

Panama March 30, 1936

Dear Madam:

Having heard much of the Linden Wood Seminary & wishing to send my daughter to a boarding school I address to you the following questions which if you answer satisfactorily I shall greatly be your debtor.

The following are the questions in their original order with the answers annexed.

1st What are the general rules of your school?

Ans. “There are no general rules except “Everybody pay attention to their own business,” & the particulars are too numerous to mention.”

2nd What number of vacations and of what length do you give during the year?

Ans. “Only one & that at the conclusion, which is of very variable lengths.”

3rd During what hours of the day are your ladies required to study & which are allowed for recreation?

Ans. “The hours for study are those while they are in school, the remainder being for recreation.”

4th On what days are the ladies permitted to visit their friends it being very necessary for them to do so?

Ans. “The young ladies never visit except where two Saturdays occur together.”

5th What ornamental branches are taught at Linden Wood?

Ans. “All, namely, painting, music on all instruments, needle work, making wax figures & refinement of manners & the art of ‘entertainments’.”

6th How long are your ladies allowed to indulge in sleep?

Ans. “From the hours of retiring until the bell rings for rising.”

7th Do the young ladies have separate apartments?

Ans. “Yes: they all have their apartments together.”

8th How many boarders have you at present?

Ans. "We had 30 once but have not so many now on account of the excessive sickness."

9th Do the ladies all dress in uniform or according to their own taste & abilities?

Ans. "The ladies dress according to the latest fashion."

10th How long is it necessary for a young lady to attend your school to become accomplished?

Ans. "Until she finishes her education."

11th Do the young ladies do their own washing?

Ans. "They are in general too indolent."

12th What amusements do their young ladies pursue?

Ans. "They are allowed no pursuits that they have to pursue & have none but what will come to them."

13th What is the size of the yard where the ladies exercise & is it on the high way?

Ans. "The size is as large as the palings will permit & as for highways we do not have them here."

14th Are your ladies allowed to attend evening meeting?

Ans. "Yes, when it is convenient for them to go so as not to have company home."

15th What penalties are the ladies subject to in case of misbehaving?

Ans. "The highest is confinement in the cellar, the next is in the observatory a temporary arrangement. The remainder are black marks or Dunce Caps."

16th Are the ladies allowed to receive bible teaching?

Ans. "No, not if we can help it."

17th Are the ladies allowed to receive visits from Gentlemen?

Ans. "no, in case they do the ladies are either sent to bed, or to their studies."

I believe I have asked all necessary questions. You will please do me the favor to answer this immediately & if you desire to know who I am my name is Billy Wiggins and my daughter is Deborah Wiggins.

Ans. I also believe you have asked as many questions as are good for you on this time & likewise suppose that you may desire to know with whom you are corresponding. Therefore my name and circumstances apply to Stephen Goslin, Green Co., Ind.

The principal of this school bids me give her respects to you for being indisposed to answer your questions, she authorizes me to which I have done to the best of my ability.

Editors Book Table

There has just appeared on our table several new works of which we will mention Novels, "Aline, the heroine of the West," "Obediah, the Blacksmith," & "The extravagant housewife." These we have not read except their titles, as we have such reading as "Cronch's lectures on magnetics," St. Nicholas travels in "Turkey and Asia Minor," & "Stilts Observations on the clouds," all of which we can recommend as excellent works.

CORRESPONDENCE OF "THE EXPERIMENT"

Texas, December 26th, 1845.

Missess Editresses:

Dear Ladies: As you so kindly invited me to write for your paper, I will now endeavor to comply with your request & give you a little sketch of a place near my "Texas home."

On the banks of the river Nieses is a small but beautiful little village behind which may be seen two elevated mountains whose tops are so lofty that one would think the slightest wind would sweep them from their permanent foundations & thus crush the lovely little village at their feet. But if any one has a desire to ascend to their lofty regions he can do so by a pair of stairs which leads to their summit & on reaching there you will behold a sight that will fill your whole soul with admiration and delight. Before you lies the beautiful Nieses, winding its course through the many swamps that pervade this country and beyond is the Andras Bay sparkling in untold magnificence & the contemplative mind will not forget to notice the wide extended prairie upon whose soil treads yonder hoary headed shepherd who leaning on his staff with a watchful eye regards his flocks lest some stray & as he travels around, he often lifts his heart in thankfulness to the God who made him for his kind protection over him during his life.

From the recesses of those dark looking roads behind us appears the firm tiger whose eyes gleam around him, "seeking whom he may devour" & in that thicket may be heard the hissing of the rattle snake as it coils itself around the trunk of some huge tree! What a variety of things has Our Creator formed & yet how beautiful do they all appear!

Cast your eyes once more around you & you will behold the ruins of Gohad which was once a flowering city containing many inhabitants, nothing now remains but its ruins under which was lately discovered a complete set of cut glass supposed to have been put there by the Spaniards who in ancient times were residents of this country. I have myself examined the glass & can say that it is the most beautiful glass I ever saw. Here are fifty pieces altogether. It has excited great curiosity here & numbers are flocking to the house where it is kept to examine it.

And now glance again in & around the village. Strange scenes will occupy your attention. You perceive at a distance from it the Guard, mounting with all its pomp and show, two squadrons of Gragoons, drilling and charging at full career. How grand

they look! But what is that approaching? It is a funeral band; what sorrow is depicted in every countenance & what do you hear? It is a death march slow & solemn time! And now you see wagons how heavily laden they are & observe those horses which are galloping to and fro how lively they appear & there is a vessel too on the Bay, how beautiful it appear in full sail cutting the waves majestically as it approaches shore. But the setting sun may have almost vanished & as you descend from this place in imagination, may this day occupation of mine never sleep in oblivion.

Yours affectionately, Nina.

Just as we were in the act of sending our paper to press, we were delayed by the important arrival of three artists, who flattered us by taking a Daguerreotype picture of Linden Wood enlivened by groups of happy pupils. There is nothing which could have given us & the liberated pupils generally, more heartfelt delight, & we gladly availed ourselves of every opportunity the occasion afforded, for enjoying ourselves under the noble trees, surrounding our Home School.

The day being uncommonly fine, we in return for hard study took several lessons in attitudinizing and calisthenics & imagine that we formed a very picturesque & graceful company dispersed as we were over the lawn. And for the very kind visit & its immediate object, we take this occasion to return those gentlemen our sincere thanks with those of our teachers.

\$50 Reward – Lost. Last week between Careless and Forgetful Streets, a very valuable ring, containing seven diamonds set in a star, two of which were the well known Blosburg diamonds & two of the Pittsburg (quite common), two of the Lehigh diamonds a well known production of Pen’s Woods. But the principal, a very brilliant one, set in the center, was found in the hills of New Hampshire. Any one finding it will receive the above sum if they return it without harm.

Mrs. S. Hudless.

“I dreamed a dream.”

Hearing so much of the removal of the Court House of late I became so interested in it as to make it the subject of a dream. I thought every person in the County was at variance with his Neighbor on account of it. And those in Town who declined to quarrel it out in bar rooms wrote long tongue lashing pieces, & one thing was benefited by them. The paper gained many new subscribers. I thought I was anxious for St. Charles to get it as I had always felt interested in it & all the man in this part of the country said they would hang on to it as long as there was a hair to hold by, & if they could not keep it in St. Charles, they would take it to old Portage. I seemed to see the “Pin Hook” men shove it onto wheels to take it off. There seemed to be a thousand ropes attached to it

PAGE MISSING

To the Public

All letters at present in the Linden Wood P.O. will be exported to Paris if not called for within the space of three months.

Washington Foursee P.M.

To Let – A very spacious and superb log house with four large rooms each containing a large handsome marble mantelpiece made of pure wood, with elegant brass grates manufactured at the iron Mountain in the lower part of the state. Quite a curiosity! There is a very deep well in the yard but it was filled up during the las war, & a large smoke house which was pulled down in the last strife between the rats & mice, each contending for the superiority, but in consequence of which they were put to the rack & the building demolished by the inhabitants which then removed. This is a very desirable house that I now offer for rent. For further particulars enquire of L. S. Condry, 706 main St., St. Charles.

Lost – The Owners of a herd of horses now running in the Prairie. Whoever will discover them & oblige them to provide for their stock properly shall receive public thanks.

Lost – A flock of between 30 & 40 sheep. Whoever will find then & return to the well known Mr. A. on the prairie will unquestionably save him some trouble & receive due reward.

N.B. – Dr. Simple & Quack have now opened their office on the corner of No street for the purpose of attending on any one when called for. They are both graduates of the grand Asiatic College at Jerusalem & therefore expect liberal patronage from our citizens. As they are the first Jerusalem travelers who have ventured this far to do all in their power to alleviate in some measure the painful disease which is now raging called Laziness. We most sincerely hope they will not be neglected. If any one wishes to know more about the said Drs. we can refer them to Mr. Shidingscaffer a merchant of Palermo – City papers please copy.

For Sale – 6 doz. cases of bottled concentrated Aqua of a very superior quality lately imported from Greenland. All tipplers and those who are fond of delicate fingers are invited to call & examine for themselves at Brost Hall 64 Elevated Street.

Wanted – By a needy One 50 bottled of the extract of intellect. To be delivered to Mr. Graham on the corner of Duncce & Patient street from whence it will be forwarded to my address. Polly Stupid.

Help has been discovered for unskilled & benighted equestrians. It lies in the goodwill to neighbors, so prevalent, West of the Alleghenies. But has been lately proved to be of peculiar endurance & excellence on the Prairie. Owing, we infer, to the richness of the soil & subsequent vigorous growth not only of vegetation & the physical, but the nobler qualities of the mind and heart.

A lecture on listlessness will be delivered by Mr. Industrious Speeding at the Cupola on the College in this city on next Friday evening.

To the Public

The next Review of Linden Wood School will be held at their rooms on Friday the 7th of February. All interested in that Seminary or in the progress of education are respectfully invited to attend.