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The Experiment, March 28, 1846

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THE EXPERIMENT

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“No Effort Is Lost.”

Volume I

Linden Wood, March 28, 1846

Number 6

Have I Got that Far?

This is a question often repeated to oneself & is so common an expression among girls, that I have concluded to take it as a subject for a few remarks, - This little phrase which is only composed of five words, contains a great deal of measuring and is almost always uttered in different tones by different individuals.

When fate seems to have marked one out, as from the many, to endure all the difficulties and trials this world can afford, then it is that this expressive sentence, “Have I got that far?” meaning this far removed from all happiness, is uttered in the most heart-rending tone, as though they had no kind friend to sympathize with them in their trouble, & were almost without hope in the world. What a contrast between such a person, & those whose very countenance bespeaks that they are surrounded by all earthly comforts, & have experienced much happiness, they if they are thoughtful, often stop to reflect on the improvements gained. I will mention a few instances which at once shows that what I have said is so true, - A farmer when he first sets out to lead such a life, is often much perplexed because he has so few comforts, & his family have only an old log house to protect them from the inclemency of the weather. He will often be discouraged, & scarcely try to make himself comfortable, but he finds however that this will not do, he must work & accordingly sets about it. Soon he has his house so remodeled that it would scarcely be known, & with what different feelings does he enter his new dwelling & seat himself before a large fire surrounded by his merry children, & you will hear him say, “Well! Have I got this far one year ago. I would not have believed I could have done this much.” Happiness and contentment are no longer strangers to that house & now I will turn your attention to a scene of a different nature. The Gambler who supposes himself wealthy, & who has perhaps a Mother to support is breaking that Mother’s heart by being a frequent visitor at the grogshop, where after having quenched his thirst by swallowing liquor he seats himself at the gambling table & before he quits it the last penny he ever possessed is gone. The helpless state of his poor Mother rushes full upon his memory. She cannot starve & what will he do, & he says Oh that I had obeyed the injunctions of my poor dear Mother. He rushes for the house throws his arms around the neck of his parent & repeats, “Oh my dear Mother, it is possible that I have got this far, from duty & the path of rectitude.” Alas, poor young man an unhappy life thou wilt lead unless thou reforms but I trust thou wilt & be soon far on the right road to true happiness.

And now for the young girl who attentively engaged in pursuing the pages of a novel. How deeply interested she is in it, one by one the pages are read and turned over, she knows not how fast she reads she finishes one page and quietly turns over the leaf to continue the tale when to her surprise “The End” in large letters is presented to her view she jumps up and exclaims Well! I’ll declare, have I got this far? Oh it was so very interesting. It is the same way with the school girl when she is writing a composition, at first she imagine that she cannot find an idea, much less the words to express it but

finding she obliged to do something, she at length selects a subject & commences she writes pretty fast in order to get all of her ideas down as forty always jump into her head at once. 1, 2, 3 pages are completed she can scarcely believe her senses, & in the height of her surprise she says, "Gracious, have I got that far," she clasps her hands in ecstasy of delight, of she goes to her teacher with the well filled sheet. How happy she is. Her composition is finished!

An old man whose hoary looks show seventy summers he has seen, when he looks back on his past life, he wonders to himself how such a poor miserable being as he could live so long in this sinful world of sorrow, & whilst he is thus reflecting he exclaims in a penitent tone, "Have I got this far in age & am not better than I am."

And now I think I have given you instances enough to prove to you the importance of such a small sentence as is the title of this composition. I find I have already gone too far to be interesting. - - Nina.

\$50 reward offered for the apprehension of a thief, who while the young ladies are absent from their desk makes it his practice to steal papers, pens & sealing wax. I suppose to seal billet doux. The above reward will be given if he is caught and crowned with the Dunce Cap.

Just invented – on the Dardene Prairie a new and improved method of cutting grass by horse power. We have not seen it, but we would advise all who feel rather indolent about harvest time to adopt this plan.

Lost – A pocketbook containing one "pie" and whoever is so fortunate as to find it shall have half of the large sum.

THE MECHANIC – Selected

I am Nature's own noblemen, happy & free,
A peer of the realm, might well envy me,
For the land of the eagle has given me birth
And my sons are all freemen that meet round my hearth.

Your cities now rising with beauty & might,
Whose palace like towers are fair to the sight.
My hand helped to build them, my strength lent its aid
And by the sweat of my brow, your proud cities are made.

The ship that sweeps proudly o'er the far spreading sea
Has been timbered & fashioned by the labor of me,
And the pure massive marble that strikes on the view
Is chiseled & formed by the artisan, too.

The Smith as he hums o'er his anvil a glee,
He toils not for happiness or power, - not he;

He dreads not lost office, he seeks none to gain
And the Smith is king in his own proud domain.

The bravest of men from mechanics have sprung
And the sweetest of lays mechanics have sung,
And the proudest of hearts mechanics should wear
When conscious of right, in their bosoms they bear.

Found – Not long since between Linden Wood & St. Charles a very valuable breast pin. It was an imitation mosaic, a small flower on jet plate, set in pure brass. The owner may find it by calling at Coles Hall, No 31 Main Street, St. Charles.

EDITORIAL

There is generally a little strife between the two Editresses, as to which must write the Editorial, each one contending that the other can perform their duty best, & in such a discussion it falls to me this month. I do not intend to beg off but will tell the ladies & gentlemen who are gathered here, to hear us recite (some I have no doubt come here with the view of learning something that was not heard of in their day.) that it is the very best piece of composition that my poor brain could produce, & I feel proud to think that I can write at all, & that I have had some few advancements, & more, that I am learning to appreciate them. How many poor creatures are there now that cannot write a sentence, while I can who am no more worthy, & therefore I think it would be sinful in me to be discontented with my lot. Now if I was one of the senior members, I do not know but that I should scold her for not being more eloquent, & not interspersing more large words as they call them, but I do not know anything about such things, therefore will not attempt to give you a description of them, for fear I should fail, & then I should feel like creeping through a keyhole – I will say to the audience that we are very much obliged to then for the patience they exercised whilst listening to our last Review day, & we feel highly honored, & gratified by the manner in which we were questioned, & feel pleased to think that we were praised so highly in that great paper called “The St. Charles Advertiser,” yet we really think that we were complimented almost too much but whether we were praised, or not, we do not intend that the succeeding reviews shall disgrace the former ones if it lays in our power to prevent it – We are glad to see the weather now becoming more springlike, for now we can exercise in the open air with pleasure & are not confined to the narrow bounds of the schoolroom, but can roam where’er we choose (so that we do not beyond the big gate). It is true during the cold weather we had some very fine rides in our Linden Wood Enterprise, although it was laughed at by all the ladies and gentlemen of fashion, who have fine painted sleighs & fiery horses, with bells; yet if our horned steeds were rather “slow” I think they went by the old saying “sure” for while you were continually meeting with accidents such as “spill outs,” & “break downs,” yet I do not remember with our meeting with but one, & that was when it run foul of a gentleman’s porch & knocked down one of the pillars but there was no injury done. Our horses never got ahead of us but once, & that was just as we were starting to church, we suddenly stopped & to our surprise we found that our horses had come to the

conclusion that going to church alone, & taking it very slowly indeed but they soon found that they were not to have their own way, "There is no fun unless we upset," which I do not think funny, - A few weeks ago whilst sitting studying very hard one Saturday evening we were startled by a loud rap at the door, you can judge what an agreeable rumpus it was to us when in walked Mr. Barren & several young ladies & gentlemen. We were so glad to be released from our studies that we soon put our books out of sight, & after we had sung all we knew, we adjourned to the parlor & ended our evening with music on the Piano. - We were very much pleased a few evenings ago to see the stages drive up before the stiles & our own Aunt Mary get out, but she was so ill that she had to be supported to her bed & has been quite ill since. She had been to St. Louis for some weeks & it now looks quite like old times to see her around the house again giving orders & hope she will not be compelled to leave us again for so long we find her absence does not increase our privileges in the least, & her station is by no means readily supplied in our family - As this is the season for renovation I ought not to forget the improvements going on throughout our Plantation. The very oldest personage on the farm seems to have awakened & has become so active we are a little afraid that it will not last long, but if it last until the season for pruning & setting out trees is over we do not care. I hope our friends have not overlooked our orchard for each tree seems to appear in its May dress, & we are almost ashamed to think that we have let it get before us is donning spring attire, besides it really looks so handsome in its new dress that I cannot help stopping sometimes when I saw The Fox walking around adding a little more beauty to each tree, & I am really afraid that they will get it so nice after a while (this is, if the Fox continues his visit) that the apples will be afraid to grow on the trim stems, but hope they will not be so foolish. - - There is another thing worthy of our notice as it is that this old gentlemen had his dark skinned white man (as he calls himself) at work for the last week setting out a young orchard which will go very much towards satisfying our appetites, if we can get hold of the fruit when it comes, but I think it is rather doubtful, but nevertheless we will hope for the best. - The audience must excuse me this time for not mentioning any of the new books that have been laid on our table this month, for indeed I have been so taken up with the things out of doors that I have not given hardly a thought to anything in the line of books within doors, therefore I will have to leave it for some other one, or our city paper to publish, for I really have not had time to examine them this month. - Bandota

Arcadia, March 18, 1846

Misses Editress

Dear Ladies

Hearing that you wished to know something of the country south, as you have never visited there, I suppose a letter from that region would not be uninteresting. I will endeavor to describe to you some of the many curiosities hoping it may be worthy a place in the columns of your paper.

I heard a great deal of the "Iron mountains and Pilot Knob," but had never visited them until last summer when you may be assured I gladly availed myself of an invitation to join a small company to visit these celebrated objects. We started early on horseback, in the cool of the morning as the weather was very warm & after a ride of five hours arrived at the hotel nearest this place we remained until morning. During the night

there was a very hard storm, we were all frightened, but in the morning we found that the storm had ceased & the sun shone again brightly & pleasantly, but we saw that fences had been blown down & even the side of the church had been blown out.

After partaking of a bountiful breakfast we took our leave but not without promising our gentlemanly host, that we would call on him again. We proceeded first of the "Knob." It was with great difficulty we found the right road but at last we discovered it, & after riding up the mountain more than half way, we thought it would be better to walk the rest. On our way up we saw a large snake; but it fearful of being seen, crept under a large rock. By this time we had nearly reached the top which was in the form of a sugar loaf. On the top of this were seen two very large pieces of Iron ore which appeared as if you could almost push them off with your hand. We were now 550 feet from the plain below. The morning was pleasant and clear & we could see for miles around us. A large farm resembled a small garden & a horse appeared about the size of a calf. We walked all over the top of the Knob and found many beautiful flowers & shrubs among other curiosities we saw a chameleon, on one of the large pieces of ore, which resembles a scorpion in form, but I think it was much larger, & resembled the ore in color on which it lay. We found also a great many beautiful specimens which we did not fail to carry home. - - -

It was now near noon, & as we wished to reach home by night we were obliged to set off earlier than we would otherwise have done & we had but little time to examine this remarkable mountain of ore, whose treasure seems inexhaustible. We found many laborers there and everyone was busy, some were building houses, others hauling while some were digging, others at the furnace. The mountain appeared like a huge hill covered with small fragments of ore, which resembled iron but very little in appearance. We next went to Mr. Brussels to dinner & while at the house our host & hostess among other curiosities which they had collected showed us India rubber of different colors, white & blue, with a great variety of figures and forms. And some husks of the kind which the Prodigal son eat, when he had spent his store and was feeding the swine in "a far country."

The Lady thought they were of the true husk & said they were sent her from Asia. They resembled in form & appearance the pods of the catalpha, which grows with us. She also showed a great variety of curious stones & shells which were beautiful & told us of hidden treasure of the earth. But time urge & we were obliged to leave this interesting place for our homes.

On the road we saw some very pretty flowers which I was anxious to stop and gather but the company hurried me on telling me it was too late. After a warm and tiresome ride as we approached nearer to town we all separated for our homes when we met our friends who were anxiously waiting our arrival. Your sincere friend, Deborah.

Examination Weeks

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Selected from Miss Donaldson

One has a headache, one a cold,
One has her neck in a flannel rolled,
Ask the complaint & you are told
This week's Examination.

One frets & scolds & laughs & cries,
Another hopes, despairs & sighs,
Ask but the cause and each replies
This week's Examination.

One leaves her book then grasps them tight,
And studies morning, noon & night,
As though she took some strange delight,
In these Examinations.

The books are marked, defaced & thumb'd,
The brains with midnight tasks benumbed,
Still all in that account succumbed,
This week's Examination.

Found – A bountiful share of candy, in the desk of one of our young ladies done up very neatly in two or three newspapers. The young lady is obliged to the giver & will recompense her kindness by giving her one eighteenth of the next stock of candy of which she is the fortunate owner.

We take pleasure in announcing to the audience that the junior members of our Seminary intend on issuing the first number of their monthly paper, "The Violet" the 25th of April. WE hope that it will meet with the same kind of reception that ours did, & that it will be as great a benefit to them as ours has been to us. To all efforts for improvement we gladly give our best wishes, unless we are willing that "The Violet" shall excel "The Experiment." Still we say to our younger sisters, come one we will try to lead you by a pleasant path to excellence.

Discovered – In Yankee town, a large amount of common sense, which experience has proved worth having. We would rejoice in a like discovery in these parts, especially if it was applied to useful purposes.

Apologies are always disagreeable but we must say to the audience that it is out of our power to prevent it this time, but we will endeavor not to ask their indulgence very soon again. Our time has been broken into very much this month, both by changes in our studies & the entrance of many new scholars. Therefore we cannot appear as well as we would wish in our classes and must beg our friends to make some allowance for this number of our paper being inferior to the preceding ones some of our members have left, others being absent and consequently our hands have been weak on all sides. I think at the end of the five months we would be able to stand as brilliant an examination as our more fortunate Seminary, but as we are examined every month, & cannot in reason expect as much as if it occurred once in a session. Leaving it to your

good sense, we thank you for your patience in bearing with our short comings so kindly.
M.

Latest News – A remarkable amount of activity which has long lain dormant, is now in full operation. We really were not aware of how great a treasure was in our vicinity & hope we shall be able to appreciate the benefits in progress occasioned by this new application of knowledge & ability. “God speed” the hand of diligence.

Latest intelligence from abroad, says that ladies are beginning to dabble in politics. That is a fashion we fear we shall not be able to follow, as our knowledge of the laws of civil politics is so limited that a long time must yet elapse before we shall be able to give a correct statement of the great leading question now before the Nation. So we must be content & happy in our own proper sphere of action these many days to come.

We ought in justice to the ladies of our vicinity to say something of the fashions but are so unfortunate as to have nothing new to notice except the half over-sleeve which is now quite generally adopted among us. They are made of dark cambric & reach above the elbow & are convenient to cover any deficiency in that particular part of the dress.

Lost – One Tuesday last all order in the school room. At the sound of the stage-horn all trembled, but when it was apparent who had come there was a general rush, & our teacher was left alone, but she quickly followed & then all was right, for what she does cannot be wrong. Uncle George declared he thought the house on fire, but we are inclined to think he only desired an excuse to hasten to welcome our beloved ones.

We have seen it stated by a modern Writer that “Soft May time is coming,” and “O’er earth kinds bosom, Sweet Flora is roaming,” “With mild odors, the vernal fields to cover,” & rejoice in the assurance, & desire to bless the beneficent Hand that gladdens our hearts with the beauties of Spring time. O! that He may make it springtime in our hearts, & enable us to eradicate all that tends to destroy our strength of mind, & moral beauty, & to cherish the noble qualities & Christian graces whose benign influence, so like sweet incense, blessing all around. Then shall the weakest one be shielded from the slightest wrong & the unprotected, bless the generous love that anticipates all need, & sacrifices self for its neighbors.

The next monthly Review of the Linden Wood Seminary will be held at their rooms on Friday the 28th of April. The friends of the Institution & the public generally are respectfully invited to attend. The hours will be from 9 to 12 A.M. & from 2 to 5 P.M.

The Rev. Mr. Watson from Dardeene, is expected to preach at the 1st Presbyterian Church in St. Charles on next Sabbath, at half past ten o’clock.