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## The Experiment, May 29, 1846

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## THE EXPERIMENT

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“No Effort Is Lost.”

Volume I

Linden Wood, May 29th, 1846

Number 8

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Perfection of Natures Works

What daily proofs are presented us, to remind us of the completeness of the works of nature. At this delightful season of the year she seems as if hastening everything on to its maturity, & even in the commencement of Spring she appears as if arrayed in all her glory but does not every month, yes every day afford some new beauty which to a cultivated mind awakens feelings of joy & gratitude such as it cannot find words to express, & to the uncultivated mind too it brings many pleasant hours.

While observing some plant perhaps for a little, our imagination leads us to suppose that we can see its growth progressing with the swiftness of time. When in reality it is to us short sighted beings invisible for the moment, but it fails not to develop its beauties & in the course of a few hours. See with what accuracy every part is finished. Even in the most minute thing which grows upon the earth every organ is as fully perfected as in the most majestic trees which are so much the objects of our admiration, & whose finish shows that it was made by a hand far superior to that of any mortal artist. Is it not delightful to visit her extended fields of vegetation & there behold the great variety which come under our view. Upon casting our eyes around we think we grasp in every thing that is beautiful, but observe closely this exquisitely delicate plant at your feet are you not filled with greater wonder? Yes the little flower which we overlooks as not worthy of notice is a perfect specimen of the infinity of the power of its Divine Author. One examining it we see much to admire & to excite our astonishment. All its parts are complete. The stamen & pistils are visible, its corolle & calyx perfect, presenting many strange and beautiful qualities & wonderful adaptation to its use. Every leaf & stem arranged in perfect order performing its office in due season. Nothing is defective or redundant. And not only in this particular plant do we see this consummate skill, but in every place do we see the same order observed. What a striking resemblance there is in all plants of the same species yes in the same genus it is true there may be none in external appearance but in the internal organization it is remarkable & that which we behold in this, apparently useless flower will if we pause to examine it interests us more than those of greater dimensions & by this simple flower our thoughts are raised to their true source & object the Sublime Creator & by marking with what care & attention these very minute things are reared by the hand of Nature which is never idle we are admonished to love & adore. Man finishes his daily labor & retires to rest until the rising sun shall call him forth the preceding say, but Nature rests during his slumbers has been carrying on her most important works. She then while he must sleep adorns & repairs in all her splendor to welcome him at the early dawning. In Autumn to the careless observer she appears to have run her course. Everything assumes a deadly appearance & perhaps unreflecting minds may think she has ceased to work but not so. She is then preparing for the severity of winter & each seed, bud and root is protected with perfect skill. As soon as the boisterous winds and lion like weather has ceased she again unfolds her treasures of beauty & decks the earth with renewed loveliness,

Thus it is with man he is at first but a tender babe in his mothers arms but the elements of the man are there, in a few years you will behold this once helpless one an aspiring youth. Then in the perfection of manhood but soon he bears marks of age & we observe him like the plant in autumn fall before the fell destroyer of earthly glory. But blessed hope, he like the plant will rise again not to run another short earthly career but to go on to perfection in a life of immortality beyond the grave. The noblest work of his Creation.

Lina.

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The melancholy occurrence at Linden Wood this morning we with grief announce for the paper in order that it may be generally known as soon as possible.

Died – from some unknown cause after all that could be done to prevent & the kindest attention from many experienced nurses- a glow-worm.

Found – near the swing a splendid pair of gloves of so very costly materials that I presume they embarrassed the owner exceedingly in their purchase. They are green cotton bound with yellow satin, very neatly made, stitches not over an inch in length. If they owner feels much troubled about them by calling at desk No. 9 in the school-room they may be found.

Discovered – On the prairie last week by a party of equestrians, a very large turtle. Whether this was his native place, or he had strayed we were not able to ascertain. –

Deborah.

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Beautiful May

(Selected)

Why mourn over sorrow, or whisper at grief  
While nature is smiling and gay,  
While joy enthroned on every leaf,  
And love on each green, tinted spray?  
Away with dull sorrow, away, away;  
For joy is the blossom of beautiful May.

Why harbor a thought, of the gloomy past?  
It is vanished, it is not ours,  
The glad sun disperses the clouds at last;  
Farewell to the long wintry hours  
Away with dull care, away, away,  
Its name will not blend with beautiful May.

Crowned with radiant beams is her smiling brow  
As she trips o'er the lawn with glee,  
To warm with the kisses the opening buds,  
And to breathe on the hawthorn tree.

Away with dull care, away, away,  
Come welcome the smile of beautiful May.

Oh season of hope, long be your stay,  
Deck with blossoms the tree, and the vine  
Ye dear little warblers, oh, cease not your lay,  
To hallow spring's earliest shrine,  
Away with dull care, away, away,  
The song of our hearts should be beautiful May.  
-Edith.

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## EDITORIAL

It has the second time become my privilege to be one of the editresses of the Experiment, & I feel it to be an honor conferred on me & a proof that I have improved since I came here, also I could not be selected for this important office. When I first came I knew not how to read, let alone write a composition and had no idea of attaining to this height in seven months.

The third composition I wrote my teacher had put in the Experiment without my knowledge. When it was read on Review day I was struck with astonishment & frightened to think of it. But after hearing the opinion of the young ladies I found they thought better of it than I did so at last I began to be proud and liked to speak of it. After my teacher had conferred this honor on me I thought if that was worthy of a place in the Experiment I certainly could have one to be read on the next Examination & so I did. Ever since I have encouraged to make an effort & to write well & the result is I am now one of the editresses.

I suppose you begin to wonder where the news is that should constitute the editorial but I think our improvement is very good news & hope you will excuse our speaking of it. Well I think a certain dream regarding St. Charles is coming true as far as possible. We have now four or five schools in operations. But the old Court House stands as if it were saying, "I dare you to touch me." Great men have been delivering lecture to large audiences, & we also have been preaching on the Sabbath in all the churches & prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings. And there is a young gentleman who has been raised here & who has been lately permitted to write M. D. at the end of his name & is now found on Main Street, St. Charles. Say this is not an improvement. As to new buildings I believe there have been none of importance raised but they have been repairing one on the hill as I see some boards nailed on one end to keep the wind out I suppose. The college is in operation & we wish it all good luck imaginable.

We had a May party given us by Aunt Mary all who were here enjoyed themselves in swinging, playing, eating a nice supper & looking at the flowers with which our table and room & persons were decked.

We are sorry to have to announce the death of the Advertiser which expired some weeks since in silence. We saw a great improvement in the last numbers but as we have to give it up we will hope for the success of its successor.

We have nothing to complain of regarding the weather for it has favored us with a few showers of rain & beautiful sunshine. But the news of war has broken in

upon our studies by exciting our anxiety about our friends who have gone or are going at the stern command of their country. Regard for their honor & love of country are strong incentives to action & under their united influence great sacrifices are made gladly. Those gallant hearts who have gone from among us went not to secure that immovable piece of land lying between the Neces & Rio Grande, but for justice & let us not restrain them but aid now and encourage them to answer manfully the call of their country to do their duty & trust in God for the result. If they fall by sword or disease, still let us trust in Him who fails not & who is above all turning and overturning to establish the kingdom of Right ourselves on the earth, even as it is in heaven.

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Correspondence of the "Experiment."

Point Sagacity, California  
April 20, 1846

Dear Ladies – The writing of letter has to me always been a source of great pleasure & elegant indeed would be the tongue that could express the gratitude I feel at being desired to write for the Experiment. I have since I last saw you spent most of my time traveling & will describe the place of my present residence.

I had traveled for some time over different parts of the country when I concluded to visit the monument which has lately been erected to the honor of Tom Thumb by the Mexicans on the peninsula of California.

The public modes of conveyance being very irregular & also unsafe I set out on horseback accompanied by a faithful servant & a guide who was an old Mexican.

I left my residence on the first of January but not being accustomed to riding & owing to the climate I did not reach my destination until the first of April. After traveling for two months over mountains roads & through sandy deserts you may well imagined I was delighted when I beheld before me the towering summit of the monument. The feeling of awe and sublimity that crept over me as I approached this wonderful structure cannot well be portrayed. After we had alighted & partaken of our frugal repast I commenced my examination of this exquisite piece of workmanship. It is 1000 feet in height & its base in 100 feet in breadth from which it gradually slopes to the summit in the form of a sugar loaf. It is of pure marble which it is said was imported from the isle of Paros & which is united so perfectly (by a cement made of white sugar and gum Arabic) as to render it utterly impossible to distinguish it from a solid block. On the top of it is a beautiful observatory made of the same material & most exquisitely finished. The only way of access to it is from a passage in the interior of the monument through which I ascended by a winding staircase of 1000 steps when I suddenly found myself in the observatory from which I had an unlimited view of the broad Pacific. It is also here that Tom Thumb took his last lesson in Astronomy & all his instruments for observation I am told were contained in a private room at the base of the monument but as the key had been lost during the Florida war it could not be entered.

The monument is surrounded by a brass wire railing which adds vastly to the novelty of the scene & it is to be hoped that a new telegraph will be established between the Capitol.

I have of late heard something of the Mexican War but in such a remote way I that I can hardly give credence to it however if it is true, I shall soon leave this & if it is in my power I shall join the Mexican troops that I may save my country.

I hope to hear from you,  
I have the honor to be your most obedient servant

Joshua Bowson.

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It is hinted by a worthy one that if people would take more pains in training their eyes at leisure moments, they could keep them under better control, at least in the House of God.

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Please start me, said a little boy to his teacher who had given him a hard word to spell.

Yes think I, how well we could often acquit ourselves if we but had a start.

For instance a school girl knows her lesson perfectly & appears before this great audience to recite it. When she takes her place & is called to recite, alas! for a moment the first sentence of her lesson is forgotten. Who can start her: just tell her the first word & then she can go on. Yes now she has it her mind wanders no longer & her lesson is recited without mistakes.

A person wishes to commence business but to get started is the trouble & the point which first occupies his attention. We leave him for a while & when we again turn to view him he is a wealthy man.

A horse who has a heavy load to convey to any place perhaps cannot at first move but if some one will have the kindness to start the wheel, he can proceed & could easily draw twice what for want of a start, he could not move.

A young & tender sprout which has been transplanted from its native soil will at first droop & seem doomed to die but carefully tended it will get a start and soon grow with astonishing rapidity & in a few years perhaps the oak prince of the forest which all who behold must admire.

When a person commences a new study at first it seems dark and uninteresting but after advancing a little the mist which seems to envelope it disappears & he can proceed easily daily gaining confidence in himself & those around him until he will have advanced to the limit of man abilities.

We can see in all things the policy of starting right for them we can confidently advance while if we commence wrong we lose our relish before we may have righted ourselves & thus we lose time & effort. A lady commence the study of music but wishing to advance faster than is consistent with the importance of the subjects she neglects many things which it is necessary she should & the consequence is she is never a good musician because she did not start as she should have done. So in all things in this world if we ever expect to excel we not only start, but start right.

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To leave this place for Mexico of the first of June a cargo on provisions for the consumption of the American Army composed of green apples peaches & apricots also 1 bbl of molasses ½ pt. salt & a package of rules for the benefit of commanding officers.

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For Sale – 30 or 40 very valuable rules & a yard of the art of government. Any one wishing to purchase will please call at No 110 Back street.

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### Instrumental and Vocal Music

The varied notes of the birds are among the most of notes. It is delightful to listen to the feathered songster in the morning when they seem to collect for the purpose of praising their maker for their preservation during the night.

Singing is also an important part of the worship of the sanctuary and was established by God himself & consisted of two parts prayer & praise. The Jews consecrated persons to attend to the latter as well as the former. The deliverance the children of Israel celebrated with thanks and praise & to show the more joy it is said that they sung and accompanied their songs with the timbrel & psaltry & if I do not mistake when the Jews collected for the purpose of rebuilding the city of Jerusalem the conductors of it were careful that the musicians & singers should be present to cheer the workmen at their labor. The kings had a portion of their time devoted to music. But to return to the subject of church music (I am unfortunately addicted to jumping from one subject to another that I have forgotten myself) I think that vocal music is indispensable in the church. But when accompanied by instrumental it produces an effect beyond my power to describe. We know that the Jewish instruments were held sacred and with the closing psalm the musicians would accompany it with the cymbal harp, psaltry & timbrel which I suppose would produce a grand & imposing effect. Instrumental music in churches is much objected to now a days. It requires great knowledge of the rules to play admirably & as much practice to play one piece skillfully as it does to sing twenty songs, perhaps I am exaggerating. The trumpet produces considerable effect on a congregation particularly if accompanied by a hymn that is expressive of grandeur such as the judgment.

The effect of music on the mind is powerful. David played for Saul when he was troubled with an evil spirit & it left. Its effects on the soldiers is unequalled. By playing a martial piece he often forgets himself & perhaps may catch the first thing that comes in his way & give the alarm to arms; to arms. By playing a Scotch air to a Scotchman you may get him in a mood to shed a copious shower of tears. The aged Christian derives pleasure from singing & hearing sung one of David's beautiful psalms at the close of his life when his friends are gathered around his bed side to be with him in his last moments. There it is a pleasure to him to have them singing his favorite hymn & perhaps while they sing the last verse he breathes his last in happiness his spirit departs & leaves his body of clay & passes to its eternal home. It is pleasant to sing in company & especially where their loquacity has given out.

Then the vacuum in conversation may be filled up by singing until they rally their talkative powers.

The school boy after having the ferule applied freely during the day finds some relief in singing to some of his comrades a mirthful song that they may not say he is chicken hearted a phrase usual among school boys to denote cowards. There was a time when the lovesick man by serenading his lady love under her window declared his love though a writer has observed it is sadly on the decline I suppose it is out of fashion. Even to Rustics singing is a source of pleasure. The milk maid cheers her lonely walk by

caroling a lively song. But I must close as I am transgressing on our teachers good nature as she has used her proclamation that we must have our composition ready Thursday noon & it only wants some minutes of the specified time.

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Wanted – Courage for the gentlemen of Mo to enable them to resist danger in the camp & fortitude for the ladies that they may bear cheerfully the absence of their protectors.

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## CURIOSITY

Mr. Curiosity possess as very active & inquiring mind for he is always peeping into other people's business & even cannot hear anything hinted at without being very anxious to know all names if any are concerned & everything must be explained to him ere his mind is at ease. He cannot rest a moment & at night his dreams are disturbed by the anxiety he feels to learn secrets which to others may be of little consequence.

If he hears two persons talking in rather a low tone his ears are turned in that direction so that he may gain all the information possible & he is not unfrequently caught eaves-dropping a thing too mean to be mentioned & he answers (in the place of his residence) all the purposes of a circulating newspaper for it is his delight & employment to convey new particularly that which he obtains dishonestly. If he chances to see a letter either come or go, his feelings are raised to a state of the highest excitement until he ascertains the particular contents. If it comes perhaps it may be to a young lady & the appearance may indicate that it is from some particular friend, the handwriting & the post mark is closely observed & he frequently goes so far as to look in at the end & there read all he can but if it is sent away he must know the place of its destination & the name of the person to whom it is directed & his principal business for several weeks will be to circulate the report that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ & Miss \_\_\_\_\_ are correspondents & most likely are short to married. If those concerned wish to know who started the report & who examined the letter he then assumes the most innocent countenance possible & would be the last one suspected of such an act. And he consoles himself with, "Well, I don't care if I am not found out for I know I am not the only one who has examined superscriptions and postmarks." Poor consolation indeed I think. It is true I never send or receive letter published to the world, neither do I wish those I send or receive to be read by any one except the parties concerned. And you will all join me in this I am quite certain even though you may be distantly related to the curiosities.

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To dragsmen who are out of employment, we invite them to come to the Linden Wood pasture & they shall be liberally rewarded by the gratitude of the ladies for their trouble in removing the corn stalks & brush.

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As we have not mentioned our Admonition Society for several months, I will say in favor of it that it have been the means of some improvement in the young ladies & I think if there was one in town & all would attend conscientiously, it would correct many faults & perhaps be improving to them also. We have had some very apt admonition and I will read one or two to prove it to you. There was one or two of the society, who did not get an admonition for one or two weeks, nor write any on the rest.



When we got the following one, if any lady “feels that she needs admonitions given her, it would be advisable for her to put into practice what she expects to be admonished for even if she should not get them.”

Another member of our society who was not with us much, being admonished for not writing for the society, retorted upon us in the following manner, The young ladies of Linden Wood either commit no glaring faults or they possess the consummate art of concealing them, from our members of the society at least; however this may be I submit whether it is not asking too much to require an admonition from one when none of you will afford any occasion to find fault. We hope that person will not admonish us for publishing this in the Experiment.

Another lady was admonished for disliking to write as much as was necessary in the following. “It has been suggested that it is right that Miss Julia who is a wright indeed, in somethings, should also write, right & not make her writing exercises a mere rite & if she is right skillful in writing this admonition & writes all the words right I shall believe that writing to her will no longer be a rite & many of our members will be “right glad” to know her as a wright in writing.”

The secretary one week had a great many admonitions & they were chiefly hints about the gentlemen & to the surprise of all after all were read she chiefly admonished them in the following, “I am sorry to see that so many have been thinking so much of the young gentlemen & as they are not of much importance to you at present I think you had better be writing & thinking about your behavior and studies.

The examination will soon draw near then such ideas will not be much use to you as you will find to your sorrow. I thank you all for contributing so liberally to the society & hope your thoughts next week may run on your studies for we have not learned very much this week.”

Please do not put a wrong construction on this admonition & think we do not value our gentlemen friends for the truth is quite the reverse.

-Edith

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Wonderful discovery – It has lately been found that the globe is made of pasteboard & after having been knocked over the school room for several years it as last burst asunder & lo and behold it was nothing but paper. Alas, how transient are all earthly beings.

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Discovered – This morning rather early Mr. Nobody who makes it his business to take pencils, paper, sealing wax, &c.

One of the young ladies found him helping him very liberally in her desk. We would advise him to be more cautious for the future of his name will be read out next time.

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The Rev’d. Mr. Elbert is expected to preach in the Methodist church next Sabbath morning at ½ past 10 o’clock.

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The Rev’d. Mr. Smith will preach on the next Sabbath at ½ past ten o’clock at the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bell in the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of St. Charles.

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AMERICAN GIRLS SONG – Selected

Our hearts are with our native land,  
Our song is for her glory;  
Her warrior's wreath is in our hand,  
Our lips breathe out her story,  
Her lofty hills and valleys green,  
And shining bright before us –  
And like a rainbow sign is seen,  
Her proud flag waving o'er us.

There are smiles upon her lips,  
For those who meet free men –  
For glories star knows no eclipse,  
When smiled upon by women.  
For those who brave the mighty deep,  
And scorn the threat of danger,  
We've smiles to cheer, and tears to weep,  
For every ocean ranger.

Our hearts are with our native land,  
Our song is for her freedom;  
Our prayer is for her gallant band,  
Who strikes where honor leads them,  
We love the taintless air we breathe –  
'Tis freedom's endless bower:  
We'll twine for him an endless wreath  
Who scorns the tyrants power.

They tell of France's beauties rare –  
Of Italy's proud daughter;  
Of Scotland's lassies, England's fair,  
And nymphs of Shannon's waters.  
We need not boast their haughty charms,  
Though Lords around them hover;  
Our glory lies in Freedom's arms –  
A Freeman For A Lover!

-o-

Adventures of a Rosebud

My first recollection is of finding myself on a small Rosebush in a wealthy gentleman's garden. Every thing around us was in a state of perfect order and contentment & all seemed arranged to render me happy. For some time I continued in this position & every person that saw me fancied me. One day the gardener passed by & addressed me in the following terms.

“Well, Miss Rose Damasca the pride of my garden, I hope you will long remain in your present position for you are my favorite flower & long have I watched for your beautiful face.” This I must confess made me feel somewhat proud but I thought though they all praise and admire my beauty yet if they could see the thorns I have to contend with they would not envy me. For sometime I remained here daily receiving the kind greetings of the young who never failed to pass me in their evening promenades, & on such an occasion I was doomed to suffer exile from my native home. Two young ladies were as usual taking a private walk and of course their conversation was on some absent one; when one of the young ladies passed before me & in an instant snapped me from my parent stem & handed me to her companion with directions to present me to a certain whose name I forgot in my fright.

My next consciousness was of carelessly dangling from the button hole of a gentleman’s coat who was leisurely promenading down Broadway, St. Charles. As I perceived the danger of my situation a sense of dizziness came over me from which I was momentarily relieved by a passing zephyr which after sporting me for some time in the air let me sink rather unceremoniously on the pavement. How long I remained in that condition I cannot say for as fast as I returned to consciousness I & after some time I fell into a trance in which state I remained many days. I cannot describe my feelings during that period. I could see distinctly all that was passing around me but had not the energy to rouse myself from the lethargic state in which I had fallen. I think while I lay there I saw the young lady who had cruelly caused by misery passing up street, & if I am not mistaken she was in company with the gentleman to whom she had sent me. As she passed I heard her say something about flowers – language &c and also heard her say Rosebud which I am convinced to be none other but myself. The shock was too great for my weakened state and I turned away in disgust & as I turned fell from the pavement into the open street. When I recovered I found myself comfortably situated in a glass of cold water which had such a restoring effect as to bring me to consciousness & partly recover my former beauty. I afterwards found that I had been picked up by a sensitive young lady & placed in the water where I remain at the present time. Whoever shall happen to read this simple tale of my misfortunes I hope will hereafter be more thoughtful & that it will have a tendency to remind them that beauty is fading.

-Ella.

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We are happy to announce good news from General Taylor camps, for particulars please examine the city papers.

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There will be no public examination at Linden Wood next month as it is thought best to defer it until the last Friday in July at which time all interested in the welfare of this school & education in general are respectfully solicited to attend.

Lest the young ladies feel neglected by this arrangement. The teacher takes this opportunity to inform them that they will be examined privately by a committee of teachers on the last Friday of June & can therefore prepare their usual offering of composition with the Violet & Experiment.

