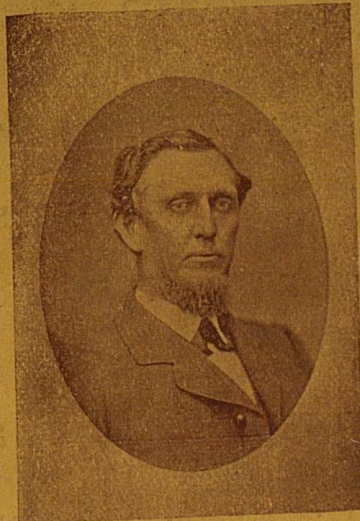


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A MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

LEXINGTON, KY., FEBRUARY, 1901.

From Factory To Fellowship,

AN EDUCATIONAL ROMANCE.

"There are times," says the London Daily News, "when unmitigated fact is stranger, not to say more interesting, than the most romantic pages of sensational fiction. The Oxford University Gazette, published on Friday, December 21, 1900, contains (p. 239) the following brief but not insignificant paragraph:

"Pembroke College.

Joseph Owen, B. A., Balliol College, has been elected to a Fellowship at Pembroke College."

That is all; but to those who know what is behind this brief, but pregnant announcement, the simple words convey a message full of encouragement and hope. The paragraph represents the academic crown of a very remarkable career.

Six years ago Joseph Owen was earning his living in one of the many mills at Oldham. A keen co-operator, he had availed himself year after year of the opportunities of higher education put within his reach by the local Co-Operative Society, acting in conjunction with the Oxford University Extension Delegacy. For a dozen years or so, the Oldham co-operators have arranged for an annual course of extension lectures from the Oxford University authorities. History has formed the staple of these courses; history, not of the dry-as-dust type, but interpreted by men like the Rev. W. Hudson Shaw—men who are at once genuine scholars and gifted with the power of popular exposition. Not that these Oldham lectures were "popular" in anything but a good sense. The superior person who scoffs at University Extension would be amazed if his superiority allowed him to read through the syllabuses of some of the lecture-courses de-

livered by Mr. Hudson Shaw and others at Oldham. Year after year these Lancashire artisans have been fed from Oxford on food that is very far from being milk for babes. Still less does it represent cheap clap-trap, or pandering to popular political tastes, or even utilitarian bread-and-butter information. It is good, hard, gritty "stuff" (as Bacon would have styled it). To transport the Oldham mill-hand to mediæval Italy; to make him read Gibbon and Gregorovius, Bryce and Hallam, Machiavelli (of course in translation), Villari and Horatio Brown, to enable him to realize the thoughts and lives of a Hildebrand and an Innocent III., of S. Francis and Savonarola; to induce him to compare the "commercialism" of Manchester and the "commercialism of Venice; the "democracy" of mediæval Florence with that of modern England—this, surely, is no small achievement, whether for a "superior" don, or a "popular" lecturer. And when it is remembered that these lectures have been delivered to audiences of 400, 500, 600, 800, and even 1,000 students, and that some proportion of these prepare themselves with the lecturer's aid for the independent examination which follows the lecture-course, it will be conceded even by the most hostile critic that the system affords anything but the "cheap smattering masquerade of learning" with which it is occasionally reproached. The examination is conducted as a rule by a resident "don," who has had large experience of examining in the Final Schools of the University.

It was such a one—Mr. A. L. Smith, the well-known Fellow and Tutor of Balliol College—who, with Mr. Hudson Shaw, must be credited with the "discovery" of Mr. Joseph Owen. The exceptional ability of his papers struck both lecturer and examiner. They resolved to avert the "tragedy" of an unappreciated Giotto; a fund was raised among their friends—Mr. Arthur Acland, Mr. Arthur Sidgwick, Mr. M. E. Sadler, and other well-known educationists being among the number of contributors—and it was proposed to Mr. Owen that he should come into residence at Oxford as a matriculated member of the University, and should, if possible, proceed to a de-

gree. The Master and Fellows of Balliol College co-operated from the first in the most cordial, large-hearted, and generous manner, and voted and gave Mr. Owen an exhibition at Balliol. To Oxford he came with his young wife, and the pair established themselves in a modest cottage. Mr. Owen knew no Greek and little Latin. "Smalls," therefore, presented a serious obstacle. But in a very few months the obstacle was surmounted, and Mr. Owen was fairly started on his academic career. Meanwhile he had entered for the Brackenbury Scholarship in Modern History at Balliol College. The "field" for this scholarship is always a large and strong one, from the Scotch Universities, sometimes from the provincial Universities in England, and always from the public schools, great and small, come the best youthful historians of the year. Against such competitors it was hardly to be expected that the "Extension Scholar from Oldham" could hold his own. But, to the delight of his friends, Owen was elected. From this moment the success of the daring experiment was assured.

Then came four years of steady work, of pleasant friendships formed by Owen and his wife, of large participation in the life of the place. The last term had come; and Owen was entering upon it full of hope and quiet confidence in the results of his hard work, so soon to be submitted to the ordeal of the "Schools," when a terrible bereavement fell upon him. His young wife—loved and appreciated by all who knew her—succumbed under a dangerous operation. The shock was a terrible one for all Mrs. Owen's friends, and for her husband, terrible beyond words. Many men would have sunk under such a blow—not soon to rise again. The "Schools," on which everything depended, were less than two months ahead. Could he face the ordeal? The Oldham grit stood him in good stead. By a wonderful effort of will, Owen pulled himself together, went in for the Schools, and with six other men (out of about 120 candidates), was placed in the coveted "First." More than justified were the hopes of his friends, and more than repaid the efforts they had made on his behalf. Election

to a studentship at the London School of Economics, and appointment as a University Extension Lecturer soon followed; a further period of quiet work; and now—against a field which included many of the best historians of recent years—election to an open Fellowship at Pembroke College. For all concerned it is a veritable triumph; primarily, of course, for Joseph Owen himself; hardly less for his devoted friend and first academic teacher, Mr. Hudson Shaw; for Balliol College, which had the wisdom and large-heartedness to cut red-tape and throw convention to the winds; and, finally, for the University Extension delegates, who for years, have been patiently elaborating a system of teaching and examination which has made possible such developments as these.

Fellowships (especially in these days of agricultural depression) are few; men with the brains and grit of an Owen are fewer still; but among the 50,000 students who every year are brought within the network of the wide-spreading institution commonly known as "University Extension," there are men, not a few—and women too—who would make admirable use of such opportunities as fell to Owen's lot, could they be brought within their reach. For a single man to die ignorant who is capable of knowledge—that, as a great seer has said, is indeed a tragedy. This tragedy the University Extension movement is doing much to avert. It is bringing the pearl of great price into the keeping of those who, thirty years ago, could never have dreamt of possessing it. It is brightening dull lives—less perhaps by its mission to the "working man" than its help and encouragement to the tried teacher and the neglected "governess"; it is training the citizen in the best schools of civic patriotism; it is teaching the young manhood and womanhood of England the things that belong to her peace; but its material resources small. It works for the most part in shadow, and it is only now and again that its friends can be expected to make the special effort involved in bringing one of its students from the Extension "centre" to the University itself, much more from work in a Lancashire factory to the Fellowship of an Oxford College.

PATTERSON LITERARY NOTES.

The Patterson Literary Society has been in a prosperous condition during the past term of school. Many are now writing their speeches for the contest which will take place March 26. Messrs. Jackson, Landy, Bullock Gardner, Chipps and Kelly are some that will contest for the Patterson medal.

Since the holidays many ambitious youths have enlisted with the "Pats." Shearer Bros., Ware, Gilmore, Will Kelley, McGinnis and many others.

We greatly missed Ragan Smith and Hundler at the beginning of our work but their places have been filled by Alexander as orator, Jackson as debater and Hoard as declaimer.

We regretted very much to give Mr. E. E. Johnson up. Mr. Johnson was a mechanical student in name but an English one at heart.

Sickness was the cause of his leaving School.

J. C. BERRY.

UNION LITERARY SOCIETY NOTES.

The Union Society seems to be loyal to its motto, which is, "never backward."

Whereas our friend and classmate G. W. Shackleton, has suddenly been called away, on account of the death of his father be it resolved:

"That we most sincerely regret the absence of Mr. Shackleton from our class, and furthermore extend him our sympathies in his sore bereavement."

Be it also resolved: "That a copy of these resolutions be published and a letter of sympathy sent him by the class."

CLASSMATES.

There seems to be more interest manifested in the welfare of the Society just now than at any time this year. Every one seems to say "ever onward."

We now have about sixty-five members; and names are being proposed every meeting night for membership. The juniors and seniors do not seem to take the interest in the society, as the boys below the grade of juniors.

The new men take charge just as though they have been members four or five years. They are to be congratulated, and should be encouraged; that they take such an interest in society work. When the time comes, when new men shall feel at home in our society halls, then we shall see the societies flourish.

We not only need members, and encouragement from the boys, but we need the co-operation of the professors.

Anything that they should say in the interest of the societies, that would influence someone to join, would be a great step in our favor, and would certainly be appreciated by the societies.

WM. GRADY, JR.

The State College Y. M. C. A. has just entered upon a new year, and from the indications it is to be the most successful of its existence.

G. L. Barkley, one of the most popular and honored young men of the College is President and C. R. Gilmore, possessing like qualifications, is Secretary.

Pres. Barkley appointed the following very able committees—Bible Study, Religious Service, Membership, Mission Study, Hand Book. There were eleven members attended the State Convention at Louisville, Feb. 21-24, and all report a grand meeting.

The State Presidential Conference will be held at Danville on March 22-24 and will be attended by most of the officers and chairmen of committees.

On the 15th of this month, Mr. S. D. Gordon, of Cleveland, O., will come to Lexington, and will divide his time between the college associations of the city.

He will give a series of "Quiet Talks to Boys." The meeting will be held in Prof. Zourk's room every evening at 6:30, from the 15th to the 19th. Mr. Gordon is one of the ablest men in the United States and every student should hear him. With the present interest in Association work, the work of next year, when the beautiful new rooms in the Gymnasium are ready for use, should be a great power for good in the college.

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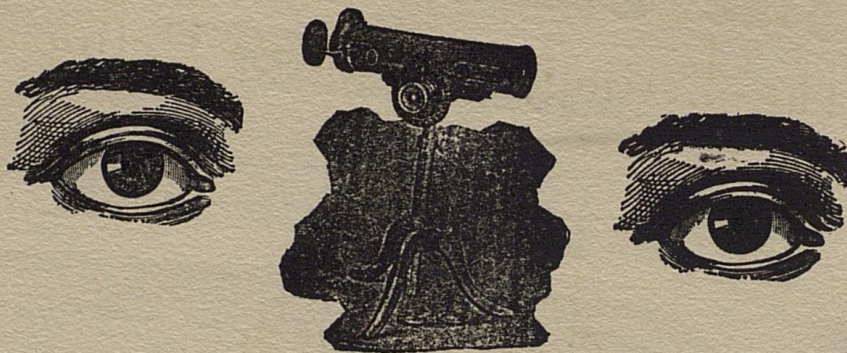
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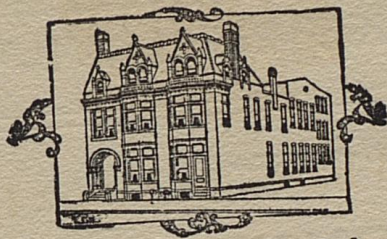
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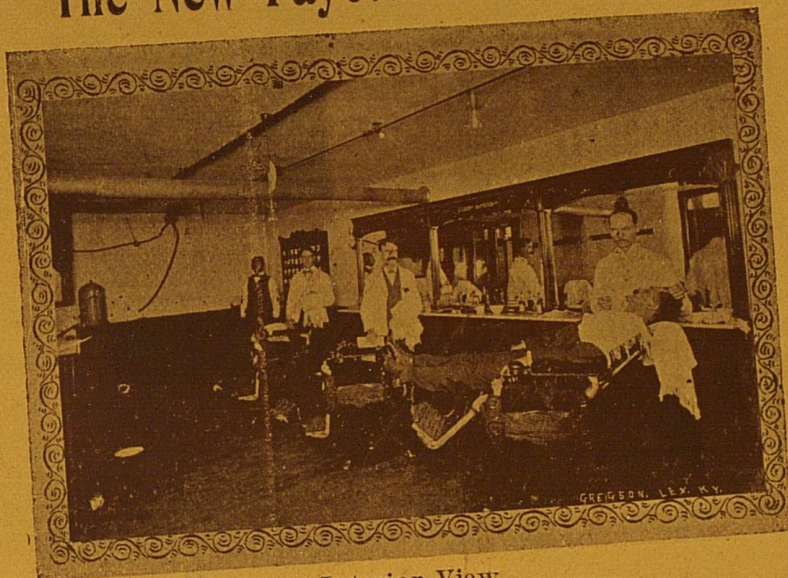


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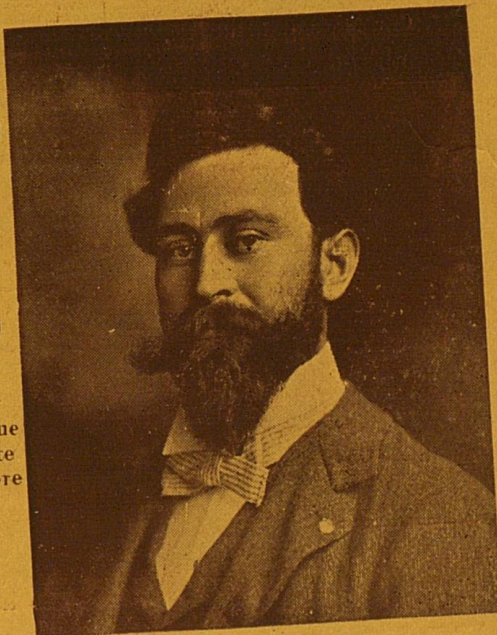
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