

spreads over nature its enchantments. Have we ever on earth met the divine beauty of Raphael's Madonnas? Would any masks modelled from life seem as elevated as the heads of Michael Angelo? Is the springtime in France, Italy or Greece as sweet and perfumed as André Chénier's idyls? Nature, beautiful though she be, fails to have a certain accent and harmony. Art furnishes the imperfect poem which is called the world with a vague souvenir of the heaven from which it has come to us.



### GREETING OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNÆ ASSOCIATION.

When more than a score of years ago our then small number of graduates of the Normal College banded themselves together to form the beginnings of our Associate Alumnæ, in the constitution then framed the reason for our existence was stated in these simple words: "We, the graduates of the Normal College of the City of New York, for the purpose of preserving the friendship and pleasant intercourse begun during our college life, and to advance by every means within our power the best interests of our Alma Mater, do form ourselves into an association, and for our guidance do adopt the following constitution and by-laws."

The keynote to this paragraph was loyalty, the paramount thought love and honor for our Alma Mater. In the earlier years the first half of this paragraph, "preserving the friendship and pleasant intercourse begun during our college life," we gave expression to in our semi-annual reunions. But what responsibility in the years to come the latter half of the paragraph foreshadowed, few realized.

As time has gone on the older ones among us have seen that paragraph grow almost into a volume, and are able to read and re-read between the lines a broader and nobler meaning. We would not be in touch with the spirit of the age in this, the dawn of the twentieth century, if we did not appreciate growing responsibilities, if we made no effort to fulfill our obligations.

Little by little our work has grown, each year the need of new interests presenting themselves, until we stand to-day at the beginning of a new year of active work with a varied and interesting prospectus which I can only briefly present to you this afternoon.

In reviewing this prospectus with me, will not each one mentally decide to offer vital help in at least one department of our work that may appeal specially to you?

Our social "At Homes" are held the second Friday in each

month in the Library. What better opportunity presents itself for meeting the officers of the Association as well as fellow-graduates? Here can be discussed special plans of work and suggestions offered for the carrying out of these plans. The little cards sent with the invitation to-day give the exact dates. Will you not make an effort to attend at least one of these At Homes and bring a recruit with you—one who perhaps loves Alma Mater as well as when she first went out from its doors, but whose interest has lapsed in the many increasing demands on her time?

The Shakespeare Committee, which has furnished us so many intellectual treats for a number of years, has arranged a veritable feast for the coming winter. A course of lessons for the study of Shakespearian and the Greek drama will be given on Monday afternoons under the leadership of Mrs. Harriet Otis Dellenbaugh, who is remembered by many of us as having given a most interesting course of lectures on Browning several years ago.

The Science Class, owing to Mrs. Northrop's illness, was obliged to abandon its field days already planned, but is actively engaged collecting natural science material for distribution in the schools. In this work the Alumnæ School Representative Committee ably co-operates.

The Committee on Child Study have secured for the winter course of lectures a number of well-known speakers. Each lecture will be followed by discussion, and should prove of especial value to teachers.

The Mothers' Round Table, a special feature of the Child Study Committee, is fortunate in having as its lecturer Dr. Henry S. Curtis, from Clarke University, who will give four talks on noteworthy characteristics of children. Discussion will follow.

Lastly, I wish to speak briefly of our philanthropic work, namely: our Kindergarten and Settlement. From the small beginnings of the Kindergarten started in 1890, during Miss Merington's presidency, has grown our Settlement work. It is already an established fact, but its successful carrying out depends entirely on your efforts. As perhaps is known to most of you, Alumnæ House is situated on East Seventy-second Street, a densely populated district, and if any one doubts the possibilities of the neighborhood a walk through Seventy-second Street east will convince even the most skeptical—perhaps even oppress one with the magnitude of the undertaking.

I cannot speak too highly of those who give their time at Alumnæ House teaching classes, helping in the Library or devoting evenings to the boys' and girls' clubs. We need more helpers, but

if you cannot give us time, will you not aid us financially? The little from the many, regular systematic giving of small sums, will be of the greatest value in placing our finances on a solid basis. Only as we Alumnæ give of our means can the House be truly called Alumnæ House. A visit there and a careful reading of the bulletin of the classes planned for the winter will convince you that we are at least taking steps in the right direction for the doing of true settlement work.

To keep us in touch with the different committee meetings, Alumnæ House news and Alumnæ affairs in general, our paper, *THE ALUMNÆ NEWS*, is the herald. This winter we have an added attraction, a College department, which a graduate of '98 will edit. Its small price brings it within the reach of all, and it should have a wider circulation.

We are all busy women, but it is ever the busy ones to whom we look for earnest, concentrated effort. A personal interest in one of our departments of work may prove a real source of relaxation.

In reinforcing our ranks of workers each year and enlisting the services of volunteers, we turn naturally to those who have but recently graduated, and to whom as yet have not come many interests, especially to those who have just finished their college course and are starting out to put into practice principles inculcated the past four years—to you, the class of '98, we would especially appeal for an active, helpful support. Thus you will show first of all your loyalty to Alma Mater, cement college ties and friendships, and, best of all, actively enter the great field of work not only for self-benefit, but for the bettering of those whose lines have not fallen in as pleasant places as yours.

In entering upon my duties as President of the Associate Alumnæ, while appreciating the honor conferred, I feel to the utmost the responsibilities the office bears with it, for the carrying out successfully of the work so ably planned and carried forward by my predecessors. It is always more difficult to maintain a standard of excellence than to create it—that is the problem confronting me, and it is my earnest wish to fulfill to the utmost of my ability my obligations to you. The strength of an organization is not in numbers, but in individuals, and the efficiency of officers of value only when sustained by each and every individual member.

The measure of my success lies with you. It seems as though the time had come, not so much for reaching out and seeking new interests, but rather for the conserving and strengthening of those already established, endeavoring to bring them nearer to perfec-

tion. My one thought in undertaking the work of the next two years is how best to serve faithfully and loyally, not mine alone, but your Alma Mater.

### PRESIDENT HUNTER'S LETTER.

(Read by Mrs. Gibson at the Alumnæ Reunion.)

NORMAL COLLEGE,  
New York, Oct. 29, 1898.

MRS. KASSON C. GIBSON, President Associate Alumnæ, Normal College, New York City.

*Dear Mrs. President:*

Owing to the death of my dear friend, Mr. S. S. Packard, whose funeral I must attend as a pall-bearer, it will be impossible for me to be with you this afternoon. How much I regret my absence you will understand when I mention the fact that I have not missed a meeting of the Associate Alumnæ since its organization.

It has been my custom every year in a short address to render to the Associate Alumnæ a brief account of my stewardship; to state what progress the College has made, what changes and alterations have taken place, and what are its hopes and purposes for the future. It was my intention this year to state more in detail our aims in connection with the new educational conditions and problems; and since I cannot be present with you in the body, although always with you in spirit, if you will permit it, I would like to make my little speech by proxy—that is to say, through the voice of the President of the Association.

The physical changes during the year have been the conversion of the old calisthenium into a large library, divided into two nearly equal parts. To the eastern division has been transferred the Alumnæ Library, together with the scientific and other apparatus which your Association has so generously furnished for the benefit of your younger sisters. This room will be your educational home—the headquarters of your various committees. At the same time, it goes without saying, both divisions of this new library will always be at your disposal. It is the intention of the Executive Committee, under the able direction of its chairman, the Hon. Jacob W. Mack, to equip the library with the most approved appliances.

Recitation-room No. 30 has been converted into a botanical laboratory to enable Miss Isaacs to give the best instruction in this most beautiful of all the inductive sciences; and we intend to turn lecture-room B into a laboratory, in which Dr. Wilson will teach physiology objectively. When the latter shall have been com-