

THE INDIAN HELPER

A WEEKLY LETTER

—FROM THE—
Indian Industrial School, Carlisle, Pa.

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—CLASS 1900.

COMMENCEMENT IN A NUTSHELL.

Through the Eyes
of the Man-on-the-band-stand.

On the principle of "Best first, always best" we will begin with the last day—Commencement Day proper, the greatest day, in some respects that Carlisle has ever experienced.

The heaviest snow of the season was falling as the people from town and vicinity gathered to hear the graduating exercises, held as usual in the large gymnasium. Those from Washington and other points at a distance had arrived the day before.

On the platform sat many of the distinguished guests, including Senator Thurston, of Nebraska, Chairman of the Senate Indian Committee, Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, Senator Quarles, of Iowa, Senator Bard, of California, members of the same committee; Representatives Eddy, of Minnesota; Lacey, of Iowa; Stevens, of Texas;

Sheldon, of Michigan; Thayer, of Massachusetts—all members of the Indian Committee of the House of Representatives; Delegate Dennis Flynn, of Oklahoma; Dr. M. E. Gates, Secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners; General John Eaton, ex-Commissioner of Education, Rev. Dr. Paton, missionary from the Hebrides; Governor Brady, of Alaska; Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, Commissioner of Education of Alaska; Miss Estelle Reel, Superintendent of United States Indian Schools, and a number of others.

The opening Overture by the Band—Tannhauser, was listened to attentively and was enthusiastically applauded by the visitors.

Prayer was offered by Reverend Dr. Paton, the venerable and venerated Hebrides missionary, whose long white locks and calm, sweet features added impressiveness to the fervent petition offered.

The words of the school song, which followed, were composed by Elaine Goodale Eastman, now with us, to which Robert Hood

The Indian Helper

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—AT THE—

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BY INDIAN BOYS.

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Miss M. Burgess, Supt. of Printing.

Do not hesitate to take the HELPER from the Post Office for if you have not paid for it some one else has. It is paid for in advance.

Susie Yupe, Sophia Americanhorse and Louisa Rogers are the new pupil teachers.

Mrs. Crawford, of Chambersburg, has been visiting Miss Hill. She takes Mary Hunter home with her to fill Cynthia Lambert's place. Cynthia is now a Junior.

There are some very great and natural born kickers in the Indian service, but Carlisle possesses the greatest of them all in the person of Frank Hudson. —[Chemawa American.

It will be remembered that the Red Man for March is promised a few days later than the usual date—the 15th, so as to get in the Commencement proceedings. The current issue is now mailing.

The Band held an informal social in the Y. M. C. A. room on Tuesday night this being their last week here previous to their concert tour through the East and West. All had a very enjoyable time.

Louisa Juan, Pima, who came last summer from Arizona, died on Tuesday afternoon, of consumption. The funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon. All mourn the loss of a school-mate.

The 36 members of the class 1900 have disposed of themselves as follows: Misses Poodre, Lane, Ryan, Clark, Harris, B. Pierce, Doctor, N. Pierce, and Messrs. Murdock, Beale, Seneca, Miller, J. Teeple and Frank Teeple, have gone to their homes in the west and in New York; Miss Yupe, is teaching here, temporarily. Miss McCarthy has gone to live in Washington, with Representative Eddy; Miss Barada, will live with a family in Kansas City; Messrs. Lufkins, Jones, Welch, Abraham, Isaac and Warren, are with the

Band on its tour; Mr. Muscoe has gone to Bucyrus, Ohio, to work; Messrs. Roberts and Scholder have commenced Commercial college, in Carlisle. Misses Ferris, Wolfe, Anderson, Turkey, Silverheels, and Messrs. Horne and Allen, have gone to country homes for a time. Miss Cornelius and Mr. Carson are still here; Miss Kennedy has gone to California to take a position at Hoopa Valley.

Zitkala Sa's rendition of "The Famine" from Hiawatha, at the Memorial Association in Washington, last Friday took the audience by storm. "The recitation was a magnificent effort, and the young girl was most enthusiastically applauded," says the Star. The Post says "she recited in a very capable manner. She was enthusiastically applauded and was compelled to return to the stage to bow her acknowledgments. At the conclusion of the program she was taken among the audience and introduced to Miss Longfellow, the poet's daughter."

Some specimens of Academic work done by our pupils and sent to Miss Botsford, who is teaching in the public schools of Ft. Dodge, Iowa, were shown to the superintendent and the high school teachers, and they became very much interested in them. The Ft. Dodge schools have been closed for a short time on account of small-pox. Miss Botsford does not seem to fear, as very strict measures are being taken to keep the epidemic under control.

"I am in finest Company, every one of the soldiers treat me pretty well, so I make lots friends in the 15th Infantry. I never got trouble with yet since I been in my regiment. We have lots duty here on this island. I saw four of them Carlisle boys, last two weeks ago, and I was very glad to see all of them. I like it very much, my regiment, officers all nice men.

URIAH GOODCANE.

Rev. Methvin, Superintendent of the Methodist Mission School, Anadarko, Okla. arrived last Friday, with ten pupils—4 girls and 6 boys representing Delaware, Seminole, Kiowa and Comanche tribes. Mr. Methvin has the broadest possible ideas on Indian education, and believes in giving the rising Indian every advantage of environment and condition. It is refreshing to talk with such a missionary.

Perry H. Laravie is very thankful for what Carlisle has done for him, and so expresses himself, in his letter renewing for the HELPER. "I am very glad to say that little education I receive at Carlisle is able me to do many things while I am living, and thank a many thanks to our school father."

Forward, March!

The class of 1900 is the largest that Carlisle has turned out—36.

Mrs. Cook goes with the Band as a chaperon for Zitkala Sa.

Susan Gibbs and Mary Bary have come in from their country homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Kneib, of Erie, Pa. were guest of Miss C. Smith, on Monday.

Mrs. Senseney, of Chambersburg, was with us on a little visit to her daughter.

Dr. Eastman has gone to Philadelphia on school business and will come home by Washington, D. C.

The new teachers—Misses Robbins and Jones have taken Nos. 2 and 3 school rooms, respectively.

Miss Richenda Pratt returned to Wilson College, on Monday. Miss Hipple, her guest, departed the same day.

Miss Sara Cannon, of Bridgeville, Delaware, and Miss Mary Hitner, of Pittston, Pa., are guests of Miss Nana Pratt.

Five of the class of 1900 were printers—John Teeple, George Welch, John Warren, Charles Roberts and Katie Silverheels.

To-night Misses Cutter and Hill, the Invincibles; Misses Cochran and C. Smith, Standards; Miss Forster and Mrs. Cook, the Susans.

Zenia Tibbetts and Daisy Wasson are spending a week or so with us during the absence of Miss Edge from her home at Downingtown.

Some who have been getting the HELPER free for certain reasons will receive them no more in that way. We hope they will miss the little letter, and send the required amount for a year.

Mr. Quincy Eaton, of Washington, arrived Wednesday, and went to Philadelphia yesterday, in the interest of the Band. He has been appointed treasurer.

Miss Ely's hands are full just now placing over a hundred and fifty boys and girls in country homes—the first Spring outing party. Three times as many will go later.

Seventy-three Freshmen and Sophomores entered the Junior class and fifty-one Juniors went into the Senior seats on Friday, and corresponding promotions have occurred all down the line.

Sara Kennedy, 1900, was full of hopes when she said her good-bye's last Wednesday as she was about starting for Hoopa Valley, California, to take the position of Seamstress in the Government school there. Miss Kennedy will have an eighteen-mile mule ride after she leaves the ship that carries her up the coast from San Francisco.

The Standards held a very interesting meeting last Friday evening. Some of the class of 1900 made their farewell addresses, and among them Frank Beale, whose speech was full of enthusiasm.

John Garrick, who recently entered the United States Navy, and is stationed for a time at League Island, near Philadelphia, will get a class letter that may please his heart some lonely hour. His letter to the class was greatly appreciated.

The lecture by Dr. Prince of Dickinson College, on Wednesday night, subject "The First Secretary of War," was princely and teeming with anecdote and useful information. Those who failed to hear him missed a great treat. Henry Knox was a wonderful man and we know him now better than ever before.

Agent and Mrs. H. C. Baird, of Santee Agency, South Dakota, Nebraska, arrived on Wednesday, bringing 7 pupils for Carlisle. The Santee boys and girls were delighted to see their friends. Guy Jones' father is issue clerk at the agency and has been for 20 years. He is a good neighbor and friend.

The Band leaves to-day for Philadelphia on its tour in the States. To night and to-morrow they play in Philadelphia. Sunday will be spent in Trenton, and on Monday a matinee will be given in Trenton. The same evening a concert will be given in Bristol, and on Tuesday evening, the 27th they play again in Trenton. On Wednesday night, the 28th, New York City; Thursday 29th, Newark; Friday, the 30th, Brooklyn. This is as far as the Man-on-the-band-stand has the dates.

On Saturday last, the Band-boys were the invited guests of the President of the United States to play at the White House, Mrs. McKinley selecting the numbers rendered. The latter was delighted with the music, and spoke in high praise of the performers. At the same time Miss Zitkala Sa, recited for Mrs. McKinley, and received from her hands a large bunch of beautiful English violets, which she prizes very highly.

The Band's playing at the Longfellow Memorial Association, in Washington, last Friday, was well received by the audience. At the close of the exercises the distinguished Chauncey Depew made a motion, "declaring that the great audience present, including the President of the United States and several members of the Cabinet express their delight and satisfaction at the fine musical program rendered by the Carlisle Indian School Band, which was enthusiastically adopted."

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S ENIGMA: Keep the grass off.

Bowers put music. This song rendered by 700 voices, accompanied by the Band in modulated tones was marked with spirit and a touch of pathos, especially these lines so appropriate to the occasion:

“Out of the darkness behind us,
Into the light before;
Out from the long separation,
In by the open door.

Out of the tribal fetters;
Into the nation's arms, etc., etc.

The graduating orations interspersed with music and recitations followed. All of these, together with the masterly address by Dr. Gates before presenting the diplomas, and the splendid speeches which followed will appear in the current number of the Red Man now mailing.

To go back to the beginning:

The Commencement of 1900 was ushered in by Dr. M. W. Stryker's lecture before the Literary Societies on Tuesday evening; mention of which was made last week.

On Wednesday at noon a special train from Washington brought the Congressional party and others from the Capital City. There were more Congressmen this year than for several years past, and most of the Indian Committees of the Senate and House were western gentlemen.

The delegation of farm patrons from Bucks County, and other sections of this State and New Jersey was not so large as in former years there being but about 35 or 40, all of whom lodged in town at boarding houses specially provided.

A number of Indians from New York and a few from the west were also present. A complete list of the visitors will be given in the Red Man.

The Band gave its annual concert on the Bandstand between 12:30 and 1:30, by which time the visitors had partaken of lunch and had gone to the gymnasium to witness the gymnastic drill. This is always interesting, and no little admiration and surprise at the perfection and grace of movement in the military drill, and the various exercises with dumbbells, Indian clubs, wands and extension work, was expressed.

The industries as carried on in the shops, laundry, sewing-room, bakery and elsewhere, were inspected. The Indian blacksmith at his anvil, the painter with his brush, the carpenter at his bench, and the harness-maker with his horse, the shoe-maker and his wax-end, the tinner at his soldering-pot, the printer at his case and press, the plasterer with his trowel, the plumber at the pipes, the engineer at the boilers, the ironing girl at the

mangle, the washer-woman at the centrifugal wringer, the seamstress with her measuring tape, the cook at the soups, the trained nurse in the hospital ward, the dining-room waitress at her table, all received due attention and were judged according to worth.

On Wednesday evening, the usual “class meeting” as Major Pratt calls them was held. Most of the inspiring speeches by distinguished visitors made at this meeting are quite fully reported for the Red Man. There was a large crowd present and the occasion was one long to be remembered.

It was at this meeting that Zitkala Sa recited the famine scene in Hiawatha, surprising her audience with an artistic rendition that was delightful to hear. A Dakota girl, in Dakota costume of beaded and fringed buckskin, with her long black locks combed very smoothly over the ears and braided in 2 braids, she was decidedly picturesque and typical in style, and the recital from start to finish would have satisfied Longfellow's highest ideal of native grace and eloquence.

On Thursday morning the academic department was inspected. Throngs of visitors crowded the various classes, beginning with the interesting Sloyd room, the attractive art room, the normal department, and on through the 14 rooms and grades successively till the highest room occupied by the class about to graduate was reached. There were interesting exercises in all the class rooms, and in several, discussions arose through the questioning of the visitors. The Porto Rican Tariff bill was intelligently discussed, the Senators and Representatives asking members of the various classes what they thought should be done.

General Eaton conducted the party and explained as they went along, which added interest. In Miss Cutter's room Rev. James Fraser, for several years a missionary in the south west, asked how many church members there were in the graduating class, to which a large number responded by raising hands. He said he had asked the question, because a returned Carlisle graduate had led a murderous raid down in Arizona while he was there. When asked the name of the leader he could not tell, but said he was an Apache, and the old Apache Kid lie so many times refuted by those who know the truth of the story was again resurrected, but Major Pratt took the occasion to state that the story was an infamous falsehood, that Apache Kid was not a graduate of Carlisle, and that it had been proven that he had never attended any school.

To sum it all up, Commencement of 1900 was a great success in every sense of the word, while Carlisle and the ideas she promulgates in the line of Indian education has taken another grand, big step forward.