

## MOREHEAD NORMAL SCHOOL.

A SKETCH.

The violation of the Sixth Commandment in Rowan county led to the establishment of a school in its county seat—Morehead. The school had its inception in the purpose of Gen. Wm. T. Withers, of Lexington, Ky., to found a school for mountain boys and girls. This christian gentleman annually gave \$500 to the support of the school until his death, after which for two years the gift was continued by his estate. The school began with one pupil in attendance in October, 1887. Since that time it has steadily increased in power and efficiency. It has been a potent factor in the redemption of the community from lawlessness. It has aided in making Rowan county and Morehead peaceable and law-abiding places. In all this it has fulfilled the high purpose of its founder.

General Withers selected the State Board of the Christian church of Kentucky as the organization through which the funds for the school should pass and by which the school should be conducted. The first step in the organization of the school was the employment of F. C. Button and his mother, Phoebe E. Button, in September, 1887. The new epoch in the school history began on July 31, 1900, when it passed under the control of the C. W. B. M., a national organization of the women of the christian church. This change gave the school new vigor and a great impetus forward. Under the control of this vigorous organization the future of the school is sure to be a splendid one of growth and service.

In the year 1830, the grounds

and money for the first school building were given by Judge Thomas F. Hargis, of Louisville, who was raised in Morehead. In 1894, F. C. Button was appointed to raise funds for the erection of a school building, and dormitory. Robert Hodson, of Oquawka, Ill., gave a sufficient amount to insure the erection of the dormitory, and the building was named in honor of his daughter. The rest of the money was secured from the Christian church of Kentucky and from the citizens of the town. Under the present management both buildings have been enlarged and refurnished; the grounds have been supplied with stone walks, and the equipment of the school has been made superior in every respect. A new building, combining industrial and dormitory facilities, is in course of erection. It is to be a handsome building of brick and stone, and will cost \$10,000. Other additions to the plant will be made from time to time as needed.

The school has been fortunate in the selection of its teachers.

Professor Button, who is known and loved for his worth, has been with the school since its origin, with the exception of three years spent with the school and church at Corbin. Of his mother, Mrs. P. E. Button, one who is qualified to speak, says: "She was one of the best women I have ever known; I have never seen her superior or her equal. In her movements among the people, in their homes, by kind words and deeds she became known and loved by all in the community. Not to be profane, she was positively angelic in her character and disposition." Other skilled instructors have been connected with the school. At present with Professor Button there are E. W. Mc-

Diarmid, Miss L. Etta Rannells and Cora A. Hook. These teachers are college-trained men and women and prepared for their responsible position. The faculty is stronger now than it has ever been.

The school is beautifully situated. An extensive campus at the base of a towering ridge, with the buildings outlined against the dark background of the pine-clad hills, presents a most beautiful appearance. Morehead is a center of mountain life and enterprise. No town in Eastern Kentucky has a larger territory tributary to it. It is the railroad center and distributing point for many counties. Situated on a through line of railroad and within easy access of mountain towns and homes, it is admirably adapted for the site of a school whose aim is to reach a large number of mountain boys and girls. Morehead is the gateway to Eastern Kentucky, and is destined to be the Athens of the hill country.

There are features of our school work that remain yet to be perfected. There is great

need of an industrial department in which poor pupils may secure an education without being pauperized in the effort. The dormitory must become a model home for the mountain girls in which, aside from their academic studies, they may learn under competent supervisors the domestic arts. It is part of the aim of the school to send boys and girls away from their environment to one of our colleges, from which they can come back thoroughly equipped to assume positions of leadership in the mountain life. And with all this training, a most important part of the work is the study of the Bible for each student every day.

The future is full of promise.

There has been a most gratifying increase in the attendance. The dormitory has more boarders than ever before. Books and papers for the library are being donated. There is a great interest in the school and its future. Every sign points to a constantly increasing growth until Morehead shall become the educational center of all Eastern Kentucky. Let the story of the school's growth and efficiency spread until her halls shall be thronged with pupils, even as the throngs gathered in the distant past when the rumor spread, "He is in the house."

### TO TEACHERS.

DEAR FRIENDS:

Knowledge like the manna of old must needs be fresh. The successful teacher is always the eager learner. When he has nothing new to impart to his pupils, just then his influence and authority begin to wane. Aspiration, contentment, is the watchword of the age. The student should never be content with his knowledge. The teacher should never rest satisfied with past achievements. It is a sad time in the life of anyone when he says, "There is no more beyond." New triumphs bring us into new struggles. To Alexander the Orontes suggested the Euphrates, and the Euphrates the Indus, and the Indus the Ganges. Always it must be on and on. To hold what we have, we must have more. If we cease to gain, a retrograde movement sets in. In this age of progress the one who ceases to grow, to advance, is lost. Particularly is this true of the teacher. If there is anyone whose horizon of knowledge should be constantly expanding, it is the teacher into whose care the educa-

tion of children is given. Throughout his seven ages the cry of the teacher should be, "I still learn!" I still learn!" Cato, at the age of eighty, began the study of Greek. Let his example inspire us! The teaching of arithmetic is greatly facilitated by a knowledge of algebra, and an acquaintance with calculus is still greater aid. Why should a teacher of arithmetic rest content until he has added these higher mathematical branches to his stock of knowledge? "Then you teach spelling. Do you know anything of the syntax and vocabularies of the languages from which the English tongue sprang? Not to know something about Latin and Greek is to miss a great help in the teaching of spelling. And so it is with reading. He who knows how to read with appreciation the masterpieces of our English and American authors is thoroughly qualified to teach the simple pieces of our readers. It is so with all our common school branches. It is an antiquated idea that a knowledge of the three R's is a sufficient working fund of knowledge. To the teacher every bit of knowledge that he can acquire is of great value to him. Every new branch of learning which he begins to study is a gateway to a larger career of usefulness. Each mastery of a subject is an enlargement of vision. Such mastery, as Lincoln said of the crushing of the Rebellion, is a "big job," but we remember that the easy things are of little worth. Weeds and briars are the spontaneities. The acquisition of a foreign tongue is a task for years, but as the Emperor Charles V once said, "to learn a new language is to acquire a new soul." To master a science is more than the taking of a walled city.

The message then of this letter to teachers may be expressed in the word "aspire!" If these

words shall serve to make you dissatisfied with your present knowledge and eager for more, their purpose will have been fulfilled. Restlessness in a student is the great desideratum. Continue your studies! Lay your old books aside only when you have mastered them and have purchased new ones. Explore new fields. Begin the study of something about which your present knowledge is nil. Never cease your pursuit of wisdom until you are ready to order your burial robes. This eager, passionate pursuit of learning is the ear-mark of a great teacher. By this ye shall know him.

The teachers of Rowan county and adjoining counties are particularly fortunate in the opportunity they have of furthering their quest for knowledge. The location of the Morehead Normal School makes it easy for them to enter upon the study of higher branches and at the same time to review the common school branches preparatory to examination. Not all communities in the state are thus favored. The attendance of teachers at this school during the past year was large and gratifying and the work done by them in the Normal department was most successful. This year a great increase in attendance is desired and this letter is sent out in the hope that you, too, may be induced to attend. The teacher will find that special attention is given to his needs. New classes are formed for them. Everything possible is done to make the stay of the earnest and diligent teacher a pleasant and profitable one. The next term begins early in the new year. Systematic review work will be taken up soon after. This is a most excellent opportunity for the teacher who desires by study to enlarge the sphere of his usefulness, to more

equip himself for his vacation. Do not fail to embrace this opportunity. There are special privileges and advantages this year. Music, oratory, public speaking, composition, bible study, reviews. Can you afford to miss them?

E. W. McDIARMID.

### Laying of the Corner Stone.

The laying of the corner stone of the new college building of the Morehead Normal School took place Wednesday with impressive ceremonies, Miss Sublett, of Lexington, opening the service with a scripture reading, and prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Clarke, of Mt. Sterling. An address on behalf of the citizens of Rowan county was made by Judge James E. Clarke, of Morehead, then a song was rendered by the school, entitled, "As Goes America So Goes the World." President Jenkins, of the Kentucky University, followed with an address, and speeches were also made by Prof. Button, principal of the school; Miss Judson, of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Harrison, of Lexington. Miss Moses, of Indianapolis, spoke in behalf of the Christian Women's Board of Missions, under whose auspices the school is managed. The school then sang "Beautiful Flag," after which the corner stone was laid with documents and photographs of many of the leading men and women who contributed to the school. There were visitors from Louisville, Lexington, Mt. Sterling, Indianapolis and Ohio, and all were hospitably entertained. The school enrolled, last year, nearly three hundred pupils.—Courier-Journal.

### Normal School Notes.

Four new students have enrolled this week. The outlook is encouraging for a very large attendance during the winter term.

The parents and friends, who gathered in the primary room last Friday to examine the work done by Miss Hook and her pupils, were delighted with the improvement that had been made during the year.