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Dickinson's New Era.

Mamie Hensel Bursk.

Florence Hensel Bursk

Class 1905

8p.

"Scion of a hundred years,
Noble Dickinsonia!

Witness of our smiles and tears,
Noble Dickinsonia!

Age shall not thine honors dim.
Till Death comes with visage grim
We will chant thy loving hymn,
Noble Dickinsonia!"

So sing everywhere the sons of Dickinson—
men of letters, teachers, preachers, lawyers,
doctors, statesmen, college professors, and college
presidents.

The last twelve months have seen the dawn-
ing of a new era for our alma mater. After years
of continuous toil and worry the trustees are be-
ginning to find within their reach opportunities
for the improvement of the college, and for her

development into the Dickinson of our dreams.

Scarcely a year ago things were looking black for the old college. The endowment fund was inadequate; there were troublesome debts that it seemed would never be paid; and while the shoulders of our president were bowed beneath this burden there came the great disaster of the Denny Hall fire.

Then indeed it seemed as if the last hopes of Dickinson had been reduced to ashes. But, as someone has said, "It is always darkest just before the dawn." So it has proved in this case.

The news of the calamity touched the hearts, and, better still, the pocket-books of the sons and friends of the college.

And how is it today? The endowment fund is growing, slowly, it is true, but none the less

surely; the debts have been paid; additions and improvements have been made to the preparatory school building; and a new Denny Hall, larger and more beautiful than its predecessor, is nearing completion. Dickinson is on her feet again.

But there is still much to be desired for the old college. Always has she occupied a prominent place among colleges of her rank, even among universities. Her record for scholarship can be excelled by no college in this section of the country. In athletics she is holding her own wherever she goes. But in one respect Dickinson is sadly lacking. She needs a technical course. Civil, mechanical, and mining engineering courses should be added to her curriculum if Dickinson is to

keep up with the times and to hold her place among Eastern colleges.

In the articles entitled "Dickinson in 1950," etc., which hold such a prominent place in the *Microcosm*, the devoted alumnus who returns to his alma mater after years of absence always describes the medical school, the dental school, the theological school, and dear only knows what besides, that have been added to the college proper. But such a future is hardly the future of which we dream for Dickinson. We cannot imagine her a university — we have too great a faith in the importance of the college to wish her to be anything else; but we do believe that an engineering course is necessary if she is to maintain her reputation.

Then there is another thing to be considered.

Dickinson is a coeducational college. If she wishes to remain such, something should be done to render the life of the college girls more complete. The women of Dickinson are well aware that there is a sentiment among some of the college authorities against co-education. We cannot understand why this should be so. If Dickinson had ever been threatened with becoming like Syracuse; if there had been any danger that the women would outnumber the men; then it might be more comprehensible. We do not complain in the least because the number of women students is kept so small, although an increase in the number would doubtless tend to make the college life of those who are here much more pleasant; in fact we do not really complain a-

about anything; but there are two or three things which we think might enhance our comfort.

In the first place, Dickinson should have a better dormitory for the women. The building used as such at present is manifestly not adapted for that purpose. What we should have is a large, airy dormitory, built somewhat on the order of the preparatory school building, with wide, well lighted halls, broad stairways, and comfortable rooms. It should contain, besides sleeping rooms, reception room, dining-hall, etc., a reading room, well-stocked with daily and weekly papers and current magazines. It should be surrounded by good sized grounds, a portion of which should be set apart for tennis and other outdoor games.

In connection with the dormitory there should be a gymnasium. The women of the college pay the same athletic fee as the men. Why, then, should they not enjoy the same privileges? Of course, they are admitted to all the games. And they can use the college gymnasium; but what do they gain from that? If they go to the gymnasium at all they must go at certain stated hours, and only once or twice a week; and the chances are that those certain hours are the most inconvenient ones. If the girls had a gymnasium of their own, to which they could go whenever they wished; if they could partake of that athletic side of life which means so much to the college student; they would be happier, and Dickinson would gain in repu-

tation as a co-educational institution.

There are probably other improvements that would be of great value to our college, but the need of them is not so urgent. We hope that the generosity manifested by the friends of the college during this last year will prove to be only the advance guard of greater gifts, which shall make possible the Dickinson of our dreams.

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