

Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. I. No. 8.

PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS.

December 1897.

Trees of the Island

Originally the Island was covered over with trees with the exception of the marshy portions; but after the death of her husband, Mrs. Thompson having returned to England with her son, the Island was claimed for a time as a part of Dorchester and the citizens were allowed to cut wood here in the winter, coming across on the ice, (which used to freeze much more solidly than it does now.) Of course under such treatment the trees rapidly disappeared, and when the Island was purchased by the school in 1832 there were practically no trees here.

The first one planted after that was a mulberry, planted by Rev. E. M. P. Weld, who was acting superintendent. The oldest trees are two acacias near the main building. They are between fifty and sixty years old. The largest tree is an old elm upon the boys playground, also near the main building. It is a very handsome tree, perfectly symmetrical, and its wide-spreading branches cast such a pleasant shade in summer that no place is more popular for a quiet talk or the company of a good book than the circular seat surrounding the old elm's base.

The principal trees are as follows: acacia, apple; birch, beech, catalpa, cherry, elm, fir, balsam, hackmatack, hemlock, horse-chestnut, larch, linden, rock maple, soft maple, silver-leaf maple, mountain ash, English oak, scrub oak, Austrian pine, Norway pine, pear, plum, poplar, quince, and spruce. The shrubs are, sumac, bay-berry, lilac, snowball, rosebush and grape-vine.

The principal plantations are at either end of the Island and are named Lyman and Bowditch

groves, from the gentlemen by whose kindness they were planted, General Theodore Lyman, great uncle of our Manager, Francis Shaw, and Mr. J. Ingersoll Bowditch, father of our Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Bowditch. Lyman grove, at the south end, consists of three hundred and thirty-nine trees, mainly oak and larch, while Bowditch grove at the north end contains three hundred and forty-six trees, oak, maple and spruce.

Other plantations are Oak Knoll, including thirty trees; Spruce Ridge, including eighty-eight trees and the orchard of about three hundred trees, comprising, apple, pear, plum, quince and cherry. One of the loveliest of many beautiful scenes on our Island is that of the orchard trees covered with blossoms in the springtime.

The Nursery contains four hundred and twenty-five trees of numerous varieties, the grove between the avenues has about two hundred and fifty trees and our front lawn numbers one hundred trees of various kinds, mostly shade trees, and we have many rose bushes.

Last spring thirty small maples about eight feet high were set out in a plantation to the west of the farm house and a number of small spruces were put out on Spruce Ridge. The spring before, sixty-two maples and catalpas were planted in two rows on the west side of the playground.

The total number of trees is about 2500.

Many trees have been set out in the past few years, and we are taught to bear in mind what pleasure they will give to those who are to come after us, and how much more beautiful they can make our island home.

KING L. DAVIS.

Thanksgiving Day

November twenty-fifth was Thanksgiving Day as you all know. When the morning dawned the boys were looking to see how the weather was. The steamer Pilgrim went over to the Point in the morning to get the graduates and fifteen came. About half past ten the boys that had bundles went up and got them. There were about twenty-five boys who received bundles and I was one. At a quarter of twelve we had dinner and the tables had lots of good things on them among which were oranges, bananas, turkeys, cranberry sauce, celery, onions, etc. I guess all of the boys were thankful for such a good Thanksgiving Day.

WALTER L. CARPENTER.

Rugby Game

Thanksgiving morning fifteen graduates came to dinner and to spend the day. In the afternoon they played a game of rugby with the first eleven of the school. The game was very interesting. The graduates played well and in the first half scored a touch down but failed to kick the goal and in the second half the school team scored a touch down and kicked the goal. The score was six to four in favor of the School. As none of the players were hurt, they played another half game. This time the score was four to nothing in favor of the graduates. Brooks, Blanton and Galeucia played well for the graduates and B. Gerry, Mason and Pulson for the School.

HENRY MCKENZIE.

Electing Officers of Cottage Row

One week previous to the election of officers, we have a meeting of all the citizens of Cottage Row and the mayor appoints a committee of three; the citizens also choose one. It is the duty of these committees to prepare the ballot. They find out what citizens are willing to take offices and make out a list of their names and hand it to the clerk who sees that it is printed. If a citizen wishes an office and fails to get a nomination he makes out a "nomination paper" stating what office he wishes and gets six citizens to sign it and his name is then put on the ballot with the rest. Usually when a boy wants

an office he gets on the right side of one of the committees. In electing officers we use the Australian ballot system. At the appointed time the ballots are passed out and each voter comes up separately and deposits his vote. After the ballots have been counted the new officers are sworn in by the judge.

HOWARD B. ELLIS.

Elk Cottage

The Elk Cottage is on lot No. 8. It has five windows, one on the north side, two on the south side and two in front. There are twelve shares in the cottage. Albert Pratt owns five, Elbert West four, William Mourey two and I own one. All owners of cottages have an owner's certificate, and a deed of each cottage is given to the joint owners. Inside are four chairs, one table, two shelves, and the sides are covered with cloth. The carpet on the floor is red. There is a cupboard with four shelves and on the shelves there are books. On the wall are pictures that the different owners have put there. The grass grows on the north and south sides, while in front of the cottage we have a garden. The cottage has recently been painted blue with white trimmings.

FREDERICK HILL.

The Watchman's Room

In the spring of 1896 an addition was built on to the back part of the Farm House. In it was a room for the use of the watchman. He used to sleep up in the main building, but I suppose the Farm House is a more quiet place for him to sleep. There is quite a large stove in the room which I have to look after in the winter. I have to go over every morning, and in my turn make the bed and tidy up the room. There are three windows, one on the north, one on the south and one on the east side. I wash the floor and clean the whole room every Thursday morning. In the summer I used to go over at night. I go over at seven o'clock in the morning now and get back at half past seven except on Thursdays. When I get back I go to work in the dormitory.

LAWRENCE F. ALLEN.

Laurel Cottage

The Laurel Cottage is one of the best in Cottage Row. Frederick Blakely, Albert Kershaw, George Mayott and I own shares in it. It is the shape of an L. It has six windows and we have one in the back of our cottage which is a storm window. Inside we have a large table and a small one which we set the lamp on. The large one was made by one of the boys on the Island and the other was made at Concord Reformatory. The cottage is painted yellow with white trimmings. On the outside we have two flag-staffs, a small one on top of the cottage and a large one in the ground. On the east side is a large oak tree. On the west it is bounded by the Arbor cottage and on the east by City Hall. This cottage was finished Sept. 16, 1891, by Charles H. Graves, Alfred L. Cullington and Ove W. Clemmenson.

CHARLES MCKAY.

The Boys' Gymnasium

In the winter of 1893 and '94 some of the boys, about fifteen in number, started an athletic club in which Mr. Teague was the leader. He has just made us a visit. In the gymnasium building there are parallel bars, punch bag, three travelling rings, two swinging rings and a long ladder about twenty-five feet in length on which the boys can do a great many things. We also have chest-weights, dumbbells, Indian clubs, a rope ladder and a rope extending from the roof to the floor. During the winter months some of the boys form a club and enjoy themselves by doing athletics.

BENJAMIN F. GERRY.

Squanto Club

The first meeting of the club was held February twenty-second 1897. After that no meeting was held until March sixteenth and all were present. The greatest number present at a meeting was twenty-one. The first officers were elected as follows,—president, R. Blanton; vice president, J. Lundgren; secretary, J. Peterson; treasurer, Ed. Steinbrick. The ones at present are as follows,—president W. Carr; vice president, H. Ellis; secretary and treasurer, E. West. August sixteenth the club or-

ganized a sword drill with John Lundgren as captain. Each member was required to make his own sword. From March sixteenth until October eleventh there were thirteen petitions for membership put in, seven of which were rejected. We have committees on the following subjects: debate, news, drama and athletics, the heads of the committees are as follows,—debate E. West; news, S. Tinkham; drama, L. Allen; athletics, H. Hart. The club has had one banquet which was enjoyed by all. There are ten of the originators of the club left.

HERBERT A. HART.

Bundles for the Boys

The boys almost always receive bundles from their friends on holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, twenty-second of February and Fourth of July. In the bundles come goodies, sweaters, gloves and many other things which please the boys. When the bundles came over from the city they are at once carried up to the office and kept until the holiday, then Mr. Bradley sends for the boys that they belong to and gives them their things which they either put in their drawer or carry over to their cottages. While the bundles last the boys are allowed to get out what they want before each meal or just after it.

CHAUNCY PAGE.

Yachts in the Harbor

On Sundays in warm weather there are generally a great many yachts sailing in the harbor. There are boats of all sizes and values from a row-boat to a million dollar steam yacht. Some of the best yachts in the upper harbor are the Illawarra, Peregrine, Penelope, Hermione and Siesta. We often see the Kitty, King Phillip and Gida, which belong to the South Boston Yacht Club. The Mayflower was in not long ago, also the Wanderer, a black steam yacht with the rig of a three-masted schooner. The Kitty was at our wharf this summer. The owners singed the bottom of the boat to kill barnacles which had collected there. We were interested in the races which took place on Saturdays and holidays during the summer.

HERBERT E. BALENTINE.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
BOSTON FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE CHARITY NOT CITY NOT STATE
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

Vol. 1. No. 8 December 1897.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE 50 cents per year.

Entered at the post-office at Boston as second-class matter.

BOARD OF MANAGERS

PRESIDENT.

ALEXANDER S. WHEELER.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

THOMAS F. TEMPLE.

TREASURER.

ALFRED BOWDITCH.

SECRETARY.

TUCKER DALAND.

MANAGERS.

EBEN BACON,

I. TUCKER BURR, JR.,

CALEB A. CURTIS,

WILLIAM P. FOWLER,

J. D. WILLIAMS FRENCH,

HENRY S. GREW,

JOHN HOMANS, 2d, M. D.,

WALTER HUNNEWELL,

RICHARD M. SALTONSTALL,

FRANCIS SHAW,

JOHN E. THAYER.

CHARLES H. BRADLEY, Superintendent.

One of the most difficult tasks in the world is to induce people to think. We are all willing enough to do what is laid out for us. but to do the thinking and planning for ourselves is the hardest part. Physically man is not naturally lazy. We desire a certain amount of muscular labor. Nearly everyone, however, is mentally lazy and will undertake any amount of trouble to follow in the old paths, rather than think out independently a better way. Any man who

works willingly with his hands will be fairly sure of a living, but the man who continually uses his brains and gains the power to rightly direct the work of others will be able to ask his own price for service.

In our relations one with another a little thoughtfulness saves a great deal of pain and makes life happier. This grace of thoughtfulness is the result of practice and cultivation. One thoughtful act suggests another. Education reaches its highest point when it makes independent thinkers.

Think, boys! Do not allow the wonderful brain machine to be idle for a moment. Think how noble it is to perform every duty well. Study how you may do a thing so that no one else will need to touch it. The boy who is thoughtful is the valuable boy and he will be the useful, successful man.

It is interesting to note, in the light of recent statistics, that in a system like our own of half a day work and half a day study, the results secured in mental development equal at least those of the average public school. There are several reasons why half a day in school is long enough for most children. These have to do with physical strength, zest in studies, attention and morality. It is true also that study is not the only business in life even for a child. Manual training is not yet ten years old in the public schools of Massachusetts while it has been a part of the Farm School curriculum for fully that number of years. This school was the first to adopt the sloyd system, now so common among city schools throughout the country.

In one other feature of education this Island school is with the leaders. Each boy here is assigned a flower garden, the proper care of

which is a part of his work and each student learns, also, something about vegetable gardening. At the last National Teacher's Association a report was brought in recommending that in connection with each country school there be a plot of prepared ground and that the cultivation of flowers, and perhaps even of vegetables, be made a part of the regular course of study. This report caused a sensation, but it shows the direction in which educational thought is drifting. Although opposed strongly by publishers and by teachers dependent on books, the fact method of teaching is steadily gaining and will eventually supersede the worn-out system of book-cramming.

Notes

Nov. 3. Harvested celery and packed it for the winter.

Nov. 4. Cleaned inside of steamer Pilgrim ready for painters.

Nov. 6. Put in new set of stairs leading to the coal-cellar.

Nov. 9. Mr. Mason plowing in the marsh piece.

Finished boxing and packing the water pipe under the bridge at the wharf.

Nov. 10. Put new barrels under the south float and made other necessary repairs.

Nov. 15. Put on outside windows.

Nov. 16. Manager, Mr. Francis Shaw visited the school.

Nov. 18. Varnished the hall floors in the main building.

Nov. 19. Finished painting and varnishing the steamer.

Nov. 20. Put in place a new slide door on the south side of piggery.

Nov. 22. Mr. A. M. Stone gave a cheese for the boys' Thanksgiving.

Nov. 23. Mr. Mason blasted and removed Daniel's rock on the south-west beach.

Nov. 24. Row-boat Standish launched after being overhauled and the Priscilla put in

for repairs.

Sturtevant & Haley, Beef and Supply Co., gave us a barrel of beef.

Nov. 25. Thanksgiving Day.

Fifteen graduates here.

A new penant of blue and yellow,—the school colors, were hoisted to the mast-head with three cheers and a tiger from the boys.

Football game between the home team and the graduates. Result six to four in favor of the home team.

Entertainment in the evening.

Nov. 28. A number of boys attended church in town.

Nov. 29. Mr. Berry began putting up the chute for the toboggan slide.

Nov. 30. Put in our winter supply of mill feed for the cattle.

Mr. W. Greydon Stetson presented the school with fifty-six volumes for the library and one lot of magazines.

Program, Thanksgiving Entertainment

FIRST PART.

TOPICAL SONG *Mr. Leavitt.*

SELECTED

RECITATION *Ernest Jorgensen.*

SHUT THE DOOR

PIANO SOLO *Mr. Littlefield.*

INDIAN MAIL

MUSICAL RECITATION *Miss Camp.*

TIT FOR TAT

RECITATION *Henry Bradley.*

THANKSGIVING DAY

PIANO DUETT *Miss Camp, Mr. Littlefield.*

DANSE ECOSSAISE

READING *Mr. Leavitt.*

SELECTED

SECOND PART.

A RICE PUDDING.

A Comedy in Two Acts.

CHARACTERS.

JOHN RICHARDS *Mr. Higgins.*

A HOUSEHOLDER

DR. THWAITE *Mr. Williams.*

A YOUNG PHYSICIAN

MRS. RICHARDS *Miss Camp.*

YOUNG WIFE OF RICHARDS

MARION *Miss A. Smith.*

YOUNGER SISTER OF RICHARDS

ELLEN O'SHAUGNESSY *Miss Brewster.*

A COOK

ACT 1. Scene; The New House, Time Morning.

ACT 2. Scene; The same. Time; Evening.

My Work as Striker

Robert Blanton left the school about four weeks ago. Before he went away I was his striker, as he called me. I had to run errands for him and hand him the tools when he was doing some work that he could not leave. I had to get wood for him from the shop. Every day that we worked down to the barn I had to run up about four times, sometimes more, to get tools and lumber that we had forgotten or we could not carry at one time. I had to help in the afternoon from one o'clock to quarter past two. Sometimes I had to run to the house for tools, lumber and other different things so much that I wished it was my sloyd day.

WILLIAM DAVIS.

Stilts

Most of the boys are fond of stilts. They use them in the summer and autumn most. The boys go around the Island on the beach and try to find two pieces of wood about five feet long, sometimes longer, so as to have the blocks of the stilts higher from the ground. The boys when they are learning to walk, choose a small pair of stilts so if they fall they will not hurt themselves, but when they have learned pretty well they choose a longer pair of stilts. The boys do different things on the stilts such as running, hopping, jumping and bunging. What I mean by bunging is that two boys mount a pair of stilts, then get in a ring and try to knock each other out; or another way is, they mount and run into each other and try to knock each other off. The boys choose a small pair of stilts in bunging so as to get around quicker and not

break the stilts. When I first came here in 1896 the boys had large stilts, but now they have about two pairs of high ones. Most of the boys can walk now and sometimes when the boys have a small pair of stilts they turn them up side down so as to have a higher pair. I learned to walk a short time after I came here, but now I do not walk much for I use my time in practicing music in the band, for I am in both bands now.

ERNEST W. AUSTIN

Sorting Lumber

We have our winter lumber all in and when they brought it to the shop, it was all mixed up; all kinds of wood in a pile. Instead of putting the lumber in at once, we piled the rack all over again so as to make it look neat. We put the wood in order just as it should go; first pine, then whitewood, maple, hickory, ash, oak, cherry, walnut, hard pine, beech, spruce, cypress, bay-wood, then sheathing, joist and planks of all kinds. We did not have room for some of the wood, so we sent it to the storage barn to be kept until we want it. Albert Pratt, Dana Currier, Ernest Austin, William Davis and John Irving were engaged at this work, with Mr. Littlefield, officer in charge.

JOHN J. IRVING.

The Constitution

The Constitution is one of the oldest ships in the United States. It was built at "Harts" ship-yard and was launched October twenty-first, 1797. She fought many battles, the most important ones being with the "Guerriere," "Macedonian," "Cyane" and "Levant." The Constitution gained many laurels, grew to be the pet ship of the navy and came to be known as "Old Ironsides." There came a time when it was thought that she was unfit for further service and some people decided to have her destroyed. Dr. Holmes wrote the poem, "Old Ironsides," which did much toward saving the ship. When the Civil War broke out, she was moved north. The people of Massachusetts wanted the frigate and money was raised to repair her and bring her to Boston. She is now in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

DANA CURRIER.

Lengthening a Hudson River Steamboat

Quite a delicate piece of mechanical engineering has been accomplished at Robins' shipyard at the Erie Basin in the lengthening of the steamer New York. This vessel was built in 1887 at the yards of the Harlan and Hollingsworth Company, Wilmington, Delaware. Her dimensions are as follows,—Length on water line, 301 feet; Length over all, 311 feet; Breadth of beam, moulded, 40 feet; Breadth of beam, over guards, 74 feet; Depth, moulded, 12 feet 3 inches; Depth, 6 feet; Tonnage, (net 1091.81) 1,552.

The New York is built of iron, and is fitted with a standard American beam engine of 3,850 horse power, with a cylinder seventy-five inches in diameter by twelve foot stroke, capable of driving the boat twenty and twenty-three miles an hour. Steam is supplied by three large boilers set abreast. The thirty foot paddle wheels are of the "feathering" type.

The lengthening of the boat was accomplished by cutting the rivets in a line between the engine and boilers and hauling the forward part of the boat, which had been docked on a sliding frame, ahead thirty feet by tackles and two steam winches.

When the two portions of the boat were lined up with fine piano wire, it was found that one side of the bow had to be raised only three sixteenths of an inch and the stem jacked over about an inch; a highly creditable result.

In the meantime fifteen new frames or ribs had been made in the shops and it is expected that in fifteen days from the time she was docked she will be ready for the water again.

A Mould for Soldering pipes

The apparatus consists of a fronze mould formed of two pieces opening through a hinge; and which is fitted either horizontally or vertically to the extremities of the two lead pipes that it is desired to solder together. For vertical pipes a special hopper is provided. It is necessary to scrape and carefully prepare the extremities of the pipes to be united. After this the molten lead, which has been raised to a

red heat, is poured in. In this way there is obtained a very clean joint without any burrs. It is to be remarked that only lead is employed instead of the soft solder used with the soldering iron and lamp.

These moulds, due to M. Tye, permit of soldering more rapidly and surely than with the ordinary process and of effecting a considerable saving, resulting from the difference in the cost of the material and diminution in manual labor. These apparatus are made in several series, varying according to the external diameters of the pipes. They can be arranged for uniting pipes of different diameters and for soldering two pipes at right angles, and either horizontal or vertical.—*La Nature*.

Books

"The glory of the world would be lost in oblivion if God had not provided mortals with a remedy in books. These are the masters who instruct us without rods and ferules, without hard words and anger, without clothes or money. If you approach them they are never asleep, if you mistake them they never grumble, if you are ignorant they never laugh at you. In books we find the dead, as it were, living, in books we foresee things to come, in books warlike affairs are methodized, the rights of peace proceed from books."

Recent Improvements

We used to have a brick floor in the pantry but it has been changed. The bricks have been taken out, new beams put in, and a wooden floor is laid. The walls have been painted and the ceiling whitewashed. The pantry was finished Oct. 28, 1897. The entry closets have recently been painted and the doors varnished.

RICHARD MAXWELL.

"Do all the good you can,
To all the people you can,
In every place you can,
At all the times you can,
In all the ways you can,
As long as ever you can,
And don't make any fuss about it."

Alumni

FRANK DWIGHT MARDEN, '83. Any information concerning his address will be welcomed by Mr. Bradley in behalf of his relatives.

WALTER S. SMEATON, '93, is still with his uncle employed in the mica business, 620 Atlantic Avenue.

RALPH O. BROOKS, '94, in the senior class of the Summerville High School and Treasurer of the school "Radiator," is a good foot-ball player as well as an excellent student, as shown in the playing which he did here Thanksgiving Day.

JOHN A. LUNDGREN, '97, is well located with the Roxbury Carpet Co., and rooms at 104 School St., Roxbury, the home of Miss Helen M. Winslow, sister of our teacher, Miss Mary A. Winslow.

The following graduates ate Thanksgiving dinner with us, played foot-ball, visited and otherwise passed the day pleasantly.—CLARK, BEICK, SMEATON and SAWTELL of '93, BROOKS and PHILLIPS, '94, GALEUCIA, SMITH, PETERSON and ESTES of '95 and BLANTON, LUNDGREN, BUCHAN, HART and WOOLEY, '97.

Phillips Brooks

Phillips Brooks was a great and good man. He had unbounded sympathy and love for his fellow beings and his noble life was spent in making men happier and the world better. Especially was he interested in the young, and many are the valuable words of kindly advice and encouragement given to young men, a few of which are here quoted.

"Young man, you must expect disappointments, but you must not be discouraged. Go forward without doubts or fears, perfectly sure that, if you do your duty, there will dawn upon you a hope more sober, but stronger. From the moment you see it you will never lose it, but it will go on with you forever."

"Young men, take a noble stand in life's great work. The more nobly the young man conceives of this world, the more noble will be his life."

"It makes him feel the power and influence which flows from an interest in science, history, politics and religion."

"Study something that makes the whole life more noble in a large spirit."

"Those who come of New England stock should possess the Old New England character.— those fundamental virtues, integrity, earnestness, self-respect."

"We must ever feel that God made us as one part of his great family for a purpose."

"It makes one sure where there are so many New England young men, that the future will be secure."

"Truth cannot be plucked from the trees. Truth hardly won is the more precious for the winning. The world does grow so much better. Life itself has been full of richness."

"Young men, all the best and strongest men who have ever lived have found hope from experience. No man can be a Christian, and an American, and not be an optimist."

Questions

1. What was the name of the first steamship that crossed the Atlantic and how long did it take her?
2. What is the largest passenger steamship in commission?
3. Is speed materially increased by twin screws?
4. What were the dimensions of The "Great Eastern?" When was she launched? What was her horse power?
5. What is the length of a nautical knot in land measure?
6. a. What is the distance sailed, in nautical miles, from New York to Liverpool?
b. From Liverpool to New York?
7. a. Between what points are records estimated?
b. What is the first light sighted on the British coast? On the American?
8. What was the first regular transatlantic line, and when established?