To the Memory
OF
EDWIN WILLITS
PRESIDENT
OF THE
Michigan Agricultural College
1858-1889.

Memorial Exercises held in the College Chapel, Thursday Afternoon, November 19, 1896.

A clean, strong, successful life is a precious legacy to posterity, and we cannot guard its proportions too jealously from the gnawing tooth of time, or seek too anxiously to transmit it unimpaired in fullness, beauty and truthfulness of form and lineament.

The Agricultural College has always taken an especial interest in the personality and pride of the career of the late Edwin Willits, and when the sudden announcement of his death came it was intuitively felt that we were only performing our official function toward the youth in our charge when we set apart a certain time for exercises in memory of him, and sought to put here in permanent form the loving tribute laid upon his bier.

The life work of Mr. Willits was wide and varied. He was a successful lawyer, an influential congressman, a researchful and inspiring college president, and a statesman and public official. At his bier were gathered in common sorrow the student, the scientist, the man of affairs, the lawyer and the statesman. In our memorial exercises each of these classes found a fitting representative, and each expressed the popular feeling that there was in a uniform testimony that they bear to the intense energy, the steady, cool self-possession, the ready sympathy, the contagious helpfulness, the sturdy courage and the resourcefulness of the man they all loved.

We have given our whole issue for this week to the reproduction of the papers read and the words spoken on this occasion. Thousands of Mr. Willits' friends will no doubt thank us for the unique memorial we offer, and all our readers will appreciate the feeling that prompts us. Republics are proverbially ungrateful to the memory of their great men. In our humble way we would desire to set a better example.

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REMEMBERED IN THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

THE LATE EDWIN WILLITS.

He became prosecuting attorney of his county. For twelve years from 1852 he was a member of the State Board of Education. From 1853 to 1860 he was postmaster of Monroe. He was a member of the constitutional commission of 1873, and from 1870 to 1880 was a member of congress. In 1882 he was made principal of the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, and he remained in that position until called in 1885 to the presidency of the Agricultural College of Michigan. In 1880 he was called from the College to the position of first assistant secretary of agriculture at Washington. In 1894 he was removed from this position by Secretary Morton, whereupon he opened a law office in Washington. He died there Oct. 22, 1896.

EXERCISES IN THE COLLEGE CHAPEL.

Thursday afternoon College duties were suspended, and at the appointed hour the Board of Agriculture, faculty, students and visiting friends of the deceased assembled in the chapel to pay a last tribute to his memory.

President Snyder presided over the exercises, and, after an opening hymn and prayer by the Rev. Dr. Jordan, he introduced Hon. Franklin Wells, president of the Board of Agriculture, who made a very brief address on behalf of the Board. Governor Rich was unable to be present, and Prof. Babcock read his paper. This was followed by an address by Prof. Daniel Putnam, of the State Normal School, who spoke of his eminent services for that institution.

It was expected that H. B. Cannon, '88, who was Mr. Willits' private secretary while the latter was assistant secretary of agriculture, would be present to speak of Mr. Willits from the students' standpoint, but a summons on the grand jury prevented, and his paper was read by Prof. Hedly. President Snyder then read a letter from Ex-Governor Luce, after which he introduced the last speaker for the afternoon, Dr. Kedzie, who has been for many years an intimate friend of Mr. Willits. Among the visitors present were Dr. Boose, principal of the Normal School;
It was my good fortune to know Hon. Edwin Willits, perhaps the best known man in another man in this country he owed his success in life to his own exertions. While not born in Michigan he was generally known as a Michigan man. In all the policies of the party to which Michigan is indebted for its ability to produce statesmen of the first order, to which Michigan is indebted for its ability to produce statesmen of the first order, Mr. Willits has contributed in a manner to make his administration more than ordinarily conspicuous. Throughout his public services as prosecuting attorney, or member of the state board of education, but all reports show that his services were conscientiously performed, with more than ordinary ability, and to the satisfaction of his constituents. The same may be truly said of six or seven years as member of the constitutional commission of 1873. In congress his services were of a high order. He was intelligent, industrious and painstaking in all he did. Ever faithful and diligent in performing the duties of the positions which he held and having made up his mind, urged the adoption of such measures vigorous enough, but yet not so hard and enervating by every means in his power to secure what legislation and what government of a Michigan people. He had a high ideal of what a politician should be, and would never stoop to anything dishonest or mean, but would rather enter the field of politics as a freeman and a citizen when he entered it.

Edwin Willits and the Normal School.

PROF. DANIEL PUTNAM, Ypsilanti.

The faculty of the State Normal School desires through as their representative, to unite in this public and modelly to present recognition of the valuable and faithful services rendered to our State by the Hon. Edwin Willits. In the natural division of duties in these departments we are peculiarly expected to speak only of his relations to the Normal School and of his services in connection with that institution. The school, as you know, is under the immediate control of the State Board of Education. In fact this Board was originally created mainly for the purpose of locating the institution and managing its affairs. Primarily its functions have been enlarged, but for several of the early years of its existence it hardly did more than undertake the administration of the institution. The personality of the members comes to be better understood by the general public and the influence of the normality makes itself felt in the direction of affairs more readily and more obviously. Mr. Willits became a member of the board of education in 1873. He was re-elected at the end of that year and served continuously for twelve years.

At the commencement of his term of office the school had been in operation not more than two years, and was still in a formative condition. Associated with such men as Walter J. Baxter, John M. Gregory and Orman Hoefsed, Mr. Willits exercised a strong influence in giving direction to the intellectual organization of the institution, and in the selection and appointment of the members of the board of instruction. His period of service on the board covered the last years of the administration of Principal Mayhew and the first years of the administration of Principal Welch. During these years the character of the school became established; its reputation steadily increased; and its influence upon the educational interests of the State grew more and more potent. Mr. Willits contributed his full share of energy and after toward the production of these results. He had the confidence of the school and of the faculty, the people of the state and the successive legislatures upon whose appropriations and good will the institution depended for its means of support and progress. The parliament which he was expected to accomplish in the school came to know him not only as an official of the governing body, but also as a personal friend and a wise and valued adviser. Without exuberance, but without reservation, it is gratifying to note that all of his duties compelled him to decline a third election and six years of additional service on the board.

After the severance of his official relations with the institution, and while a member of the national House of Education, he continued to manifest a warm interest in its prosperity, and remembered it in the distribution of valuable public documents and in other substantial ways.

Principal of the Normal School.

At the close of his two terms of service in Congress, and ten years after his retirement from the Board of Education, he was elected by the people of the state to the principalship of the Normal School, and was inaugurated in June, 1883. The considerations which influenced the board in inviting Mr. Willits to take the executive chair of the institution are thus stated in their report:

"In appointing to so important a position the principalship of the Normal School one whose life work has been in other callings than the profession of teaching, one who had not had such experience and study as a systematic course of pedagogy behind him, the board were mindful that they had to make a great change from their usual course of procedure; but they desired especially to emphasize that clause in the constitution which, in instituting a Normal School for the preparation of teachers, required that the State Board of Education should also proceed for the instruction of its pupils 'in the fundamental laws of the United States, and in what regards the rights and duties of citizens.' With this in view, no one seemed to the board to combine, as Mr. Willits does, so many of the requisites necessary for the successful working of the Normal School as that great future which its founders confidently expected for it. * * * Twenty years afterward, as a member of the board of education, in which position he became familiar with the affairs of the Normal School; in the Constitutional Convention of 1875 he served as chairman of the committee on education. His scholarly tastes, his large experience, his acquaintance with men and affairs, coupled with his thorough knowledge of pedagogical subjects assigned him to the task of teaching, justified, in the opinion of the board, their going outside of the profession in selecting an officer for the responsible position of principal of the State Normal School."

His Teaching was for Broader and Better Citizenship.

In entering upon his duties in the principalship, Mr. Willits kept in mind the department of labor which the board, in effect, had marked out for him. He gave instruction in civil government, in the form of constitutional law, in the form of a course of instruction in congressional procedure, and in other subjects which touched upon social relations between the rights of the teacher and the obligations of citizens. He brought into the institution somewhat more of the science and spirit of practical and political life than had been in it before. He emphasized the fact that the teacher is also a citizen, and, in common with all other citizens, should be concerned in the management of public affairs,—should be, in the highest and broadest sense of the word, a "citizen," and a "man of affairs." There was some room and some occasion for teaching in this direction. He did not confine his rights as a freeman and a citizen when he entered the school room as a teacher. Freedom of speech and freedom of political action still existed, to him; and that with this freedom there reigned the responsibility and the interest upon men in other positions and in other employments. These responsibilities the teacher is not at liberty to evade. The teacher is concerned in cheerfully assuming them and conscientiously discharging them. While thus emphasizing this political and social aspect of education Mr. Willits recognized fully the transcendent importance of the moral element in the curriculum and instruction of the school.

In his inaugural address Mr. Willits said, "The time is coming when we must choose between the policeman and the moral sense. In all ages the best policeman has been a well-regulated conscience—and that will not组合 with moral sense. It is cheaper in the long run for men to govern themselves than to have their citizens govern themselves, must be their own restraint; if not, it ceases to be. How then is this self reliance, this self restraint, this independence to be secured? Manifestly the pathway to it lies through our education. And on what subject is the instruction to begin? An education that includes only intelligence may foster crime, may sharpen its tools. Lieber appreciated the distinction fully when he declared that, 'A widespread and sound education is indispensable to liberty. But it is not liberty itself, nor does it necessarily lead to... * * *

Education is almost like the alphabet it teaches. It depends upon what we use it for. Many of the most important documents have found it to their interest to promote popular education, and the schoolmaster may counsel or militate against, although he will ever be acknowledged as an indispensable assistant in the cause of modern freedom. Liberty stands in need of character."

"Let me," said Mr. Willits, "repeat Mr. Liberty stands in need of character.

Let us write on the walls of our school room, liberty stands in need of character. Let us write the words on the doors of our schools, and let us say of every man we want is character; what we must have is character. And what is character? A man who will not be governed by his laws that cannot define it, nor constitute evolutions. It exists above the laws which we want.

I have quoted this language of the Board of Education. There are many other examples of the same kind. The generation now on the threshold, the generation now in the midst, the generations to follow, should be guided by this self reliance, this well-regulated conscience, this self restraint, this well-regulated conscience. It exists above the laws which we want, but below the codes of education. It exists itself only by the perfect manhood and the elements of a perfect manhood and womanhood."

I have quoted this language of the Board of Education to show as clearly as possible what was expected of Mr. Willits. In his position at the head of the Normal School, through his position at the head of the Normal School, through the influence of his own words, when entering upon his duties, to show the spirit of the man, the conception of this at the hearts of the children of our State. He believed that the best preparation of the teacher for his work was intense personal and professional improvement. He did not undervalue the technical
utterances of the science of education or of the art of teaching, but he recog¬

ized by a living soul, were of lit¬

tle worth.

the Normal School was too brief to al¬

low him to establish any new policy

change, in any radical way, the char¬

ulum of its studies. He labored hon¬

estly and earnestly to advance its in¬


curred under his direction, increasing in

which his skill as a speaker

trusted to the good sense of the people

the College and the students, but he

pathy was quick to note the struggles

man, to his integrity and uprightness

fidence of his associates in the institu¬

tion, and kindly remembrances.

He remembered his M. A. C. boys.

When he was called to be Assistant

Secretary of Agriculture we found

he could remember his M. A. C. boys

and that in his new post of honor and

fluence he could add to the reputation

of our College. As an officer he was

careful, considerate, peremptory, and

same largeness of plan marked his

work as had been the case at M. A. C.

At a view he often pointed out to

Bailey the credit (doubtless also shared

by others of the new school of scientists)

The thought of the relation between

sacred thing and it was the environment

seemed ever with him. He hoped to see

a compendious monograph the cerebral

and the exhibits which were col-

lected for the World's Fair by the

government. This work of making an

exhibit which should illustrate the

function of the Department of Agri-

culture, was placed in his charge. He

also was named as chairman of the

Government Board, and a great deal

of his energy and thought did he put

to this task. He held the plow to

mark the site where the Government

building should stand, and that estab-

lished the Jackson park site. No one

not familiar with it can judge of the

work required at his hands before the

task of preparing, installing, exhibit¬

ing and taking down again of that

Government exhibit was over. There

were various inharmonious elements

to keep within bounds, to hasten the sec-

ond process.

The work done at the Department

proper, while more in the nature of

routine business, had a breadth of

scope and called for its proper man-

agement so large an amount of knowl-

edge that the ordinary run of public

men, congressmen and others, must

have felt uncomfortable in the place

for months, had Pres. Harrison been

there was not an hour in which the

good man felt quite at peace.

We knew him as a man of method.

He tried to enforce order and clean¬

liness in every way, I recall his house-

cleaning day plans, and his dust bin

arrangements as examples. He knew,

too, that clean walls and fresh paint in-

spired respect, and how tidiness in per¬

sonal matters was a symbol. "The environ-

ment of a mob in good clothes," was a say¬

ing I recall.

He had no need to run a card cata¬

logue of his friends; he could remem¬

ber them whenever he might help

them; and they do not forget him now.

"Whether one met him for the first

time, or came to know him intimately

he could not fail to be impressed by his

friendliness and power," testifies one

of the Detroit alumni.

He was known above all as a man

armed with a sword of patience.

He recognized the priscipality, their affec¬

and kindly remembrances.

The family of the school and the

students who knew him gladly unite in

these services in his honor, testify¬

ing in this sense of nobility to his

man, to his integrity and uprightness

fidence of his associates in the institu¬

tion, and kindly remembrances.

The students of the school of the

and so his name went on and continue this great profit crushing but business producing

We are offering more solid inducements, more genuine and unmatchable bargains

than any house in the state.

We are getting desperate and bound to make business if we don't make a cent

In the administration of his office

we were sound asleep our noble Presi¬

dent was pacing the campus, keeping

watch and ward.

President Willitis from the Students’

Standpoint.

H. B. Canston, ’88.

When Mr. Willitis came to the Agri-

cultural College the student body al¬

most at once recognized in him a mas¬

ter of education. His administration

There was an atmosphere of hope about him. He came with splendid plans to exe¬

cut the work, but the most determinant atten¬

tions of his associates, or honored us.

He commanded the respect and con¬

fidence of his associates in the institu¬

tion, and kind remembrances.

The students of the school of the

students who knew him gladly unite in

these services in his honor, testify¬

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tion, and kindly remembrances.
your part and forget the other fellow." The trait of impartiality won his love.

NOTES FROM W. A. TAYLOR.

In response to request, Mr. W. A. Taylor, '88, now Assistant Professor of Agriculture, sends me some notes. I am very glad to give them. They cover certain periods much more accurately than I can, and none could speak more brightly.

"The incident," says Mr. Taylor, "took place the next year, a number being remembered by the students then in attendance, the occasion of Mr. Willits' first appearance at the College in the capacity of Professor of Chemistry. The student body was in a quaver over the treatment of one or others, at the time unknown, wild rumors of intend-severe and sweeping punishment of suspected students were in circulation and many were of the opinion that affairs had reached a stage in which it was useless for young men in search of education to longer remain at the institution where bad and indifferent work was out of the question. The crisis was upon us—would the man be equal to the occasion of the new president, but the outcome of it was a most complete and prompt restoration of the confidence of the students, the entire body of the faculty. The first chapel exercise settled the whole question whether the future of the college would be in rebellion and thank you the reward for the future caused the suspension or expulsions of certain of these or even their warmest friends acquiesced in and admitted the justice of the action taken.

"I have not known another man of such nerve, and I have been at heart so tender and merciful. The culprit sentenced by him recognized the magnitude of the punishment which justice made necessary.

"This was, I think, the chief secret of his personal hold upon students and alumni. He felt strongly and sincerely strongly marked personality. In his own words in the address before the College at its organization on the "Affirmative Religious Principles," which, by the way, is worthy of preservation by every student, he describes his sympathy with a negative. I do not like negative men or women. The world may make something out of a rascal, but Willits seemed to charge upon the memory of his powers of body and mind. He was strong enough to do in harmony with his life's work, his memory is treasured for his many great and dignity of the Director. As a member of Congress he was a Christian gentleman. His memory is treasured for his many great and dignity of the Director. As a member of Congress he was a Christian gentleman. His memory is treasured for his many great and dignity of the Director. As a member of Congress he was a Christian gentleman. 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Michigan regards this combined work of College and Station I simply call touch with the people of the state as College that brings it so completely in state and the whole country. President Willits did much for thelished as the Agricultural School, and
THE DEPARTMENT OF MECHANIC ARTS.
tion was entirely in the line of agricul­
seemed to enter into the life of every
shape was soon crowded with delighted listeners. The Sunday afternoon services by the clergymen of Lansing were continued, not because 230 p.m. was an ideal hour for wor­shop, but because the ministers of Lan­sing could not be secured for other hours. Attendance was not compul­sory, yet the chapel was well filled; the Sunday school and Bible classes were well attended and the moral and re­ligious atmosphere at the College was healthy.

In recalling the history of those who have been pillars in the College edifice but who have passed away, one is pain­fully reminded of the evanescence of human life.

"One by one the roses fall."
The M. A. C. Record.

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ADRESS ALL MAIL TO LOCK BOX 282, LANSING, MICH.

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE COLLEGE, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 1896.

The resignation of G. C. Davis, Entomologist, was presented, to take effect Dec. 8, 1896. The resignation was accepted.

Mr. F. E. Skeels, the agent of the Board for the examination of College lands, made a report of work done to the present time. He finds a large quantity of good timber lands still on hand, but reports considerable trespass by timber thieves.

Mr. Girgeld presented the following relating to the death of ex-President Willits:

"The sudden death of Dr. Edwin Willits, after four years of active engagement of College lands, takes away from earth a strong and able man whose impress upon the College will always be recognized as of great importance in developing broadly the purposes outlined in its organic law, and in building thorough foundations for a system of education that promises to be of unfailing value in the evolution of our State. In his interregnum with this Board and his relation to the educational forces and student body of the College, his leadership was acknowledged to be wise and far-seeing. His kindly spent and warm sympathies touched the hearts of all with whom he was associated, and his honesty of purpose, earnestness of manner and thoroughly Christian life, awakened in all who knew him admiration, respect, and affection. It will be a source of pride and satisfaction to the Board and student body of the College of Michigan to keep fresh the memory of the life of Edwin Willits expended in behalf of the Institution as its honored president."

At the College.

Our eleven will play foot ball at Kalamazoo on Thanksgiving day.

Miss Amy Vaughan, W. 97, received a visit from her father last Tuesday.

Prof. Barrows' mother, of Reading, Mass., has been visiting him for a week.

H. W. Clark and A. E. Wallace, of the class of '98, have been ill for several days.

Mrs. Ray Ellis, of Flushing, and Mrs. E. D. Allen, of North Lansing, visited the College Wednesday.

Dr. L. Arneu, of Sturges, spent Saturday and Sunday, November 14-15, with his son, W. H. Arneu, '99.

Lost: In the vicinity of College Hall, a gold breast pin. Finder please leave the same at the President's office.

In order to give a complete report of memorial exercises we have crowded nearly everything else out this week.

The Y. C. A. and Y. M. C. A. are preparing one of W. D. Howell's farces to be given Friday evening, December 11.

The Y. W. C. A. and Y. M. C. A. will hold a prayer meeting in the rooms of the latter association on Thanksgiving morning at 8 o'clock.

The King's Daughters will meet with Mrs. SUMISON, Wednesday, December 2; the first chapter of James; text, "Temptation;" leader, Miss Julia M. Baldwin.

Friday various boarding clubs elected stewards as follows: Club A, I. L. Simmons; Club B, D. McIlroy; Club C, W. A. Bigelow; Club D, H. L. Becker.

Prof. J. F. Breckenridge, formerly professor of mechanical engineering here, but now of the University of Illinois, spent Saturday and Sunday at M. A. C.

Messrs. and Misses Barrows and Well have issued invitations for an "at home" at the residence of the latter, this evening, from half after seven to eleven o'clock.

Prof. P. B. Woodworth was one of a committee of three experts selected by the city council of Grand Ledge to test their new municipal electric light plant and waterworks.

R. A. Bowditch, with '96, and C. F. Hermann, '97, will attend the national convention of Phi Delta Theta fraternity in Philadelphia, November 24-25-26, as delegates from the M. A. C. chapter.

There was a good attendance at the conference of institute workers last Friday afternoon and evening, most of the representative workers being employed by the College being present. A full report of the meeting will appear in the next issue of the Record.

Prof. B. E. Fernow, chief of the forestry division of the department of agriculture at Washington, visited the College on Monday of last week for the purpose of seeing the work being done here in forestry, and to make arrangement for certain co-operative experiments.

She had a lovely neck.

"Civies man (hunting for a stray elephant)."-"Have you seen a strange animal around here?"-"Ishannah."-"Bagorra, Oi have; that was an infuri­

rubber bull around here. Public notice: Oi won't wild his tail."-Be-

...'THE...' Farm Department

OFFERS FOR SALE:

Two very fine Duroc Jersey Sows, seven months old, eligible to registry, all right in color and form.

Six Poland-China Pigs, six months old, in excellent breeding condition, large and thrifty; pedigree the best.

A purebred Holstein-Friesian Bull Calf, born in September, 1896, out of College Rose Bonheur, a daughter of Rose Bonheur Fifth with a record of 106 lbs. of milk in a day. College Rose gave 50 lbs. of milk a day for seven consecutive days in October, containing nearly twelve pounds of butter.

The sire of the calf was Maurice Clotilde, for several years at the head of the Holstein herd at the College. This calf will develop into a bull fit to head any Holstein herd in the country.

...Also... Show Birds of several of the leading Breeds of Poultry

CLINTON D. SMITH,
Superintendent of Farm,
Agricultural College, Mich.
News from Graduates and Students.

George Davis, '92, of Tekonsha, visited A. C. M. last Tuesday. He is still farming.

It is reported that Walter J. Goodenough, '95m, is working in a drafting office in Chicago.

W. H. Haywood, of the U. of M. Daily that D. F. Pagelsen, '97, plays right end on the class team of the '98 laws.

Berry, Cass City, both of '96, will spend Thanksgiving at M. A. C; '93, Corvallis, Oregon, says that D. W. Trine, '92, is very ill with peritonitis.

Delta Tau Delta 20 teacher, will feel the ennobling influence of this great event, and through life each one of us will feel the beneficent influence of this great event.

Thompson & Van Buren, printing firm in the city, will feel the influence of this great event, and through life each one of us will feel the benevolent influence of this great event.

A neat circular has been received announcing the opening of an industrial school for the colored race at Trinitas, with Mr. Arthur E. Hughes, '96, as one of the instructors.

In addition to his regular day work in the Lewis Institute, Chicago, Prof. W. J. W. Murch, '79, has been given full charge of the night school which is to be carried on in connection with that school.

H. Arnold White, '92, Decatur, Ill., in a letter to President Snyder, pays high tribute to the memory of Dr. Willits. We quote a portion of the letter: "Edwin Willits was the inspiration and uplift of hundreds of M. A. C. boys. Wherever he was known and during the years it was his fortune to preside over the affairs of M. A. C. he was always respected, his counsel followed, his example emulated. For the cause of education, higher plane of living, he always exerted a most powerful influence, and with the boys of my class and those who associated with him during the years of able administration of the affairs of office as our president, I know a deep sense of public and personal loss must be felt. His taking his place in the hall of fame will not be particularly interested in the very latest style shoes will be pleased to see them. Made in finest Vici Kid, hand cut dress 1015 Park avenue, Chicago."

“Tornado Top” and Whistle...COMBINED. Brass, nickel plated, No strings or springs. Changes color while going. Send for circular or 15 cents in stamps for sample to John C. Goodrich, Detroit, Mich.
In Dairy Husbandry, Live Stock Husbandry, Fruit Culture, Floriculture and Winter Vegetable Gardening.

For particulars write PRESIDENT J. L. SNYDER, Agricultural College, Mich.

These courses were planned especially for those who can only leave the farm for a short time during the winter. They are practical.