

Lessons from *The Michigan School Moderator*, 1884-85

*MORNING EXERCISES OF THE ALMA SCHOOL,
2-5 GRADES. SEPT. 5, 1884. TIME 15m.
TEACHERS: ANNA PHILLIPS, KITTIE CHAPIN.*

1. Singing:

We meet again 'mid festive joys.
And take each friendly hand.
While rarest, sweetest melodies,
Unite our choral band.

Cho: We come, a gay and happy band
We come, a gay and happy band
To sing our festive song.

2. Recitation by the school.

Longfellow's Roll Call, the first verse
of which we here give:
"Corporal Green!" the orderly cried,
"Here!" was the answer loud and clear
From the lips of a soldier standing near,
And, "here" was the word the next replied.

3. Recitation by the school.

THE PRESIDENTS

George Washington first to the White House came,
Next on the list was John Adams' name.
Thomas Jefferson next filled the honored place,
The name of James Madison then we trace.
The fifth in succession was James Monroe,
Then John Quincy Adams next below.
Then Andrew Jackson was placed in chair,
Next find we Martin Van Buren there.
Then William H. Harrison's name we meet,
When death gave John Tyler the coveted seat.
Then James K. Polk was the Nation's first choice.
Then for Zachary Taylor she gave her voice.
Whose premature death brought in Millard Fillmore.
Franklin Pierce the distinction wore.
The fifteenth was Jimmie Buchanan they say.
Who for Abraham Lincoln prepared the way.
Whose martyrdom gave Andrew Johnson the chance.
The eighteenth name was U.S. Grant's.
In spite of dark and devious ways the untitled name
was R.B. Hayes.
With faltering lips we breath the name of
James A. Garfield who was slain,
And Arthur next assumed the reign.
We'll wait two months and then we'll see
Who our next president will be.

4. Singing

(*Cho:* Chorus)

5. America

Columbus was a sailor brave,
Who first did cross the Atlantic wave.
In fourteen-hundred-ninetytwo,
He sailed far o'er the ocean blue,
Where ne'er a ship had sailed before
He found a mild but welcome shore,
Where naked men in forests prowled.
And bears and panthers roamed and howled.
Where Cortez came with sword and flame,
And wrought bold deeds of blood and shame
And at a blow Mexico was humbled in the dust,
Then others came to see the wonder
Gather gold and seek for plunder.
Yes, many a red man's blood was spilt,
And many a deed was done of guilt, of torture,
murder, crime untold,
To get the poor, poor Indian's gold.

6. Recitations

Little moments make an hour,
Little thoughts a book.
Little seeds a tree, or flower,
Water drops a brook.
Little deeds of faith and love
Make a home for us above.

I cant is a sluggard too lazy to work,
From duty he shrinks.
Every task will he shirk
No bread on his board, no meal in his bag,
his home is a ruin, his coat is a rag.

7. Singing

"Song of the bee."
I am a honey bee buzzing away,
Over the blossoms the long summerday,
Now in the lily cup drinking my fill.
Now where the roses bloom, under the hill.
Gaily we fly, my fellows and I,
Seeking for honey, our hives to supply.

No idle moments have we through the day.
No time to squander in sleep, or in play.
Summer is flying and we must be sure
Food for the winter at once to secure.
Bees in the hive, are up and alive,
Lazy folks never can prosper or thrive.

MORNING EXERCISES IN THE
ST. LOUIS, MICH.,
HIGH AND GRAMMAR ROOMS

1. Recitations by pupils of the following selections:
“Yes, the men for the times must be modest,
learned and moral.”
“What’s right for a boy is right for a girl.”

SUBJECT TRUTH

Thou shalt not bear false witness.
As the body is purified by water, so is the soul
purified by truth.
Let not thy tongue say what thy heart denies.
Be very scrupulous to observe the truth in all things.
Speak every man truth with his neighbor.

2. Selection, read by Mr. Richards. “A True Man”
John Jay—Sketch of life, explanation of treaty
with England.

3. Singing:

HAPPY HOURS

Happy hours! as they wing,
Let us sing.
Till our voices ring;
Day or night
Dark or bright.
Song is joy and delight,
Happy, happy hours!
Happy, happy hours!

Happy hours! when at last
O’er he past
Mem’rys glances are cast:
They will seem
Like a dream,
As so brightly they gleam,
Happy, happy hours!

4. High school marches out to music.
Grammar school turns to its work.
Time of exercise 15 minutes.

PENMANSHIP

HOW IT CAN BE TAUGHT SUCCESSFULLY

Many years experience in teaching this branch of education, has convinced the writer that good letters cannot be made till they are first formed in the mind.

All geometrical forms are composed of straight lines and curves, the only principles of drawing and penmanship.

Teachers need a knowledge of free hand drawing to teach penmanship successfully.

Pupils should be taught to make circles of different sizes by commencing a curve, and continue to extend it by keeping the same curvature.

Whole classes of children from Six years and upward (by this method) have made perfect circles without mentioning the name *circle*; when sufficiently practiced a cluster of grapes and other round fruit, as well as flowers, can at first be designed, and afterwards copied from nature. It makes a pleasing and profitable exercise.

The oblique oval is next to be drawn and described (as well as other exercises). The oval is formed of four curves, the upper and lower alike, the side curves alike and the width equal to half their height. These exercises should be made large so as to oblige the pupil to move the whole arm. They are practiced in concert, counting before and after striking, and it is well to be practiced at the commencement of every lesson.

Large capitals should be drawn and described thus: how many curves, ovals and distances in each letter, till he can strike it in a free manner with light and shade. Letters are made from knowledge and not from imitation.

The position of the hand and free movements being established, small capitals are made with ease.

Pupils should have two books, one to practice in, and another in which to place the lesson when perfect. Each letter is made by rule, thus: The straight marks to be made perfectly straight, equal in distance, slant and thickness, light and shade; the O is made by the rule of the oval, etc. Each letter should be made perfect, one thing at a time, as all branches should be taught. Single words of pages should be practiced slowly at first with a connected line around them and increased in rapidity, making a rapid business writer.

When the science of penmanship is understood, all styles and systems can be copied the same as in music.