

The Life

Of

PROF. F. T. KEMPER, A.M.,

*The Christian Educator*

By

J. A. QUARLES, D. D.

# Index

<b>CHAPTER VI - IN MARION COUNTY, AFTER GRADUATION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CHAPTER VII - THE BOONVILLE BOARDING SCHOOL</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>CHAPTER VIII - THE MALE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE OF BOONVILLE</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>CHAPTER IX - HIS MARRIAGE</b>	<b>39</b>

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## CHAPTER VI

### IN MARION COUNTY, AFTER GRADUATION

**“Nursed with skill, what dazzling fruits appear!  
Even now sagacious foresight points to show  
A little bench of heedless bishops here;  
And there a chancellor in embryo;  
Or bard sublime, if bard may e'er be so,  
As Milton, Shakespeare, names that ne'er shall die;  
Though now he crawl along the ground so low,  
Nor weeting how the muse should soar so high,  
Wisheth, poor starveling elf, his paper kite mayfly.”**  
**SHENSTONE.**

THE first instruction which Mr. Kemper received was at the home school, sustained by his father and one of his neighbors, for the benefit of their own children and those immediately around. Here he remained until he was thirteen years old. He then served as a clerk in a store between four and five years. Whether he then attended school again in Virginia, we do not positively know. He probably did for a year or more; for he says in the catalogue of 1876 that he “studied Latin for a year or two at country school;” and it was most likely done at this time. After this he tells us that “his father built small school-room in his yard, where he installed him as teacher of his younger brothers and sisters.” How long he was the instructor of the family school we are not told. We know that he left home for Marion College in the summer of 1836, before he was twenty years of age. He had then read Caesar and Virgil and begun the study of the Greek. He spent the succeeding eight years, or, more accurately, seven years and seven months, from October 2, 1836, to May, 1844; in Marion County. Of this period, six and a half years were passed in connection with Marion College. The last year he taught a private boarding-school at Philadelphia in the same county, less than a mile from the Upper or main College.

He says that he was tutor in Marion College for two and a half years. From the statements made in connection with this in the catalogue, it would seem a natural conclusion that this service

as tutor was performed after he was graduated. If so, it does not, of course, include the teaching which he did the first year that he spent as a pupil in the preparatory department at the Lower College. It is manifest from his journal, as already quoted, that he was a teacher at that time, probably until he left to act for the Tract Society. If not, why should he have attended the teachers' meetings, as he did? If this conclusion be correct, then he taught some three years and a half at Marion College and one year at Philadelphia, or more than half the time he spent in the county.

The last six years of this period are the most obscure in his life. We are entirely without the important aid derived from his journal. Of those who knew him then, and were in daily association with him, but few survive. Forty years have rolled their oblivious waves over those scenes, so that where no contemporary memoranda were made we may look in vain for anything more than the most general statements from the personal recollections of his friends. Yet it must have been an interesting portion of his life, for it covers the entire time which he spent in the college proper and the first years of his professional career as a teacher.

We would call this the period of his apprenticeship in the school-room, did we not fear that his lips, though silent, would rebuke the statement. We have often heard him say that it required a minimum of twenty-five years of faithful, laborious service as a teacher before the best man could claim that his apprenticeship was passed, and he could be considered a graduated journeyman or master-workman in the profession. He often said to us, who were among his earlier pupils, that he was but an apprentice, learning how to teach, and that he should consider himself fortunate should he acquire the art at the end of a quarter of a century. The most then that we can affirm with his approval is, that this was the beginning of his professional apprenticeship.

Before we take our final leave of Marion College, it may be interesting to many to learn what became of it. We know the circumstances of its origin and the facts of its earlier years. It was a grand conception: too grand for those days and for this undeveloped country. As Livy says, in his preface, it was one of those great things that perish by their own ponderous gravitation. Nevertheless it was a great scheme, and was engineered by great men. No more worthy names occur in the annals of Missouri than those of David Nelson, William S. Potts, James Gallaher, Ezra S. Ely, and Hiram P. Goodrich. They were strong men then, and would be accounted giants now. Under their ministrations the college accomplished a great work for the young men who were privileged to enjoy its benefits. It gave them the advantages of a classical and mathematical education which have hardly been surpassed in Missouri since. Some of its pupils, have been among the useful and distinguished men of the State. If it had done nothing more than the education of Mr. Kemper, it surely would not have lived in vain.

But a college is like a man. However great its soul, it cannot live without a body. Marion College was a grand soul in the mere phantom of a body. The body perished from sheer inanition, and the soul passed to immortality, in the limbus collegiorum perdilorum, where it, by no means, finds itself alone. It is to be classed with the visionary manual labor colleges. Its demise occurred probably in the year 1845, when it passed into the Masonic College. As such it was removed to Lexington, Mo., 1847. There it was conducted with some degree of success by the Masonic fraternity, and took a part in the training of quite a number of young men, some of whom have since been well known in the State. It was donated by the Masons to the State of Missouri to be converted into a military school, which was known as the Missouri Military Institute. During the war the buildings and grounds were occupied as a camp by the garrison, and around it occurred the siege of Lexington, which resulted in the surrender of its defenders, under Col. Mulligan, after a gallant resistance, September 20, 1861, to Gen. Sterling Price, commanding the State forces in connection with the Confederacy.

After the war the main building was repaired by the State and a military school opened. Its fame attracted to its classic halls an attendance of seven boys and eight girls, whereupon the State returned it to the Masons. The Grand Lodge generously donated it to the Southern Methodist Church in the fall of 1871; and so, by a series of changes, the Marion College, founded for boys by the Calvinistic Presbyterians, under the lead of Dr. David Nelson, has become the Central Female College of the Arminian Methodists.

Among the letters preserved by Mr. Kemper there, is one from John Clark, a student of Masonic College, in which there are some interesting statements. He speaks of the Masons having charge, and of the president, a Mr. Smith, as a jolly old bachelor from the East. They proposed to extend the course of study, and to put algebra, Virgil, Greek Testament, and part of the *Graeca Majora* into the preparatory course. Upon this he very wisely remarks "It should ever be remembered that it is not the number of studies that makes the scholar, but it is the studying well those that he has anything to do with." This idea is not very elegantly expressed, but it shows that John Clark, whoever he was, had caught sight of a truth that many of our teachers fail to see. Cramming, cramming, cramming, as though the human mind were a mere receptacle for the storing away of facts, instead of a living, sensitive energy, whose vital forces are to be conserved, developed, controlled, and directed. In this respect there is a striking analogy between it and the body which it inhabits. Let the food be of the most wholesome and nutritious character, still it is not wise to gorge the stomach with it. Every ounce taken beyond that which is assimilated, and thus used for blood, and bone, and nerve, and muscle, is not only a waste but a positive injury to the body which is

burdened with it. So any truth or fact, no matter how pure and important it maybe, that is taken into the mind, and lies there as so much foreign matter, unappropriated and undigested, is an incubus and not a blessing. It is only those studies that improve the mental powers, that stimulate and nourish them, which are of real service. Take any mind, young or old, and ply it with facts, and pile truth after truth upon it until it is all a crudis indigestaque moles, and you injure that mind. There are a great many such persons to be seen. The ministerial and teaching professions furnish the greatest proportion of them. They have been aptly styled "learned fools." They are walking encyclopaedias. They know more about Latin, Greek, and Hebrew than they do about English. They are more familiar with the past than with the present. The recondite facts of astronomy and geology are as well known to them as are the names of their children. Yet these men are failures as teachers, preachers, or in any other profession in which they may engage. They are not educated men. They are simply learned men. Their minds have been treated as storehouses, and so have become mere lumber-rooms. If they had memorized only one half and thought twice as much, they would have been vigorous, useful, practical workers. The success or excellence of a school is not to be estimated by the extent of its course, but by the careful, painstaking manner in which it does its work, and especially by the habits of life and thought which it induces in its pupils.

Mr. Clark's letter furnishes an account of quite a tragic scene in the life of the founder of Marion College the Rev. David Nelson, M D. Dr. Nelson was undoubtedly a great and good man. In his early manhood he had been a sceptic; but his vigorous mind, under heavenly guidance, worked its way out of the fog of infidelity up into the clear, sunlit regions of eternal truth. Thenceforward he became a David in the army of Israel. His book, "The Cause and Cure of Infidelity," is one of the best on the subject, and his voice from the pulpit carried conviction to many an erring and doubting soul. He, however, was not a believer in African slavery. He shared the views, which prevailed at Danville, Kentucky, and which were not uncommon even among those who themselves were the owners of slaves. He probably expressed his views freely and independently. This arrayed against him the ignorant and prejudiced among the slaveholders of Marion County. Mr. Clark writes: "Last Sunday Dr. David Nelson strayed to Little Union, and was asked to take a seat in the pulpit. He did so. In a few minutes Old Bosley walked in. It was soon discovered that there was an evil spirit in his breast larger than a woodchuck. At the close of the sermon the Baptist preacher called on Dr. Nelson to close. Just as he arose, Old Bosley jumped up and said, 'Stop! stop! sir; you are the d-d rascal that has been running off all the negroes for the last three years! He then walked up into the stand and took Dr. Nelson by the scalp-lock and led him out of the house. Nevertheless the meeting broke up in tolerably good order. The Baptists have reported Bosley to the grand jury. Dr. Nelson has two

suits against him - one for slander and one for assault and battery. He says that he is going to run him to the last notch."

But to us the most interesting portion of Mr. Clark's letter, is that which has personal reference to Mr. Kemper. He writes: "It has been said that the Masons have said that the college cannot go on to any advantage without they get you here as a professor. I do not know how true that is, but I heard Mr. Montgomery say that the Masons would have you here if there was a chance." This lets us know what reputation he had made for himself as a teacher while in the college and at Philadelphia. Mr. Kemper was not a Mason, so that there was no reason of society affiliation why their thoughts should be directed to him. It is one of the stones in the monument of his professional success that he should have been thought, by those who knew him best, to be necessary to the success of the college, whence he had been so recently graduated.

His friend William T. Davis, teaching near Fayette, writes during this period several letters, from which we make a few extracts: "My school goes on this session very much as it did last. 'Victorious Analysis' is toiling away slowly under my direction, digging out Latin roots, clearing away the rubbish from angles and parallelograms, and hewing out equations. Hem! fine figure that! Some of my boys are lazy, shirking scamps, and if they tad long ears I could give them a still more appropriate name. Others are doing tolerably well.

"I have made one or two attempts to analyze the rule of Position, but have not succeeded to my satisfaction. Yet I think surely it must be susceptible of demonstration, as well as the verification of the result. If you have succeeded, send me your work. I too, think that every teacher ought to be able to show the reason of the arithmetical rules.

"I have been thinking how it would do to devote one's self entirely to teaching and the study of the sciences and literature. I should like it extremely; and though I know so little of those that I have lightly dipped into, I scarcely know how to give them up, which I shall be compelled to do if I go to pettifogging. To borrow Carlyle's style a moment Parnassus is high up toward heaven, and one can stand there and almost converse with the blessed gods ; but he can't quite reach he goblet of nectar, and he is too high up to be well supplied with bacon and bread; also it is very cold there. After all, it seems that poverty, with his grim visage and afflicting scourge, will drive me into a profession in spite of all I can do."

One of the most interesting papers we have seen, in our examination and search for materials for this volume, is the following document, the original of which lies before us:

“PHILADA., May

1st, 1843.

“All to whom it nay concern

“We, the undersigned, taking into consideration the interest of our district, and the absolute necessity of employing a good and competent teacher for the present term, and also finding the funds appropriated by law insufficient to employ Mr. F. T. Kemper, the present gentleman wanted by the district, do hereby bind ourselves to pay to him, the said Mr. F. T. Kemper, the following amounts respectively subscribed, payable at the end of the session in such articles as may be subscribed

Subscriber’s Names

Jesse Ewing

D. C. Winget

F. B. Jeffries

John B. Singleton

William R. Walker

James Z. McCormick

I. M. McCormick

Joseph Clark

William Muldrow

Articles subscribed

3 barrels of corn next year

Pd. \$6 in furniture

Pd. \$6 in smithing

Pd. \$2 in tailoring

\$5 in trade

Pd. \$1 in trade

Pd 1 cow at Hickes’

Pd. 2 sow with her pigs

Pd. Rent of 12 acres of land in the Ely field

The private boarding-school at Philadelphia did not continue longer than a year. Its history, however, embraces a part of two years. It was probably begun some time early in 1843, and was continued until April, 1844. We have proof of this in two letters from the pen of Mr. Kemper himself. It was a boarding-school for boys, and received both sexes to the privileges of the school-room. The boarding department was presided over by Mrs. Mary Allison, the wife of Mr. Henry Allison, the maternal uncle with whom Mr. Kemper had served as salesman at Madison Court-House, Virginia. This gentleman had a strong attachment and great respect for his nephew, and had followed him to Missouri in quest of a new field, where he might repair his broken fortunes.

The school was not a failure, and yet it was not without its troubles. They greatly mistake who suppose that the best schools always sail over smooth and prosperous seas. This would be true, were not human nature a weak and, too often, a wicked thing as well. The very excellence of instruction and discipline is sometimes the cause of provoking the hostility of ignorance and depravity in pupils and patrons. We have known institutions which rode upon the topmost wave of



popular approval, but which were merely gilded hulks, whose unseasoned or rotten timbers could not have passed honest inspection, nor stood the wrenching of the slightest storm.

The mission of the teacher is to instruct, to cultivate, to control, to direct the ignorant, crude, wayward, wandering mind and heart. The untamed horse does not relish the curb of the bit and bridle. Nor does the human spirit naturally like the strong, firm master's hand, that demands its obedience and submission to the law of right. There is an aggravation of the difficulty in the well-known truth, that the greater the ignorance and wickedness, the less consciousness of the need and the greater the hostility to the necessary instruction and discipline. The very crudeness and inexperience of the child are, in him, somewhat of a palliation of the offence. But it is one of the severest trials in the life of the honest, faithful, intelligent teacher, that after he has taxed all his powers in the vain endeavor to make something out of a poor, ill-mannered, uncultured, disobedient, and indolent pupil, instead of receiving the thankful and cordial co-operation of the parent, he is visited with his unmerited and ungrateful maltreatment and abuse. To the credit of our race be it said, that such cases are not common, but are the rare exceptions. Nine tenths of parents do really, if not fully, appreciate the wise and patient efforts of the true educator, and give him a solace for the opposition and insults of the remaining pestiferous tenth.

Mr. Kemper, as is well known, was no mere figurehead in his school, nor did willful ignorance, indolence, and insolence find a comfortable lodging there. We are not surprised, therefore, to know that there were two cases of somewhat serious trouble during his short stay at Philadelphia. They were the occasions of his writing a letter to the parents, in each instance, copies of which he kept, and they are well worthy of permanent preservation.

“October 20, 1843.

“MR. W- M

“SIR: A man who wants a school for his children at all wants a good one. To secure this object, nothing is more necessary than that parents and teacher should work together both must pull at the same end of the rope. It is to secure this important object that I write. But I should not undertake to present the subject to your consideration, if I did not think you would view it reasonably and candidly, and in the spirit of a gentleman. I am sure you will.

“In the first place it is manifest that, during the past term, there has not been that co-operation of parents and teacher that is so necessary. There is one very singular circumstance connected with the teaching of your children, of which I presume you are not aware. For I believe, if

you had known it, I should have received the most ample justice, instead of the treatment which I have endured. The circumstance is this - that while your children were treated as well or better than any other scholars, they are the only ones, out of upward of fifty, that I could not satisfy. After I found that they were, one after another, leaving the school, until on the last day they had vacated, books and all, I put the question to my remaining scholars (about thirty), whether I had ever treated your children worse than them. They unanimously answered, No. On the contrary, they agreed that my attentions to your children were marked with kindness.

“Every good teacher feels under the most sacred obligations to the parents of his pupils. But the test, whether he fulfils those obligations, should be a fair one. This is a very different thing from condemning him with one-sided evidence, or judging him without opportunity of defence. Now is it not ?

“In regard to my treatment of your children, I have no explanation to make. The time for such explanation is past. Though I hold myself responsible for all my acts, and rejoice to meet that responsibility, still I must have a fair hearing or none at all. It has long been a maxim with me to do my duty, and let my reputation take care of itself. It will always do it. But the teacher who has to go around the neighborhood and patch up his character every time a scholar is offended, is unfit for his business, and serves to be drummed out of town. If I do a man a real, or even supposed, injury, I am always glad to make explanations and acknowledgments. But it is surely proper that we come face to face, that we may mutually understand each other. This, I apprehend, is the right way to settle difficulties. But the treatment I have received is not, in my humble judgment, the best way to promote peace in communities, the prosperity of schools, or that sweetness of disposition in children, which is a far more important part of education than the learning of a little algebra or grammar.

“Parents should never intrust their children to a teacher whom they cannot respect. But when they have one who is both competent and faithful, they should sustain him through thick and thin. It is destructive to the best interests of their children, whenever they say or do anything that diminishes a scholar’s profound respect for the teacher. This respect is of the utmost importance to successful teaching, and it may always be secured, even though a teacher is not perfect. Perfection does not grow on earth. The great point to settle is this: Is the teacher capable, and is he willing to do his duty when he knows it?

“The business of teaching is too little understood. I believe that wherever it is understood it is conceded that there is no profession on earth that demands more varied talents and learning, or is really more useful. I can truly say that my labors as a teacher have taxed all the best powers that I

possess. It has been my unceasing study, day and night, to promote the highest interest of my scholars, and especially to infuse into my school mental activity and love of books, instead of that languor and dread of confinement which are so common with young scholars. In order to secure these objects, I have been actuated by principles based on truth; I have pursued a systematic plan; I have studied all my teaching beforehand, from the simplest copy that I have set up to the most obtuse parts of arithmetic that have needed explanation. In every case I have succeeded where I have had a chance to bring my plans fully to bear on the scholar's mind. I believe that I can make a good scholar, with just as much certainty as you can make a crop of corn, if I am properly sustained by parents. But it is a hopeless case if I have to work against the bad habits children have acquired at other schools, and, at the same time, under the threats and fault-findings of their parents. Such teaching as I have aimed at (whether successfully or not is not for me to say) not only demands the approbation of parents, but their warmest gratitude. Its value can never be estimated in dollars and cents.

"I will give you one incident that occurred with Miss L\_ and myself, which will illustrate what I mean by having a chance to apply my plans successfully. It is painful for me to tell it.

"It was an arrangement of my school that in study hours we would have no more talking than there is in church, allotting a regular time for all talking, and playing, and moving about. This arrangement was succeeding admirably, and would have succeeded entirely but for some embarrassments thrown in the way by some of the larger scholars. These were affectionately reasoned with, and persuaded, and admonished, and finally threatened. Miss L\_ did well for a time, and promised to do well; but finally cut loose restraint, and not only trampled the authority of the school under foot, but said, in the presence of other scholars, that she would talk as much as she pleased. This remark of hers she seemed to put into execution, and finally I took occasion to say: *'Miss L\_, you must quit talking. You have been laughing and talking a great deal this morning, and it will not do.'* She seemed angry, and appeared in school no more.

"Whether I did right or wrong it is not the business of this letter to discuss. My object is not to find fault, or I should have written long ago; and you would never have heard from me about schools if I had not learned that you propose to send to me again. It is with the hope that we may have some more pleasant way of adjusting difficulties that I have mentioned the subject at all. Yours very respectfully,

"

FREDK. T. KEMPER."

The second letter is as follows :

“Philadelphia,

Mo, March 20, 1844.

“MADAM

“As you probably have some curiosity to know what I have to say about your son’s leaving my school, and as there would seem to be propriety in the measure. I have determined to write you on the subject. I feel the less delicacy in doing this, as I have nothing to say but what is well known here, and can easily be substantiated.

“Your son was formerly on the most intimate terms in this family, and seemed as perfectly at home as if he were in your house. Nor did he only seem so, he said so. This state of feeling was pleasing to us all, and was encouraged. This intimacy showed itself in various ways - in the interchange of some little present or presents, perhaps some letters, and in the thousand nameless civilities that go to sweeten the intercourse of friends.

“About three months ago his whole demeanor was changed. The day is distinctly recollected. From that time to the day of his departure he has been as sullen and as sour to my aunt as he was before bland and polite. He has sat three times a day within about one foot of her; I sat immediately opposite to him at table. I do not believe he has ever spoken to my aunt, when he could avoid it, during the time above mentioned.

“This strange state of things was seen by her with mingled feelings of surprise and regret. She expressed these feelings frequently to myself and to several of her boarders. I a long time persuaded her not to regard it. I attributed Mr. O’s conduct to a nervous irascibility consequent upon hard study. Long after he got in ‘his way,’ as we called it, I was the same as before, its can be abundantly testified. My aunt, however, was unhappy about it, and deputed two of her boarders, at two different times, to find out what was the matter, without seeming to be sent by her. They reported that nothing was the matter. Nothing was the matter, but O.’s conduct got no better. I could now assign no cause but malignity for his demeanor, and I determined that at table I would have as little to say to him as he had to say to her. I found this state of things to be so unnatural, and so gloomy, and so different from the former mirth that prevailed at the table, that I determined to have some explanation from O., or to send him away. I would live thus no longer.

“I wrote to him that I wanted an understanding, and nothing more. If I had injured him, or if any of the family had, we would make reparation. In my letter was the following sentence which was

the offensive one: 'Every man has a civil right to be unsocial, taciturn, or grum if he chooses; but such conduct, after a year or two of warm friendship, is calculated at least to excite inquiry.'

"His reply was, that he was of a retiring disposition; that at public boardinghouses people were not obliged to be social, and that the friendship between us would never have been broken up if I had not enveloped myself in 'icy chilliness.'

"As to his retiring disposition, he surely had a right to commend it if he chose. But it seemed odd to us that he was so peculiarly retired the last three months of his intercourse with us - people of very retiring habits commonly showing it the most on first acquaintance, and not after a year or two of intimacy. As to his being under no obligation to be social, I had acknowledged that in my letter. But still, if he chose to change his demeanor from that of a member of a private family on terms of intimate friendship, to that of a boarder at a public tavern, while he had civil right so to do, we still thought it demanded some explanation. We thought it strange that a student who was making such progress in the study of the humanizing arts should so utterly forget one essential attribute of true greatness, viz., to be kind and condescending to the meanest servant that ministered to his wants.

"I was truly relieved to learn that he had nothing to allege against my aunt, and that my '*icy chilliness*' was the sole cause of breaking up existing friendship. Whether I am chilly to my other boarding scholars will appear from the inclosed certificate. It is signed by every pupil who boarded with us. I have taught sixty scholars this term, and I have no doubt that from fifty-nine of them I could get a similar certificate. But the subject is too ludicrous for a very grave reply, and the charge has already excited much merriment among my scholars and my neighbors.

"I believe that O.'s charge of icy chilliness will appear to his calmer judgment as a miserable and disingenuous subterfuge, and that he will class this whole affair among the graver follies of his youth. My hope is that this rupture with him will make him wiser, and conduce to his future discretion and happiness, for which no one is more sincerely desirous than, Madam,

"Your ob't servant,

"FREDK.

T. KEMPER."

The certificate referred to is signed by Edw. B. Dyer, William C. McAfee, Thomas J. Montgomery, Isaac H. Jones, and Benjamin Lafon.

These letters reveal the heartaches and sore cares which harass a teacher's life, and at the same time show the tact and good judgment which Mr. Kemper displayed in dealing with them, when he was an inexperienced young man of twenty-seven - a mere apprentice, as he called himself.

The last letter is valuable as showing that even a good student may have very crooked ways, give his teacher serious trouble, and by his persistence in evil-doing prove himself unfit to be allowed to remain in a well regulated school.

The next chapter carries us to the scene of his greatest usefulness and triumph, at Boonville.

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## CHAPTER VII

### THE BOONVILLE BOARDING SCHOOL

**“Yet is the school-house rude,  
As is the chrysalis to the butterfly,  
To the rich flower, the seed. The dusky walls  
Hold the fair germ of knowledge, and the tree  
Glorious in beauty, golden with its fruits,  
To this low school-house traces back its life.”**

**STREET**

Mr. KEMPER was now in the twenty-eighth year of his life - the maturity of his young manhood. He had seen enough of the practical side of life on the farm where he was reared, and in the counting-room, to lift him above the follies of the mere pedant. He had pursued a liberal course of science and literature, and had been graduated with signal honor from an institution in charge of men of acknowledged ability, and which commanded the patronage of the most intelligent States of the East. After years of hesitation and earnest, prayerful thought, he had finally turned away from the ministry and the law, and dedicated his life without reserve to the arduous, misunderstood, and greatly undervalued profession of education. He had begun his novitiate as the instructor of his own brothers and sisters in Virginia. He had served his *alma mater* as tutor for three years. He had conducted with success, on his own responsibility, a private boarding-school under the very shadow of the college whose diploma he bore. Now he began to ask himself as to a permanent arrangement for the future. While we do not know that there were any special discouragements at Philadelphia, and we do know that he met with decided encouragement there, yet we may readily see that the disastrous failure of Marion College and the smallness of the community where he had begun to teach, working upon his desire to make his life as largely useful as possible, would cause him to consider whether he might not find a more favorable field for the prosecution of his life work.

At any rate, we know he determined to leave Philadelphia, and that, as we are told by Dr. Leighton, he first offered himself to the people of Palmyra. That they failed to respond to his proposal should not be misconstrued to the injury of Mr. Kemper as an acceptable teacher, nor to the discredit of the intelligent enterprise of the citizens of that goodly town. With the wreck of their

hopes at Marion College, we can easily see that the people of that section would be suspicious of any new educational enterprise.

We are told by Mrs. Kemper that his thoughts were directed to Boonville through the influence of a New School Presbyterian minister at that time living there. This was doubtless the Rev. Mr. Slocum, who had a short and not very glorious career in Boonville. This is quite probable from the fact that up to this time, Mr. Kemper's associations had been mainly with the New School element in the church. His old pastor in Virginia, Rev. Dr. Pollock, was of that party. Dr. David Nelson and Rev. James Gallaher, both of whom he very greatly admired, were on that side of the question. We are not surprised, therefore, that his first affiliations were with the Slocum party in Boonville, nor, on the other hand, that he turned to the Bell, or O. S. side, as soon as he saw the spirit of Mr. Slocum. As far as the doctrinal issue in the case was concerned, it is doubtful whether Mr. Kemper took the trouble to thoroughly post himself; and if he did, his sympathies may have been with the excscinded synods on constitutional rather than doctrinal grounds.

But whatever may have been the inducing cause or causes, Mr. Kemper left Marion County in the spring of 1844 and came to Boonville, then the most beautiful, attractive, and flourishing town in central Missouri. It was the lowest point on the river which was readily accessible from the south by means of good roads running over an unbroken country. In those days, before railroads had revolutionized the commerce of the State, it enjoyed a large and lucrative wholesale and forwarding trade with the southern counties, extending to the extreme south-west. When the writer was a school boy it was a usual sight to see its broad and level streets filled with wagons from Springfield and the lead regions of Newton County.

As this place is to be henceforth, with the exception of five years, the scene of Mr. Kemper's labors we shall copy from the Centennial Catalogue of the school what is there said concerning it:

"Boonville is near the geographical center of Missouri, on the south bank of the Missouri, one hundred and ninety miles from its mouth. In its aboriginal state, Central Missouri was, on the north side of the river, the hunting-ground of the Foxes, Sacs, and other Indian tribes; and on the south, of the Osages. In 1805 Daniel Boone, who then lived near St. Charles, discovered the Boone's Lick Salt Springs, in Howard County, thirteen miles from Boonville, where Nathan and David Boone, his sons, settled and made salt from 1806 to 1810. This seems to have been the earliest settlement in Central Missouri, and from it an indefinite region, from St. Charles westward, on both sides of the river, was called the 'Boone's Lick Country.'

"Other settlers followed, and as early as 1810 a small community had built and occupied Kincaid's Fort, a few hundred yards up the river from the present site of Old Franklin (directly



opposite Boonville), while another was established in Cooper's Fort, a few miles above. The south side of the river was settled in 1811. Cole's Fort was built in that year, two and a half miles below the present site of Boonville, on a bluff overhanging the river. About the same time 'Widow' Cole's Fort was built on the flat ground at the mouth of the stream flowing into the river near the north-east corner of the city. This was the first settlement inside of the present city limits.

"All development was stopped by the war of 1812-15 with England. The Indians sided actively with the British; the forts on the north side of the river were besieged, and the men of those on the south were shot by ambushed foes. It was at this period that the famous exploit of Miss Cooper was performed. Cooper's Fort was besieged by an Indian force so overwhelming that its reduction was only a question of time. Miss Cooper met the emergency by mounting a horse and riding at full speed over and through the enemy. She was greeted with a shower of bullets, but escaped unharmed, and soon brought a reinforcement from Kincaid's Fort, which broke up the siege.

"The war closed in 1815, and during that year the first house in Boonville, outside the fort, was built by a man named Roup, on or near the site of the residence of Judge Adams, and two or three hundred yards from the school buildings. The stream which runs through the play-grounds is called from him, Roup's Branch." This was Gilead Rupe, who is said to have been the first white man to settle within the present limits of Lafayette County. It is asserted that he built his house two and a half miles southeast of where Lexington now stands, about the year 1815 - the very year in which Roup built the first house in Boonville. We have documentary evidence which makes it somewhat doubtful whether the date assigned to Gilead Rupe's settlement in Lafayette County is correct. It is the original patent issued to him for the very land, S. W. Quarter, Section 9, T. 50, R. 27, on which he is said to have built. It was granted July 30, 1821, is signed in autograph by President James Monroe, and gives the title to "Gilead Rupe, of *Howard* County, Missouri." Cooper and Lafayette counties had both been detached from Howard. We have other evidence which makes it certain that he did not come to Lafayette County prior to the fall of 1818. There is a Rupe's Branch running from this tract into the western borders of Lexington. This Gilead Rupe kept the ferry at Boonville during these early days.]

"The second building was erected the next year by Dr. Asa Morgan, on the present site of the Central National Bank. The first court in Boonville was held in the house of 'Widow' Cole, inside the fort, in 1816, David Barton [who penned the original constitution of Missouri], afterward United States Senator, presiding. The fear of Indian troubles having passed away with the war, 1816 and the succeeding years were marked by a large influx of settlers. To use the words of one of our oldest and best citizens, who has lived in Cooper County since 1815, 'they came by hundreds.'

“In 1817 Dr. Asa Morgan and Charles Lucas, father of James H. Lucas, of St. Louis, drew the plan of Boonville, but no lots were sold until August, 1819, when, the county of Cooper having been formed, the embryo town was made its capital. By this time, however, the town of Franklin was rapidly developing on the low ground of the opposite shore; and it was not until 1834, when it became evident that the treacherous current of the river would finally sweep it away, that Boonville showed any signs of prosperity. From that time its development was rapid for many years; but the loss of its wholesale trade, caused by the extension of railroads, has materially checked its growth.

“The city now contains 5000 or 6000 inhabitants. In point of educational advantages it has, besides the public graded schools, seven private schools of various grades. There are ten churches of various denominations. The M. K. & T. Railroad, which crosses the Missouri River here, puts the town in direct and easy communication with Chicago and the East on the one hand, and with Texas on the other. An elegant iron bridge, one third of a mile long, spans the river for its use. The O. V. & S. K. Railroad also gives us Eastern connection through Tipton and St. Louis.

“In healthfulness and beauty of situation, Boonville stands unrivaled among the towns of Missouri. Built on hills which come boldly up to the edge of the river, it enjoys all the beautifying effects of water and undulating landscape, without exposure to the exhalations of low grounds. Cholera visited the city once or twice in its early history, but for many years it has escaped both cholera and small-pox. Though they have been very fatal at points but a few miles distant. In the course of thirty-two year the Kemper Family School has lost but one student by death.”

Mr. Kemper came to Boonville during the spring of 1844, the time of the great flood in the Missouri River, when its waters attained their maximum height, since the white man first became acquainted with them. It not only overflowed its banks, but stretched from bluff to bluff, five miles from shore to shore. Not only the houses of the unfortunate inhabitants of its bottom-lands were daily seen floating down the stream, but the steamboats lost themselves in the wide waste of waters. Roup’s Branch and the dry ravines that drain into it became unfordable by reason of the water backed up from the swollen river. The writer of these lines, then a lad of seven, came near drowning in a gully that now runs through the play-grounds of the school, and was rescued by the kindly help of his friend and neighbor boy, George W. Tracy.

Mr. Kemper bore with him, when he went to Boonville, the following letter of recommendation:

“SAINT LOUIS, March 30, 1844.

I have known Mr. F. T. Kemper for about two years, while holding the office of President of that Institution. His progress in study was rapid, and his scholarship sound and thorough as far as he had then progressed. I regarded him as a very promising student, of commanding talents, great prudence, and amiability of disposition. He has sustained the character of a consistent Christian for several years. The vocation of teacher has been assumed by him since I left the college, and of his success I have no personal knowledge, but have every reason to believe him peculiarly well fitted for that responsible work.

WILLIAM S. POTTS,

“Pastor Second Presb. Ch., St. Louis.”

We quote again froth the Centennial catalogue:

“The Kemper Family School was opened in Boonville on Monday, June 3rd, 1844, using for a school-room a one-story frame building standing on the present site of the banking-house of Aehle & Dunnica [at the corner of Main and Spring Streets]. The principal was then and for several years after unmarried, and his aunt, Mrs. Mary S. Allison, was matron of the school family. The first family residence was a small frame house, still standing nearly opposite the Methodist Church (on Spring Street]. This house being inadequate to lodge the few boarders Mr. Kemper brought with him, an office was used, which stood on or near the present site of Weber’s Agricultural Works [on the south side of Spring Street, between Main and Sixth].

The boarding department was soon moved to a brick building, still standing on the old Fair Grounds [just east of the city limits, near the river]. After a few weeks the school-room was moved to the second story of the [brick] building standing at the southeast corner of the court-house square, and now the residence of Rev. W. D. Mahan. It had been previously occupied as a school-room by Mr. Jaffray, who sold his furniture and interest to Mr. Kemper.

“The original course of study embraced the entire Cambridge course of mathematics, and the course of classics then current in Western colleges.”

It may well excite our wonder how it was possible for one man to teach the alphabet and the advanced classics, spelling and the calculus, and all the grades between. It matters not what maybe the mental and physical capacity of the teacher undertaking it, such a thing is an impossibility. Such a undertaking has never been done successfully, and never can be. Herein lies one of the errors that prevail in our country district schools. Some influential man in the neighborhood has a son or a daughter who has passed beyond the branches appropriate to the preparatory district

school. He insists that the teacher shall instruct this child in the studies of the high school. There are forty other pupils in the lower grades. These must be drilled in all the fundamental branches. He is fortunate if he finds them reducible to four grades. With four studies in each grade, these would give him sixteen recitations in a day. During the six hours of the school-day there would be an average of less than twenty-three minutes to each recitation, making no allowance for recesses. When, then, is he to teach this advanced pupil Latin, algebra, and the sciences? Allowing this pupil four daily recitations, we find that he can give to each of the twenty recitations but eighteen minutes each, allowing himself no time for recreation, morning or afternoon. We are free to say that, in our judgment, no man can accomplish successfully such a task.

Look at it again. Here is one pupil who has already received all the advantages of the district school, and yet claims that one fifth of the teacher's entire time shall be given to him; while forty others, to whom the district school properly belongs, must content themselves with the remaining four fifths. That is, he who has no rights in the case claims ten times as much of the teacher's care and labor as every other pupil, for whose special benefit the district school is conducted. This is not only an injustice, as here set forth, but in its practical workings results either in the breaking down of the poorly paid and overworked teacher, or else in his neglecting the primary classes for the benefit of his advanced pupil. The State law ought to forbid the teaching of the high-school studies in the preparatory district schools.

How was it with Mr. Kemper? How came he to undertake this impracticable task? It was necessary for him to essay this work in those early days of the school. The attendance and the tuition fees did not, at first, justify his employment of help. Yet he did not attempt this work alone. He relieved himself in a way that no one but a teacher of his genius would have thought feasible or proper. He employed his pupils as assistants. But here was the peculiarity of his practice: he used them, not for the primary or fundamental branches, but for the more advanced. We shall speak of this interesting educational question at greater length when we treat of his plans as a teacher. We merely allude to the matter here, and state that his wisdom in this can be fully vindicated. It is our present purpose to give a history of the school in its external aspects, its incidents, changes, and development.

The record of the opening day shows the attendance of only five pupils, four of whom Mr. Kemper brought with him from his school at Philadelphia - his two cousins, William H. and Roberdeau Allison, sons of his uncle Henry; Edward B. Dyer, of Fulton, Mo., and Isaac H. Jones, of Palmyra, Mo. The Allisons remained as pupils for several years, and were by him trained as teachers. As such they have been a credit to him. It was said of the older brother, when he taught

in the district schools of Lafayette County, by the intelligent and discriminating county commissioner, Prof. George M. Catron, that he was probably the best teacher in the country schools of that enlightened and progressive county. Mr. Dyer belonged to a well-known and highly esteemed family, many of whose members are still resident in Callaway County, and one of whom, Mr. Watkins, a nephew of Mr. Dyer, was for several years the successful head of the Ashley Seminary, in Pike County. Of Mr. Jones we know nothing.

De Witt Clinton Mack has the honor of being the first Boonville boy to enter the school, and the only one for several weeks. He died long since, and his Widow is the excellent woman whose discharge of the responsible duties of matron at the Fulton Synodical Female College has contributed greatly to the success of that popular institution. One of his daughters is the wife of the Rev. W. E. Burke, the Presbyterian minister at New Bloomfield, in Callaway County.

*June 24, 1844.* - John H. Hogan - "Jack" as we used to call him- George W. and John T. Tracy, William M. Quarles, Alexander B., William, Joseph, and Samuel B. Russell, were entered as pupils - all Boonville boys except the Russells, who were from lie county adjacent. The Tracy's were sons of Joshua L. Tracy, for many years the head of one of thee most popular schools for girls ever established in Missouri. George is still living, a modest but honored citizen of Kirkwood. John, one of the writer's dearest boyhood friends, became a genial man of the world, a wandering cosmopolitan, fond of adventure, and finally died among strangers in South America. Peace to his ashes, and joy to his generous spirit! William M. Quarles became a physician graduating at the University of Pennsylvania, and was regarded by his friends as a Chesterfield in manners. He met his death as a soldier in the first battle of the war in Missouri, dying alone upon the field. The older Russells are dead, and Joseph and Samuel are living in Texas.

*July 16.* - John and Mark Ainslie, John R, Lionberger, Horace A. Hutchison, and William G. Buckner were enrolled. John Ainslie, the son of English parents, was a natural gentleman. He died in the South. Mark was a rough, warm-hearted boy of ultra-sanguine temperament. We cannot forbear recording here an incident, very honorable to Mark and his mother, although it brings a blush to the writer's cheeks. We were both boys in our early teens. I was a professor of religion and a member of the church. Mark made no such pretensions. We were spending the night together in the country. Although I had been taught to pray before I went to bed, and felt it a Christian duty so to do, I was afraid that Mark would ridicule me should I do it in his presence. I therefore compromised with my conscience by determining that I would attend to my devotions after I was in bed. Being ready first, I jumped in, and was composing myself, when, to my great surprise and mortification, Mark said, "Jimmie, my mother has taught me never to neglect my prayers before I go

to sleep. So you will please excuse me.” It was an arrow to my heart, and I immediately arose, and we kneeled together to commend our souls to God. I acknowledged my cowardice to Mark, and thanked him as I do still, for the lesson of moral courage which he taught me.

George Ainslie, a third brother, now represents Idaho Territory in the United States Congress. John H. Lionberger has become one of the wealthy and influential citizens of St. Louis - a leader in its financial enterprises. Horace Hutchison, or “Shad,” as we were wont to name him, is the popular circuit Clerk of Cooper County, a cultivated gentleman and a poet of genuine genius. “Gill” Buckner is a respected citizen of Brownsville.

William D. and Howard Porteus Muir appear upon the register, with John Young Rankin, July 23. William Muir became a lawyer of acknowledged talent, and was one of the most elegant gentlemen of Boonville up to the time of his early death. “Ports” never returned from the Southern struggle, and now sleeps in a soldier’s grave. John Rankin was noted for his big foot and bigger heart. He went to Texas.

*September 2.* - John B. Holman and Leonidas Moreau Lawson became pupils. John Holman is now a successful practitioner of medicine in Boonville. “Lon” Lawson entered the school September, 1844, and continued to enjoy its privileges until June, 1851. He taught the advanced classes during the school year of 1851 - 52. He was, without doubt, Mr. Kemper’s favorite pupil during the long period of his attendance, and well did he deserve the honorable distinction. He was the son of a poor but very intelligent and worthy gentleman, whose business was that of a cabinet workman. He was very carefully raised by his parents, who were naturally and properly proud of him. He was always *facile princeps* in his classes. Indeed there was no one to dispute his acknowledged pre-eminence in all the branches of the full college course, which he pursued under Mr. Kemper. He seemed to have no special talent, or rather he had a mind which readily grasped and mastered every subject which it undertook. His was a mind among a million. He was equally apt in all the athletic sports of the play ground. He could run faster, jump higher, strike a ball better, swim and skate more gracefully than any of us, whom he distanced in the school room. He was a manly, courageous boy. The writer remembers well one occasion, when, in this, he was sorely tried. We were in the woods near the branch; when a difficulty arose between him and several of the boys. He was alone, and more than one of his antagonists were older, stronger, larger than himself. One of these, backed by the rest, attacked him. He saw that resistance was useless. With a calm courage and an unblanched cheek, he received the blows, refusing to strike in return, and as steadily refusing to do what they were seeking to force him to do, until they saw that he was more than a match for them all, and they left him, the undaunted victor upon the field. We have never witnessed a sublimer

display of heroism. As a speaker he was without a parallel in the history of the school. In matter thoughtful, and in manner graceful in gesture and eloquent in diction. He was the paragon of the school, the pride of the teacher, and the beau-ideal of his fellow-pupils. He went to the State University, entered the senior class, and although crippled by a spell of serious sickness, he was graduated with the highest honor in 1853. He was at once called to a professorship in William Jewell College, and during its incumbency he studied law and was in due time admitted to the bar. He rose rapidly in his profession, and was soon sent, though quite young, to the Legislature of the State from Platte County, by a majority very much greater than that of his colleague on the same ticket. Very much to the surprise and disappointment of many of his friends, who looked forward to his reaping the highest honors in the political preferments of the Republic, he turned abruptly from the blooming, beckoning path of professional and intellectual fame that opened before him, and gave his splendid powers to a life of financial enterprise. In this he has succeeded, and he is now a member of the substantial firm of Donnell, Lawson & Simpson, bankers, of Broadway, New York, whose business connections extend from London, England, to San Antonio, Texas.

*October 17.* - Henry C. Hayden entered the school. He was the son of Peyton R. Hayden, one of the most popular lawyers of the Boonville bar, the compeer of Abiel Leonard, John G. Miller, J. B. Gardenhire, Washington Adams - all men of the first repute in their profession. Henry was a talented boy, and much respected by his school associates. The most serious difficulty which occurred in the school, the first ten years of its establishment, was in connection with him. Those who witnessed it have never been able to forget it. It occurred at the noon recess, and was considered by Mr. Kemper of so serious a character that he spent the afternoon in a solemn lecture to us on the subject. Henry never attended the school again. It was feared that it might prove his ruin, and that he and his teacher would never be friends again. But it proved otherwise. Though for some years he was not what he might have been, he was given what is the grown man's greatest earthly blessing, a wise and faithful wife. He became an earnest, consistent Christian, and in Fulton first and at St. Louis afterward he rose to competence and eminence as a lawyer, and at his death was regarded one of the ablest advocates in Missouri. His career shows that it is possible to retrieve the errors of one's youth, and thus to pluck victory from disaster. The triumph is all the grander when it is so achieved, and reminds us of the words of the singer of the "Psalm of Life,"

*"Nor deem the irrevocable past  
As wholly wasted, wholly vain,  
If, rising on its wreck at last,*

*To something nobler we attain.”*

During his manhood Henry was one of Mr. Kemper's staunchest friends.

This closes the record of the first term, during which thirty-three pupils in all were enrolled. It seems a strange time for it to begin and end. The arrangement was doubtless due to Mr. Kemper's unwillingness to spend his first summer at Boonville in idleness.

The second session began November 25th, 1844. The records show an attendance of sixty-five during the term. Among these were Henry L. McPherson, for many years a pilot on the Missouri and afterward the captain of several steamers on the same river, now an enterprising railroad builder, one of the most chivalrous, noble-hearted men that Boonville has ever known; Henry C. Gibson, for many years, and now, a successful physician at Boonville; Benjamin F. Gibson, the doctor's brother, a farmer, who should not be allowed to sit on his load of hay while it is on the scales, for a reason that every acquaintance will appreciate; Robert Ruxton, a boarding pupil, a canny Scotchman, an intelligent, substantial gentleman, a subsequent teacher in Saline County, who wrote to his former preceptor: - "Mr. Kemper, what a fearful state of ignorance I have been living in for the last twenty years! And for what reason? Because I had not Webster's Dictionary. I tell you, sir, if I was deprived of this invaluable book, I would ride three hundred and fifty miles any time to read what he says about the letter A. And surely I would ride a thousand miles for the privilege of reading an hour in any other part of it" - a major in the Confederate service, an ardent admirer of his old teacher; Joseph C. Terrell, for a long time now a prominent lawyer at Fort Worth, in the Lone Star State; John W. Houx, a boy and a man that every acquaintance likes, one of the original settlers, and now a prominent merchant of Sedalia; John Y. Leveridge, the executive officer, as secretary of the Fair Association of Kansas City; J. A. Quarles, who was matriculated February 18, 1845, and continued a pupil until June, 1854.

"The first building for the use of the school was erected during the summer of 1845. The ground was purchased of Solomon Houck, May 20 of that year. It had a frontage on Third Street of one hundred and twenty feet. The building then erected, which constitutes the right front of the present main building, was put up by a joint stock company, with the understanding that Mr. Kemper was to purchase their stock in the course of time. This was promptly done." Before the removal to these premises, the family lived for some time in the frame building on the south-east corner of Main and Chestnut streets, which is still standing. We remember this fact distinctly, although Mr. Kemper does not allude to it in the centennial catalogue.



This first building on the grounds, which have since become historic as the permanent seat of the institution, was a two-story brick, having two rooms and a hall or entry below, and three rooms above. The first floor was for the family. The room in the south-west corner above was Mr. Kemper's bedroom. By the side of this, in the south-east corner, was a small recitation-room. On the north was the main school-room, approached by an outdoor stairway on the west side of the building. Every survivor can doubtless recall our pleasurable emotions on the day when we were transferred from the corner of the court-house square to these new, more comfortable, and, as we thought, elegant quarters. The exact date we cannot recall, and as it is not recorded we do not know. It was probably early in the fall of 1845.

The third session began June 2, 1845, and although held during the heated term, witnessed the enrolment of fifty-six pupils. Among the new ones were James Preston Beck, who was sent to Mr. Kemper an orphan boy from Lexington, Mo. He gave his teacher more than usual trouble, though he was intelligent and capable. He afterward was sent east, and was graduated in law at Harvard, and also in medicine at some Eastern institution. He became an elegant, cultured person, and was the hero of a romantic courtship in connection with his second marriage. Tyre C. Harris, afterward, in 1847, a teacher of the school. He became a Baptist minister. The records of that large and influential church doubtless contain the name of no contemporary in Missouri who stood so high with his own brethren and the outside community as Tyre Harris. He was cut down in the flower of his manhood, but honors had crowded thick upon him, and before him lay the promise of a life of distinguished usefulness. Charley Cope, Henry Marquis, William Henry Rector, and W. Woodfin are known as matriculates of this session.

We stop here, for the reason that the school entering its own building chose for itself a new name. Up to the close of this term it was called "The Boonville Boarding School." Henceforth for some years it was known as "The Male Collegiate Institute."

## CHAPTER VIII

### THE MALE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE OF BOONVILLE.

**“That heart, methinks,  
Were of strange mould, which kept no cherished print  
Of earlier, happier times, when life was fresh,  
And love and innocence made holyday:  
Or that owned  
No transient sadness when a dream, a glimpse  
Of fancy touched past joys.”**

**HILLHOUSE.**

The fourth semi-annual session of the school now known as The Male Collegiate Institute, began November 24th, 1845, and its register shows an attendance of sixty-six pupils. J. Wellington Draffen was one of these. Mr. Draffen is still a resident of Boonville, and is a proof that the Jewish proverb, “No prophet is without honor save in his own country,” has its exceptions, or is misinterpreted when it is made to affirm that true merit may not be and is not often recognized by those most familiar with its possessor. He has not shown himself a genius of eagle wing, able to fly to heavenly heights of eminence by a few bold strokes of its majestic pinions. But while his upward march has been the slow and toilsome progress of the climber up the steep and rugged mountain-side, in this he has displayed traits of character no less noble and sublime, and his proud position today, as one of the foremost lawyers of Central Missouri, shows the substantial stuff of which he is made. John R. Woodfin is another, and was one of the most assiduous and successful students of the higher branches in these early days. He went to California across the plains a few years after this, and it was remarked, in allusion to very unusual natural endowments which suggested the conceit, that he used one of his ears as a mattress and the other as sufficient covering in the nightly camping on the way.

The fifth term began May 11, 1846, and shows in attendance of seventy-one pupils. Of those enrolled for the first time we observe the name of James B. Harris. He was an older brother of the Rev. Tyre C. Harris, and along with him was an assistant teacher in the year 1847, twelve months from this date. He still lives in Callaway County, and has represented his senatorial district in the State Legislature to the satisfaction of his constituents. He was the presiding student at the reunion

in 1874. John Dow, the popular and the irrepressible, and A. H. C. Koontz are new names on the roll. Hiram Koontz was, as he is now, a positive character. He was a very ardent and ultra temperance man during the days of the Billy Ross excitement. He thought that Mr. Kemper was too conservative on the great issue of that day. Since then he has doubtless seen that our teacher was wiser than he.

The sixth semi-annual session began September 21, 1846. Seventy-five pupils were entered during the term. William Brown was one of these. He was one of the marked students of the school. Obedience to its regulations and earnest in his endeavors for self-improvement, he always stood high in the estimation of his teacher. Having removed to Jacksonville, Illinois, he studied law, and has there practiced his profession with eminent success ever since. He has been honored by his fellow-citizens with several important positions of trust, and has been favorably mentioned as a suitable person to fill the Governor's chair in that imperial State of the interior. He is now assistant solicitor-general of the Wabash Railroad, having charge of all its legal business east of the Mississippi River. Leonidas Boyle belongs to this year. He was the son of one of the best men that ever loved the Saviour and served his fellow-men in Missouri, the Rev. Joseph Boyle, D.D. "Lon" was a wayward boy, but of open heart and generous disposition. His life was a checkered one. He became a Methodist minister, and is now dead. John L. O'Bryan entered at this time. His father, Jordan O' Bryan, was one of the most respected citizens of Cooper County in those days, and John is now one of its leading public men. David Gibson and Boyle Hayden were two of the good boys of the school. Dave was a little mischievous and rather fond of sly fun. It was he who was so full of life that on one occasion he whistled aloud in school. Upon being called to account for it, he very naively replied, "Mr. Kemper, I didn't whistle; it just whistled itself." This reminds us of another ridiculous incident that occurred in connection with Sam Russell, one of the pupils of the first term. While the teacher was calling the roll, Sam was busy relating to a neighbor an adventure he had had a short time before. Being very intent upon his story, he had not observed that the time was approaching for him to answer. Just as Mr. Kemper called his name, he was in the act of saying "screech-owl" in his narrative, and so there rang out upon the solemn air of the school-room, from the teacher, "Samuel Russell," and the response, "Screech-owl!" Sam was like Dave, he could hardly realize that he had said it. Mr. Kemper could scarcely believe his ears. But it was unmistakably so, and all, from teacher down, except Sam, laughed in hearty chorus. Elisha S. Rector belongs to this period.

Up to this time, so far as the records show and our information goes, there were no regular assistants a gave their whole time to the work of teaching. Here was a school of seventy-one pupils of various grades to be instructed by a single teacher. We naturally say that it was impossible, and

so indeed it was. While we cannot recall who the helpers were, we distinctly remember that Mr. Kemper always freely used his older and better trained pupils as assistants, giving them those classes which needed the least drilling and control. In this way, we were sure, he met the exigencies of the school. As a straw confirming this view, it is a matter of record that, during this last term, John O'Bryan, Frank Chilton, and Well. Draffen were the regularly deputed penmakers of the school. We may infer from this that they were good whittlers. It may be that some of our children may not understand why there should have been penmakers. It is possible that some of them have never seen nor heard of an old quill pen. Be it known unto you, then, dear children, that in those good old times of which you have heard your grandfathers speak, but which we hardly think that even they would wish to see come again, steel pens and gold pens were unknown. The geese must be plucked, not only to furnish feather-beds on which our poor humanity sweltered during the days of the dog-star, but also that their quills might be used for pens. It was one of the necessities of the teacher's profession that he should know how to cut a quill. He might be ignorant of arithmetic and grammar, but he must know how to make a pen. Moreover, when a quill was once fashioned into a pen, it had a naughty way of not remaining so. It was in constant need of repairing, especially when used by the unskilled fingers of those learning to write. Imagine now one man, in addition to teaching mathematics, and the classics, and the three R's to seventy-one pupils, undertaking to make and mend pens for them! We can easily see that Mr. Kemper was wise in calling his pupils to the rescue, and that Draffen, Chilton, and O'Bryan did not have a sinecure. We wonder whether they can make, of as the Germans say, *cut*, a pen now.

In the fall term of 1846, beginning Sept. 21, Mr. Kemper determined to have regular help. Accordingly he made arrangements to that effect with James B. and Tyre C. Harris, two of his former pupils. Mr. Kemper occupied the main school-room, and supervised and directed the movements of the entire body of pupils. Tyre Harris met his classes in Mr. Kemper's bedroom, and James B. Harris his in the other small recitation-room.

In the fall term of this arrangement, seventy-five pupils were enrolled; and in the spring beginning March 8th, 1847, there were sixty-six. Mrs. Kemper found among the papers this interesting statement: "Gross income of Kemper, Harris and Harris for first session of their partnership, ending March 2, 1847, \$655.35. Second session, ending 6<sup>th</sup> of Aug., 1847, \$551.76." This is a total of \$1207.11 for three men, for teaching an average of seventy pupils for an entire school year. It shows us that either many of the pupils failed to pay, or that the average charge did not exceed twenty dollars for each one.

Among the names of this spring term of 1847 we find Edward H. Harris. He was not of the same family as the teachers. He is now the head of an interesting family, most of the children grown, and is a prosperous merchant and farmer at Pilot Grove in Cooper County. He has a son whom he is prone to call Frederick Kemper Harris. Hardage L. Andrews was a pupil for several years, and is now a resident of California. William M. Givens was one of the most mature pupils that ever attended the school. He was successful in his studies, then attended the medical lectures, and is now a physician at Gallatin, Mo.

The eighth session opened Sept. 13, 1847, and is credited with fifty-five pupils. At this time we first find a daily record kept of every boy's lessons, absence, etc. The partnership with the Harris brothers did not continue longer than a year, so that Mr. Kemper was now again doing the whole work, with the help of his pupils. We see that the time for beginning the school year has been gradually changed, until it was now brought to correspond with of other schools. This was a wise movement for the manifest reason that it gave to teacher and pupil their period of rest during the enervating days of summer.

The ninth session, beginning February 21, 1848, enrolled fifty-four pupils. Jeff. B. McCutchen died from wounds received at the first battle of Boonville. We sigh as we think of him cut down in the early promise of his manhood. Oberon A. Kueckelhan was the son of Dr. A. Kueckelhan, a graduate in medicine from one of the universities of the Fatherland, and one of the most skilled physicians of Missouri. Obe is a farmer near Boonville. W. C. P. Townsley - "Chan" we called him - was an intelligent and orderly boy, standing well in the regard of his teacher and fellow-pupils. He became a carriage maker, and worked at this business until the war. He prosecuted the study of the law while thus engaged, and surprised many of his friends by his sudden and unexpected appearance at the bar. He was given the commission as judge of the Lafayette Judicial Circuit of Missouri, and despite his inexperience and the general dissatisfaction at the manner of his entering upon the bench, he made a respectable record as a jurist. He is now in Kansas. His brother, Leopold M. Townsley, is a dentist.

There were forty-two enrolled during the tenth session, which began September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1848. During this term there first appears upon the register one of the worthiest names connected with the history of the school. It is that of Edward Roberson Taylor. His father was from Tennessee, and a cabinet workman of slender means. He did not live many years after he settled his family in Boonville. Edward was thus left, an only son, with several sisters to the care of his widowed mother. He continued to prosecute his studies with very honorable success, always maintaining a position among the foremost of his class. Though quite young, he had studied the high mathematics and

read a fair course in the Latin and Greek classics before he was compelled to leave school to aid in the support of the family. He entered the tobacco factory of Mr. David Spahr, and began work as a stemmer. He soon held other, higher and more responsible positions in the factory. This, however, did not suit him, and he entered a printing-office, and began to learn "the art preservative of all arts," in the composing-rooms of the Boonville *Observer*. A. W. Simpson was then the editor and the paper was recognized as one of the ablest organs of the Whig party in the State. Edward's intelligence, industry, and trustworthiness brought him rapid promotion, and before he was twenty-one year, of age he was the foreman of one of the best conducted printing-offices in the West. During this time he wrote several poems, which were highly commended by judicious critics. The family then removed to California, and Edward studied medicine, taking the doctor's degree. In this, as in everything else, he was a very diligent and successful student. He was the author of several able articles, which were published in the medical journals, and attracted the favorable notice of his professional brethren. He tired, however, of medicine. He became the private secretary of Governor Height, and received license to practice law. He is now of the firm of Taylor & Haight, attorneys-at-law, San Francisco. He still at irregular periods cultivates the muse of poetry, and contributes to this volume one of its chief attractions. T. C. Davis belongs here. "Kink" was our name for him in allusion to his curly head.

There were only thirty-five pupils in attendance upon the spring session, which opened February 26, 1849. As this is one of the smallest aggregates for any term, we make it the occasion for saying that it does not indicate a waning in the popularity of the school. The most thoroughly established institutions in the land have their ebb and flow, produced by a number of conspiring causes. But in addition to this, and far more important in the history of the Kemper school, is the fact that its founder and head was always favorable to a small and select school, never desiring more than he could himself personally teach and control. From his journal we know that he limited his number this year to thirty. This may seem strange to some, but his wisdom in it will be shown when we discuss his principles and plans as a teacher.

Horace Bingham, the eldest son of the distinguished painter, G. C. Bingham, was one of the matriculates of this term. Frank Lionberger, the artist of Boonville, was another. James Porter, of the Boonville ferry, was another. Lewis Miller, the son of the Hon. John G. Miller, one of the ablest and purest public men that Missouri has ever sent to Washington City, was another. Lewis became a lawyer, removed to Saline, married an accomplished lady, and died a few years since. James P. Dow, who lives on an island in the Missouri River above Boonville, "monarch of all he surveys," belongs to this period. James Madison Byler is still another. No pupil of this period of the school

can ever forget Byler and his pony. As there was congenital malformation of both hands and feet, the pony was indispensable, and he was therefore as regular an attendant as was his master. Byler was very proud of "Pony," and took pleasure in descanting upon his excellent traits. One day he told us that there was one sure mark of a fast-gaited horse, and then pointed to Pony to show us that he had it. Pony, if urged, could gallop probably four miles in an hour. He was a sorrel, and wore his hair short behind. Byler was a good student. That Mr. Kemper regarded him with favor is clearly shown in his employment of him as an assistant in 1851. He is now a real estate agent at the flourishing young city of Sedalia.

The twelfth session witnessed the enrolment of sixty-three pupils. It began September 10, 1849. Among the number were William B. and Richard A. Hening. The Hening boys were sons of the Rev. John A. Hening, an able, pious, but somewhat eccentric Methodist minister. Dick was a sprightly boy, industrious, intelligent, inquisitive. Many of the old pupils will probably remember his peculiar rendering of Longfellow's "Excelsior," a favorite piece for declamation. The support of his father's family soon devolved upon him. He accepted the trust as a brave, true man, removing to Neosho, in Newton County, that he might more successfully meet its responsibilities, and there he has since died.

Mrs. Kemper sends the following item connected with this term:

"Should the education of females be equal to that of the males?"

"Aff.-Givens, Quarles, Mack, Taylor, Dow, M. Ainslie.

"Neg.-Torbert, Lawson, Mitchell, J. Ainslie, Tucker, Morton."

As it has been the writer's lot to preside over the education of girls during the best years of his life, he is gratified to find that in his boyhood (for he was only twelve years of age then) he was the advocate of woman's right to a full participation in the privileges of a thorough education. The strength of truth was on the side of the affirmative, but the heavy guns of debate were with the negative. Torbert and Lawson were the orators of the school. J. W. Torbert is another of the most distinguished pupils that the school has known. He was a faithful student, and eagerly ambitious for self-improvement. He was far more mature in years than the rest of us. At this time he was probably nearly or quite twenty-one years of age. He was invited while a pupil to take charge of the city public school, and accepted the trust. He was specially gifted as a speaker. Of commanding appearance, having a fine voice, great fertility of thought, affluence of speech, and grace of movement, he was a natural orator, capable of commanding the attention of any audience he might address. There were lively times in the Boonville Lyceum when he and John H. Hening, Esq., were pitted in debate against each other. They were both vigorous thinkers and effective speakers.

Torbert threw himself into politics, was very popular upon the stump, and was sent by Taylor or Fillmore as consul to the Island of St. Thomas, we believe and there died. If he had lived to middle age then is hardly a doubt that he would have left behind him a name historic in the annals of his country.

The thirteenth semi-annual term began February 25, 1850, and during its continuance fifty-seven names were registered. For the next school year embracing the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, the records have been lost, and we have no means now of ascertaining how many were enrolled, nor the name of particular pupils. As yet the custom of publishing an annual catalogue had not begun.

In 1851 the school building was improved by an addition, which nearly doubled its capacity. It was put up as an ell to the front building, already described, at the north-west corner, enclosing in a hall the steps leading to the second story. This improvement was necessary for the accommodation of those who wished to avail themselves of the benefits of the school. We are satisfied, however, that Mr. Kemper's own judgment did not approve this enlargement. He was always favorable to a small school. We must bear in mind that he was still, and for several years longer, a bachelor, and that the enlargement was not for boarders, but for an increased attendance of day pupils. The addition had a hall and one large room on each of its two floors. Mr. Kemper took the intermediate pupils into the lower room, James M. Byler was given the primaries in the old school-room, and L. M. Lawson took charge of the most advanced classes in the upper room of the new building.

From statements made in his journal we learn that this improvement cost about three thousand dollars, and that he was expected to pay for it within three years. The centennial catalogue tells us that it was put up by a joint-stock company, with the understanding that Mr. Kemper was to purchase the interest of the other stockholders. This he doubtless did to a great degree by educating the sons of those who had taken stock. We know from his journal that before he had occupied the building a year he had paid more than seven hundred dollars upon it.

The year succeeding this improvement of the premises is noted in showing the largest attendance in the history of the school. In the fall term there were enrolled one hundred and twenty-seven pupils, and in the spring one hundred and twenty-one. These were large numbers for three teachers to handle. They were well graded, however, and in those days the range of studies was not as extensive as now. The largest proportion was under Mr. Kemper's personal care, and the smallest in Lawson's room.



During the first term of the eighth year, beginning September 8, 1851, Elijah Workman's name appears. He was the son of English parents, who lived near the upper landing for steamboats. They did not tarry long in Boonville, but soon removed to California, where they have since resided. Charley Reinhart is still in Boonville, with a pleasant smile and a hearty shake of the hand for any of the old pupils he may meet. Leverett Leonard, to one of the best farmers that ever tilled the soil and improved the stock of Cooper County, carries on a magnificent farm in Saline, the banner county of the State for the richness of its soil. Leverett was graduated at Dartmouth College and studied law, but prefers the more quiet and independent life of the husbandman.

During the spring term, beginning February 9, 1852, William Workman became a pupil. With his name there comes to us a throng of pleasant memories. He was one of the best of boys. Simple, unaffected, generous, true, we loved him as though he had been a brother. In those days his family was poor. As already stated, they went to California, and have there become wealthy, owning extensive orange and lemon groves, fig orchards, and vineyards in Los Angeles. We sometimes wonder whether money has contracted or expanded the noble sympathies of his nature. We should love to meet him again; but, if not here, then we hope to do so in the amaranthine bowers of the upper Paradise, more beautiful, more fragrant, more perennial than the orange groves of his California home. David Lionberger belongs here; he was the youngest of five brothers, all of whom were pupils - John R., De Witt C., Frank, William, and himself. Their father was for many years one of the prominent citizens of Cooper County. David studied medicine, and went to Paris to perfect himself in his profession. But his delicate constitution soon yielded to disease, and he filled an early grave. Ralph Augustus Quarles entered during this session. He and Dr. William M. and J. A. Quarles were all sons of Colonel James Quarles, who became a citizen of Cooper County in 1836. Himself a teacher in early life, he prized the advantages of education, and gave to all three of his sons both a collegiate and professional course. Augustus went to Westminster College, and then to the medical school. Since his graduation he has practiced his profession in the city of St. Louis.

The ninth year opened September 20th, 1852, and during its first term one hundred and ten pupils were registered. Scott Benedict, one of the best boys of the school, was of this number. He went to California. John M. Weidemeyer is another. He was one of the most athletic boys that ever graced the campus of a school. He excelled in all kinds of sport, but was specially proficient at football, where activity, strength, and endurance were all required. He was one of the most popular students of the school - popular with his teacher and loved by his associates. He bore a captain's commission under the Confederacy, and, we are sure, was a gallant soldier. He is now an enterprising merchant at Clinton, Mo. William Wyan Trigg, instinctively a modest, refined

gentleman, and Beverly Bunce are pupils of this period. Beverly Bunce has reason to remember the writer of this volume. We were playing bandy. The writer had a stick, on the curve of which a hollow bone had been fastened, to give it weight. He had gotten possession of the ball on a part of the field where there was no one to interfere with him. He prepared, therefore, to give the ball the heaviest possible stroke. Beverly was standing right in front to intercept it. When the stroke was made, the bone flew from the stick, hit Beverly squarely in the forehead, and he fell as if he had been shot. The striker feared that he had killed him. But fortunately the skull is thick there, and no serious damage was sustained. During the war we saw a Southern soldier, at the battle of Glasgow, with a Minie ball imbedded in his forehead, and yet he was walking around and joking merrily about it.

During the second term there were enrolled eighty-two pupils. William B. Napton Jr., the son of the distinguished jurist of the same name, was one of these. He became a lawyer, and practised for some years in Kansas City. He has now retired to his farm in Saline County. David W. Thompson. Joseph S. Roberson and James C. Wood, all from Pettis County, belong to this time. Dave was a steady, studious boy. Jo and Jim were rollicking fellows. Jo was smart, and witty, and handsome, and generous, and popular. He and Jim were both fonder of the girls than of their books. Jim lost his heart at Mr. Tracy's, and Jo his at Mr. Bell's. It was love, however, that did not ripen in either case. Jo went West, and we have lost him; but no friend on this earth has a greener place in our memory than this same light-hearted, frank, impulsive, noble Jo. The winter of 1853 marks an era in the history of the school, from the fact that an effort was then made to convert it into a college. For this purpose the following charter was secured from the legislature of Missouri:-

“An Act to incorporate Boonville College.

“WHEREAS, the school known as The Boonville Male Collegiate Institute, located in Boonville, Cooper County, has sustained itself for many years, has fitted pupils for high standing in the advanced classes of the best colleges, and has been supplied by its founder, F. T. Kemper, with suitable buildings and fixtures; and whereas, it is desired by the community sustaining said school to erect it into a college, which shall, in addition to the usual routine of literary and professional instruction, have normal agricultural schools for the special education of farmers and teachers; the whole to be no engine of any sect, and responsible to no ecclesiastical judicature, and yet remaining as heretofore, under Presbyterian influence; therefore

“Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:”

“Section I. That John G. Miller, James Quarles, John Colhoun. William H. Trigg, James Walter, E. W. Brown, Jordan O’Bryan, Smith Walker, Caleb Jones, James M. Nelson, C. L. Loomis, Jeremiah Rice, Richard T. Jacobs, F. T. Kemper, Chester Brewster, William G. Bell, F. W. G. Thomas, and Elisha Stanley, are hereby constituted a body corporate , under the name and style of ‘Boonville College;’ shall have perpetual succession and a common seal; and in their corporate capacity, may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended in all courts and places whatsoever.

“SEC. 2. Said Board of Trustees shall have the power to receive, acquire, recover, and hold any money, or real, or personal estate that may be granted, donated, or devised for the use of said institution; and may purchase or dispose of property, in such manner as will best promote the object of their organization .

“SEC. 3 Said corporation shall have the power to confer all the literary honors or degrees conferred by similar institutions, and to create such other degrees as may best promote the education of agriculturalists and professional teachers for common and high schools.

“SEC. 4. Said Board of Trustees is hereby empowered to appoint a faculty, the president of which shall be ex-officio, president of the Board of Trustees; and to appoint other officers and tutors as the interest of the institution may require. They may also displace the same, and make such by-laws and regulations as will further the interests of the college, provided they not be inconsistent with the laws of the land.

“SEC. 5. Said corporation shall have the power to displace members of their own body, who shall become disqualified for duty by age, infirmity, or otherwise, or who shall fail to perform their duties from neglect of the interests of the institution.

“This act to take effect from its passage.

“Approved February 12, 1853.”

As is manifest from the charter, the design was to make a college for the special benefit of farmers and teachers. Mr. Kemper himself was both, and he took the liveliest interest in the agricultural classes as well as in teachers. His favorite idea, however, was the normal college. We must remember that at that time there was none such in Missouri, and but very few in this country. It was his great ambition to inaugurate such a scheme in connection with his school in Boonville. We have before us an elaborate report on the subject prepared by him and submitted to those who were interested in Boonville College. In it he first states and elaborates the proposition. That “education should be a professional business,” “a learned profession,” “that teachers should be

professionally educated.” He then suggests “a plan for a school of pedagogics.” “We think,” he says, “a three years’ course of professional training , after leaving college, as little as the wants of the true teacher will admit. . . In three departments of study and practice. The first scientific, the second educational, the third practical exercise in teaching.

. . . In the scientific department we would have teachers not only review, but greatly extend their inquiries. . . 2. The educational department. Here let the embryo teacher learn the nature, the history, and the present state of education. Let him study how to govern a school and control his temper; how to exemplify, before his pupils and the world, the wisdom, and the knowledge, and the moral virtue which he is to inculcate. Let him study school architecture, the laws of health, the true relation of the teacher to his pupils, to the other professions, and to society; and last, though not least, the economics of his profession, or the way to make it pay. . .

3. We would attach to the college a preparatory department, in which all theories on education should be brought to the test of experiment, and in which the results of the wisest investigations might be employed in fitting children for future collegiate and business life”

As an additional incentive to professional excellence, he proposes with reference to the normal graduate, “Having started him out, a man of real learning and skill in his business, let him after teaching three years, if he demonstrates his success, be counted worthy the degree of Doctor of Philosophy”

One hundred thousand dollars, in addition to the endowment of the college, he thinks would put such a school on a solid foundation ; and he suggests that it be raised “by subscriptions of one dollar each from the patriotic and Christian ladies of our beloved country.”

There has been preserved one of these original subscription lists. The heading was written by Mr. Kemper. It is:-

“We, whose names are affixed, agree to pay the sums opposite to our names respectively to the Treasurer of Boonville College, for the purpose of endowing the “School of Professional Teachers in Boonville College.’ July 18, ‘53. - A. H. Bailey, \$1.00; A. S. Jefferson, \$1.00; E. J. Slack, \$1.00; G. S. Johnson W \$1.00; M. McFarland, \$1.00; S. B. Hammond, \$1.00.

The plan for endowing the college proper was the one which at that time was quite popular in Missouri, by means of scholarships. There were to be six hundred, at one hundred dollars each. They were transferable. A single scholarship entitled its holder to sixteen years of tuition in the regular collegiate or collegiate and preparatory course. A half scholarship gave four years’ tuition. A scholarship and half entitled its owner to eight years in the preparatory department, in addition to the sixteen years the single scholarship. Three scholarships gave the right to perpetual tuition.

Boonville College was never put into operation. There is no allusion to the scheme in his journal. We seriously question whether, outside of the normal features, Mr. Kemper ever had any very great interest in the project. It failed, probably because it was found impracticable to raise the means necessary for its endowment. At that time the Masons, at Lexington; the Methodists, at Fayette; the Baptists, at Liberty; and the Presbyterians, at Fulton and Richmond, having founded colleges, were endeavoring to raise the funds for their maintenance. Another non-sectarian college, "yet remaining under Presbyterian influence," was impracticable. While we do not know it to be so, it is our opinion that Mr. Bell the pastor of the Presbyterian Church, and a man of intelligent enterprise, was really the prime mover of the scheme. He was the president of the board of trustees.

We all should rejoice that no college was instituted. Missouri has of them all that will be needed probably for a hundred years to come. But it has no other school which has done or can do the work accomplished by the Family School or academy of Mr. Kemper. We need twenty more of the same kind in Missouri now.

Before dismissing Boonville College we shall be pardoned for saying a word about C. L. Loomis, who appears in the charter as one of the incorporators, and who was the secretary of the board of trustee. He came to Boonville as a Yankee school-teacher some years before this. He at first taught a boys' school on Main Street, opposite the present residence of Mr. James M. Nelson. It was, in some sense, a rival of Mr. Kemper's. There was never, however, the slightest unfriendly feeling between them. They were both bachelors, and both Presbyterians. Mr. Loomis had rather the harder cases of the town. He did his work well - so well that he was invited by Mr. J. L. Tracy to take the principalship of the flourishing school for girls over which he presided. There he was invaluable. Indeed, he was quite a remarkable man. Very homely in his personal appearance and ungraceful in his gait, he was one of those rare men that seem to know everything and to be able to do anything. To our youthful eyes he was a wonder, and as we look back to him, after a lapse of more than a quarter of a century, we can truthfully say that, modest as he was, he was one of the marked men we have met in this world. He married finally Miss Ruggles, one of his associate teachers, and went as a missionary to Africa. Where he is now we not know.

The tenth year of the school opened September 19, 1853. During the first term there were entered eighty-five pupils, among them Frederick Kemper Freeman, a namesake and nephew of our teacher. Fred was a sprightly, good-hearted boy, universally popular. He went west into the Territories for a while, then gave his services to the Confederacy during the war, and is now living in Georgia. George H. Houck is a name which prompts a sigh. Poor boy! he has gone to his reckoning, and to his own Master he stands or falls. With many good traits of character, he was utterly unfit

for such a school. It would have been better had his father kept him with himself on his trips back and forth to Santa Fe. We know not which to pity most, poor George or his poor teacher. John T. and James H. Chandler, twin brothers, were so much alike that their own father could not distinguish them, and was compelled, therefore, to whip them both, to be sure that he had the right one. Boys of robust minds in robust bodies, substantial characters, but full of mischief and fun. They were good students and fine speakers. They taught in the school the next year, and afterward for several years in various parts of the State. John was a tutor in William Jewell College. They were both Southern soldiers, John gaining a major's commission. James is now loaning money on Kansas City property, and is a resident of that thriving place. John became a lawyer, was sent to the State Legislature from Clay County, has been presented by his county as its candidate for Congress before the nominating convention, and is now a substantial citizen of Liberty, Mo., and the treasurer of William Jewell College. William Gentry was the son of Richard Gentry, of Pettis County, in his day the leading farmer of Missouri, and one of its most remarkable men. William is now one of the *heavy* men of his native county, an extensive and prosperous bachelor farmer. Philip E. Chappell, from Callaway, opposite Jefferson City, and William G. McCarty, from the capital, belong here. Both good boys and good men. Phil was a favorite. We all remember his bright face and sparkling eyes. He has given himself to a financial life as a banker, and is now the honored Treasurer of the State of Missouri. That his love never waned for his old teacher, and that his pen has not lost its cunning, are shown in the very excellent tribute which he pays in this volume to the character of Mr. Kemper. William Ballantine, then from Brunswick, now of Nebraska City, had all the generous impulses of his Irish ancestry. Dan Woolridge is the popular druggist of Boonville.

There were eighty-one pupils during the second term, beginning Feb. 13, 1854; among them Lewis Nelson, son of James M. Nelson, probably the wealthiest man and certainly one of the worthiest citizens of Cooper County.

This closes the record of the writer's personal attendance upon the school. For nine years and a half he had been a registered pupil. It was an inestimable privilege to sit at his feet for so long a time. He is almost ashamed to confess it here, as such advantages should have shown themselves in a more fruitful life. It was not the teacher's fault that they have not. The influence of his mighty spirit has been the attending mentor of his life, and, though twenty-eight years have since sped their course, he still lives under the grateful shadow of his teacher's presence.

Another, far more important, fact makes this a proper pause for the close of this chapter.

## CHAPTER IX

### HIS MARRIAGE

**“Woman is not undeveloped man,  
But diverse. Could we make her as the man,  
Sweet love were slain, whose dearest bond is this  
Not like to like, but like in difference.  
Yet in the long years liker must they grow;  
The man be more of woman, she of man.  
He gain in sweetness and in moral height,  
Nor lose the wrestling thews that throw the world;  
She, mental breadth, nor fail in childward care.  
More as the double-natured poet each,  
Till at the last she set herself to man  
Like perfect music unto noble words. -  
And so these twain, upon the skirts of Time,  
Sit side by side, full-summed in all their powers,  
Dispensing harvest, sowing the To be,  
Self-reverent each, and reverencing each,  
Distinct in individualities, But like each other, even as those who love.  
Then comes the statelier Eden back to man.  
Then reign the world’s great bridals, chaste and calm.  
Then springs the crowning race of human kind.”**

**TENNYSON.**

WE know from his journal that Mr. Kemper did not contemplate a bachelor’s life as a permanent arrangement. From our knowledge of his character, it seems rather strange that he should have postponed his marriage to so late a period. As from our observation and reflection on the subject we judge early marriages the wiser arrangement in all ordinary cases, we have queried why Mr. Kemper did not think so. Several reasons may suggest themselves. Among these there is one, which we know exerted a considerable and perhaps a determining influence with him: it was

his unwillingness to ask any one to share with him the inconveniences of comparative poverty. He alludes to this several times in his journal. We do not believe in this principle. A poor man needs a wife as much as a rich one, and a true woman will not hesitate to share the fortunes of the man she loves. Another reason may have influenced him, and doubtless did. It was the fact that he never met the woman of his choice until he saw his wife.

There was at Boonville, almost as far back as we can remember, a flourishing school for girls, known as the "Pleasant Retreat Female Seminary." It was the property and under the control of the Rev. William G. Bell, the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Boonville. It was an excellent institution, perhaps the best in the State at that time. Mrs. Bell was unusually well qualified for the responsibilities of her position, as she was a superior housekeeper, a refined lady, and an excellent manager of girls. The school was quite popular, attracting pupils from all parts of the State. Its students are now among the cultivated women of Missouri.

In the early part of the winter of 1849 there was a vacancy in the school, and Miss Ruggles, who was then a teacher in the Tracy school of Boonville, sent for one of her former pupils, Miss Susan H. Taylor, of Hoosick Falls, New York, to fill the vacancy. As Miss Taylor had finished the regular course of study in the academy of this place, and was only giving attention to music and drawing, she was able to leave at once, and reached Boonville in the latter part of November. She was introduced to Mr. Kemper the first day of her arrival, at the church prayer-meeting. Six months perhaps elapsed before they were thrown together again. After this they were frequently in each other's company, and became well acquainted by means of the singing-schools, lyceums, and school exhibitions which they attended. Both were members also of the church choir. In this way two years passed, and they recognized each other as friends, bound together by the of mutual respect. A Bible class was then formed, composed chiefly of the teachers of the Sunday-school. Hon. John G. Miller was one of its members. He was an elder, the superintendent of the Sabbath-school, and a devout Christian. Captain James Walter, Thomas Slack, Colonel James Quarles, and Dr. William M. Quarles were also remembered as connected with the class. These are all dead but Mr. Slack, who now lives in Jefferson, Texas. He is a brother of General Slack of Confederate fame, and is remembered as an honest, good man, very fond of singing; which he did, not only with the spirit and the understanding, but also with his whole body.

Mr. Kemper was the teacher of this Bible class, and the prophecy of Daniel was the first study. It was here that the attachment between Mr. Kemper and Miss Taylor began; in the mutual study of God's word their friendship ripened into love. Mr. Kemper was a man of strong feeling and ardent attachments. The schoolboy who showed a spirit of obedience and a disposition and ability to learn



always stood very high in his estimation. So this young woman, who studied her Bible lesson so as to be able to answer the hard questions of this prophetic and mystical book, at once won his heart. There are some of his schoolboys probably still living who may remember acting as postmen for their teacher. They would take their stand at the door of the Presbyterian Church before the Sabbath-school began, and hand Miss Taylor his letter as she entered to take charge of her class. The answer was taken to the Bible class in the afternoon, and placed inside a book of reference, which was passed over to him at the close of the recitation. But few letters were thus exchanged before the important question was asked and answered, and the engagement sealed by the presentation of a handsomely bound copy of the Greek Testament. A fitting courtship for so high and hallowed a union.

He was anxious that the marriage should take place at the close of the session in the summer of 1852. But chivalry and prudence seemed to forbid, for he said that he was in debt and could not ask any woman to share a life of poverty. Miss Taylor therefore returned to her home in the East.

In the year 1853 his father died in Virginia. From the patrimony which now came to him he was able to free himself from the load of debt and buy a small farm, lying some five miles south of Boonville. This farm, as we shall see, became one of the pets of his subsequent life.

There was now no obstacle to the consummation of his marriage. He always preserved a dignified reticence as to his private affairs. The writer, closing his connection with the school in 1854, was to be sent to the University of Virginia. Hearing that Mr. Kemper was also contemplating a trip to Virginia, he very naturally asked to be allowed to accompany him. The request was refused, without explanation, but for a reason which in due time became apparent. Miss Taylor was now living in Muscatine, Iowa, and there, July 17, 1854, at the house of Mr. David Kerr, she and Mr. Kemper were married by the Rev. Samuel Baird. They made a bridal trip to New England and to Virginia, visiting the relatives of each.

“John Taylor came from England in 1639, and settled in Connecticut. He had two sons - John, born in 1641, and Thomas, in 1643. In 1645, having business that called him back to England, he set sail in a ship of which nothing was ever heard again, except as a vision which is known in history as the ‘Phantom Ship’; one of the

‘Ships that sailed for sunny isles,  
But never came to shore.’

“When the boys were grown, John, the elder son, moved to Northampton, Mass., while the younger remained with his mother. The descendants of this younger son enjoyed great prosperity and long lives. Many men and women of influence and learning and piety went forth to bless other communities and portions of our great country. But the elder son, settling in a portion of the country renowned for Indian warfare and disturbances, many of his family were killed or taken prisoners. Their widows were thus left to struggle with poverty and hardships in raising their children. As a necessary result, there was less of wealth and learning in this branch of the family, but quite as much of sterling worth, and integrity and simple trust in God.

“John himself was killed by the Indians in 1704, leaving a family of thirteen children. Thomas, the tenth child, was in several battles with the French and Indians, but after escaping the perils of war was drowned in the Connecticut River. He left but two children. The youngest, Thomas, was engaged in Indian warfare, and while marching with a company of seventeen men was waylaid near Brattleboro, Vt., by a party of one hundred French and Indians. After a desperate encounter, in which most of his men were killed, Captain Taylor was made a prisoner and taken to Canada. He was kept in close confinement for several months, but was finally released for a ransom. The General Court of Massachusetts rewarded him for his bravery by the payment of fifty pounds, eighteen pounds for the loss of his gun, and ten pounds for the loss of his leather breeches.

“Lewis Taylor, the father of Mrs. Kemper, and grandson of Captain Taylor, erected a handsome marble monument, in 1874, on the spot where so many brave men were killed and his grandfather was captured.

“At an early date this branch of the Taylor family, meeting with so many losses and discouragements, were inclined to emigrate and seek homes in more fertile lands and beneath sunnier skies.

Calvin Taylor, a surgeon in the U. S. service, located in Mississippi as early as 1790. But as he died before the expiration of a year, his brothers were deterred from following his example. But the next generation three of the brothers left their New England home, going first to New Jersey. But the father of Mrs. Kemper was recalled to take charge of his father’s farm. The other two brothers went on South. One of them established a celebrated school for girls at Sparta, Georgia. The other, Calvin Taylor, still lives, a hospitable, noble, good man on the Gulf coast of Mississippi.

“This spirit of emigration prevailed to such an extent that at the present day this family has a greater number of representatives in Wisconsin, Iowa, Mississippi, Louisiana, and California than in the New England States.

“All of the numerous branches of this family have been a blessing in communities where they have made their homes.

“That they retain the integrity and virtues of their ancestors is perhaps best shown in the correspondence of Mr. Lewis Taylor, the father of Mrs. Kemper, with Mrs. Porter (the wife of President Porter, of Yale College), who belonged to the Connecticut family of Taylors. Their object was to impart and obtain information about both branches of the family. Their combined research could find no member upon whom any stain or dishonor rested, and there was no record of a divorce or separation of husband and wife.

“Mrs. Kemper’s mother was a Webster of Northfield, Mass., and in this family were many gifted minds and noble characters. An uncle of hers, Ezekiel Webster, who was graduated at Harvard College, was pronounced by his classmates the peer of Daniel Webster, both in intellect and powers of oratory. But just after his graduation he met with an accident that deprived him of his eyesight and compelled him to lead a secluded life.

“Mrs. Kemper’s grandmother Taylor bore the maiden name of Christian Field, and was a woman of renowned piety and an active worker in every good cause. From this Field family have gone forth men of enterprise, and worth and goodness to all parts of the country.

“Susan Holton Taylor was born in Barre, Vt., November 26, 1831, and was the fifth child in a family of nine children. When only two years of age her father removed to Hinsdale, N. H., to take charge of his father’s farm, situated at the junction of the Ashuelot River with the Connecticut. This was a manufacturing village, and the children had to be sent away from home for an education. Susan and her sister Emily went to Hoosick Falls, N. Y., to prepare for Mount Holyoke Seminary. Emily’s health failed, and she was obliged to stop her studies. Susan then entered Miss Lyon’s seminary for a three years’ course, but after one year there she persuaded her father to let her return to Hoosick Falls. She remained there until the time of her coming to Boonville.”

Mrs. Kemper is undoubtedly a representative of the best elements of New England society. She was a congenial companion for her husband. She not only appreciated his many great excellences, but was also in thorough sympathy with all his tastes and pursuits. Like him she was a scholar and a student. Like him, she was a teacher and an educator. Like him, she was a Christian and a worker for Christ. Their communion of spirit must have been perfect, and of the most elevated character. With all her intelligence and learning, she was a true woman; not harsh and crabbed, as some literary women are. There never was a pupil of her husband, during the twenty-six years and more of their wedded life, that did not love and respect Mrs. Kemper. She won the hearts of all; not by the low arts of the demagogue, but by her gentleness, and patience, and

constant readiness to sympathize with suffering and to relieve distress. She was the friend even of the bad boys, and, like Goldsmith's preacher, she

“Chid their wanderings, but relieved their pain.”

Happy was our dear teacher in securing such a wife; and happy she in being honored with such a husband; for

“Happy they, the happiest of their kind,  
Whom gentler stars unite, and in one fate  
Their hearts, their fortunes, and their beings blend.”

The intimacy of husband and wife is certainly the, closest, and should be the most hallowed of the relations of life. No true and pure sensibility but shrinks instinctively and relentlessly from all exposure of these domestic treasures to the cold and curious gaze of the public. These feelings we shall certainly respect. The few extracts from letters with such a husband of which are here presented will not, we think, be a violation of this principle, as they simply show the common loyalty of man and wife.

“FULTON, Mo.,  
Christmas, 1856.

“There is only one thing more sacred than the marriage relation, and that is our relation to God. In thinking of you, I feel that it is cruel to have such ties sundered by death; but I repress the rising Thought, for all our relations here are polluted by sin, and the world where they neither marry nor are given in marriage is our true home. I have brighter hopes of heaven by reason of my relation to you. If the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the believing wife, the latter has much responsibility, as well as a glorious mission.”

From Mrs. Kemper to her husband in St. Joseph

“BOONVILLE,  
MO., Jan. 15, 1875.

“We all miss you very much. Grace says she is in ‘distress’ because her father is away. Stella and Freddy say: ‘We are so lonesome, and wish our father would come home; but we work some every day and try to be good children.’

“ May the Lord guide and keep you, and bring you back in safety to those who have no joy while you are absent.”

From Mrs. Kemper, after starting on a journey

LOUIS, July 8, 1878.

“I feel very unhappy about leaving, and would gladly turn back if a sense of stern duty were not resting upon me. Even now I think I would return if Grace did not take a cry every time I speak of it, I hope you will not undertake any hard work; for your continued life and health are of more value to your family than all other earthly good. Indeed I should be a thousand fold happier in that old log cabin at the farm with you, than with a gay company in a palace-car, seeing all new places and objects, and traveling the world over.”

“FULTON, June 12, 1857.

“I hope it is well with you and with the child. You are all the world to me, and more. I hope our pilgrimage will be marked

“ST.

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