

## ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

UNDER SUPERVISION OF MR. W. E. TAYLOR, *Principal*

### THE HERMITAGE



At our opening exercises once a day in the auditorium Mr. Taylor gives us instructive talks. To the second division he is speaking of places of historic interest around Nashville, Tennessee. His first talk was about Andrew Jackson, with a description of Jackson's home, "The Hermitage," which is thirteen miles from the city of Nashville. I will tell as much as I can remember of the lecture.

We hear so much of Andrew Jackson's strength of character that we naturally think of him as a tall, powerfully built man. But such was not the case. He was less than six feet tall, was slender, and weighed about one hundred and thirty-five pounds.

The Hermitage is the home where Jackson spent the last years of his life. About a quarter of a mile from The Hermitage is a country store and a post office bearing the same name as Jackson's home. Jackson purchased his groceries from this store.

In early life Jackson was not a christian and the language he used was not suitable for a parlor conversation. But he was a man who, when he believed a thing, believed it with his whole soul and so when he became a christian and joined the Presbyterian church, he was a faithful and active member until his death. He built a brick church not far from his home and at this church is where he attended services. The church is still standing.

Andrew Jackson died with pleurisy. At his deathbed when his friends and family and servants were gathered around crying he is declared to have said, "Weep not for me; weep for yourself." These were his last words.

After Jackson's death, patriotic ladies of Nashville took up a collection and bought The Hermitage and twenty-five acres of surrounding land. This portion of the estate is kept exactly as Jackson left it. Nothing is allowed to be changed. At the windows are cotton curtains that Jackson bought in New Orleans. The cloth from which the curtains were made is so coarse that none of our girls would have a dress made from such material. But in those days cotton was more expensive than silk. The ladies have had the curtains placed between large pieces of glass so that they will not fall to pieces with age and decay.