COMMENCEMENT WEEK NEAR AT HAND AT UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Reading From Left to Right, Top Row—Horace B. Fenton, Arthur Leach, Seth Kerron, Charles Roy Reid. Middle Row—Ella M. Dobie, Katherine Daisy Crawford. Bottom Row—Alice Bertherton, Ralph R. Poppleton, Earl R. Abbett, Jeanie Gray.

Commencement at the University of Oregon is a matter of much interest to Portlanders and every year a goodly delegation leaves the city to attend the exercises. There are in Portland about 100 alumni of the state university not including the law and medical graduates who are almost as a whole settled here, and many go up to Eugene regularly. Loyalty to the institution is kept alive by the existence of two local organizations, one of the alumnae and one of the alumni. The members are brought together throughout the year in social gatherings and indulge in a grand reunion at commencement. This year a large party of graduates is planning to revisit the institution. It will be considerably increased by the fact that all of this year's graduates are from Portland and it is a well-known tradition that a young man or woman cannot launch forth properly on the sea of life without at least two relatives at hand to bid him Godspeed. Commencement begins this year Sunday, June 23.

The class this year is one of the largest the institution has ever graduated and represents a variety of courses. Those finishing from Portland with their major subjects are: Earl A. Abbett, Economics; Alice Bretherton, English literature; Harry Dale, chemistry; Ella M. Dobie, English composition; Horace Fenton, biology; Jeanie Gray, French; Seth Kerron, biology; Arthur Leach, mining; Ralph R. Poppleton, electrical engineering; Katherine D. Crawford, history. The commencement exercises will take place Wednesday morning, June 26.

The four main departments of the university have their commencements at different times but all the departments are represented at Eugene in June. The medical and law schools, both of which are situated in Portland, have already had their exercises here. Room is made for their departments on the annual program. The musical department receives one evening of commencement week. The full program is: Sunday morning, baccalaureate sermon, by Rev. Frank Mathews of Newton, Massachusetts, a graduate from the university in 1895; Monday afternoon, field day; evening, schools of music recital; Tuesday, morning, alumni business meeting; afternoon, president's reception; evening, Failing-Beekman contest; Wednesday, morning, commencement exercises; afternoon, alumni banquet; evening, alumni ball.

Much of the interest of commencement centers around the Failing-Beekman contest, in which six orators from the senior class compete for cash prizes offered by the late Henry Failing and the late B. B. Beekman of this city. The orators are chosen by an earlier competition of those of the class eligible by course and scholarship to enter.

Harry Dale.

Tribute to Popular Song Maker

ON June 14 Kentucky will pay a loving tribute to the man who enthroned her in song when in the presence of the thousands who have returned to their native state for "Home-coming Week," there will be unveiled the statue of Stephen Collins Foster, who wrote "My Old Kentucky Home."

Nor will Kentucky be alone in honoring this gentle genius whose melodies have touched the heartstrings of millions, for he is beyond question the most popular song writer America has ever known, and his music, composed a half century ago, is as fresh today as when it was first heard. It is hard to estimate such an influence as his, but if one will stop to think how some song by Foster is linked with fond memories, the boon of such a gift to a nation will be appreciated.

The statue of Foster comes from the school children of Kentucky, who contributed their pennies to the fund.

Wrote Many Songs.

The two songs by which Foster most endeared himself to Americans are "Old Kentucky Home" and "Old Folks at Home," the latter being known as "Suwanee Ribber." While southern in scene and sentiment, their beauty and pathos are such that they are beyond section, and they have long since become part of the country's heritage of song. The resident of Maine and the dweller in Montana are as much subject to their tender influence as the Kentuckian or one from the far south.

But it is not by these two songs alone that Foster is remembered, for there are many others, not unknown to the present generation and perfectly familiar to those who can remember 25 years back that were his production.

Especially is this so of the negro songs which preserve the most beautiful features of the days before the war, when the negro belonged to his master.

Although a Pennsylvanian by birth, Foster spent much of his time in Kentucky, where slavery existed in its happiest form, and the bond between the darkies and "master and missus" was one of love. All that was tender and pathetic in this institution appealed to Foster and inspired many beautiful songs. Foremost are those already mentioned.

In "The Old Kentucky Home" the negro laments the happy days that are gone. The same sentiment pervades "Old Folks at Home," and not even "Home Sweet Home" has sunk deeper into the heart of the homesick than the lines—

"All up and down the whole creation,
Sadly I roam,
Still longing for the old plantation
And for the old folks at home."

"Old Black Joe" is perfect in its simple pathos, and the crooning chant of the old negro's sad refrain as he laments the friends that have departed—

"I'm coming, I'm coming,
For my head is bending low.
I hear the gentle voices calling,
Old Black Joe."

The grief of the negro for the kind old master is contained in—

"Down in the cornfield,
Hear dat mournful sound;
All de darkies am a-weeping,
Massa's in de cold, cold ground."

The homely dirge of the old slave is "Uncle Ned"—

"There was an old nigger,
His name was Uncle Ned;
He's dead long ago long ago;
He had no wool on de top of his head,
De place whar de wool ought to grow.

"Den lay down de shubble and de hoe,
Hang up de fiddle and de bow;
No more hard work for old Uncle Ned,
He gone whar de good niggers go.

"When old Ned die massa take it mighty bad,
De tears run down like rain;
Old missus turn pale and she look berry sad,
'Kase she nebber see old Ned again."

When Foster wrote his songs, sad ballads were fancied, and he wrote one that brought tears to every mother's eye for the 20 years or more that it was sung.

"Fair, fair and golden hair,
Sang a lone mother while weeping,
Fair, fair and golden hair,
Under the willows she's sleeping."

What has not heard

"Old Dog Tray's ever faithful,
Grief cannot drive him away;
He's gentle, he is kind;
I'll never, never find
A better friend than Old Dog Tray."

Sentimental ballads were also favorites with Foster. The best remembered of these is "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming." Others are "Annie, My Own Love," "Cora Dean," "Dollie Day," "Ellen Bayne," "Farewell, My Lily Dear," "For Thee, Love, For Thee," "I See Her Still in My Dreams," "Jenny June," "Katy Bell," "Laura Lee," "Melinda May," "Nellie Bly," "Open Thy Lattice, Love," "Sweet Little Maid of the Mountain," "She Was All the World to Me," "Thou Art the Queen of My Heart," "There's No Such Girl as Mine."

"Gentle Annie" a Favorite.

"Gentle Annie" is a good sample. The chorus was:

"Shall we never more behold thee,
Never hear thy winning voice again,
When the springtime comes, gentle Annie,
When the wild flowers are scattered o'er the plain?"

And many others which were fervently sung by the Strephons and Chloes of the sixties.

"Oh, Susanna."

Foster wrote comic songs, also, though they differed vastly from the comic songs of today. One favorite was "Oh, Susanna," which ran in part:

"I had a dream the other night,
When everything was still;
I dreamt I saw Susanna, dear,
A running down the hill;
De buckwheat cake was in her mouth,
De tear was in her eye,
Says I, I'm coming from de south,
Susanna, don't you cry."

The statue of Foster was made by Sculptor J. L. Roop from a description of the composer and an old daguerreotype in the possession of Foster's daughter, Mrs. Marion Walsh of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. It shows Foster seated in a chair, which is the reproduction of the one at Federal Hill in which Foster sat while he wrote "My Old Kentucky Home."

Scientific Questions Answered

Q. 1. How far is the nearest star from the earth?

Q. 2. Explain the working of the weather bureau.—Ruby Hardesty, Skelton, Nevada.

A. 1. The nearest star to the earth is the sun, distance 93,000,000 miles. The next is the star-sun, Alpha Centauri, in the southern sky, and its distance is twenty-five trillion (25,000,000,000,000) miles, or twenty-five million million. A train moving one mile per minute without stopping would require 48,630,000—nearly forty-nine million—years to get there. This is a "near-by" sun. All stars are glowing suns. Our sun is a little star, 1,310,000 times larger than the earth.

A. 2. The United States weather bureau is one of the most valuable working scientific institutions in the world. It is under the department of agriculture, with central office in Washington. Willis L. Moore is chief. The report for November, 1905, the last issued, was made up from telegrams and letters from 3,470 stations in all parts of the United States. And telegrams were received from the West Indies, Cuba, Canada, Mexico and England, and from ships at sea and the United States life-saving stations.

These stations send telegrams to Washington, and local time is reduced to the seventy-fifth meridian, so that the officers in Washington know all about the temperature, direction of winds, clouds, rain and storms so well that they make an accurate map every day. Storm signals and warnings are sent everywhere. It is an impressive spectacle to visit the great office in Washington. They have blank maps of the United States, and the moment a telegram comes in the clerks fill in records.

Q. 3. What point in the heavens marks the pole of the ecliptic and in which direction does our pole move around it?—F. Jenney, 2419 Clement avenue, Alameda, California.

A. 3. The pole of the ecliptic, or the plane of the earth's orbit is 23½ degrees from the north pole of the earth. It is in the constellation Draco. The two stars in the Great Dipper next the handle point roughly toward it. The north pole of the earth moves round it once in 25,787 years in a retrograde direction, from east to west, in opposition to the motion of all the planets. The opening in the north side of the Pyramid of Suphis pointed toward a bright star, also in Draco, not far from the pole of the ecliptic B. C. 2170. The motion of the pole of the earth around the pole of the orbit took the long stone tube out of a line joining the earth and the star, so that its light no longer shines into the rock-hewn telescope of the Egyptians. They were amazed when the solid pyramid moved.

Q. 4. While space and time are infinite, do you believe that there is an infinite number of suns?—Mott Riehm, Virginia City, Nevada.

A. 4. Astronomers have no way of deciding whether there is an infinite number of suns. The trend of opinion is that the sidereal structure is finite. But, as there is enough matter in existence to make 32,000,000,000 suns like ours, the mind is overwhelmed with even this, a finite quantity. Mentalists have found out that there is no use in trying to think of infinity. Indeed, we cannot think of a million. The sun contains 233,000 times more matter than does the earth.

Q. 5. Since it takes centuries for heat to come from some of the stars, and as space is intensely cold, how comes it that heat is retained until it reaches the earth?—Charles I. Gregory, Roxbury, Idaho.

A. 5. This is one of the most important questions in the domain of science. Heat is a mode of motion of matter. Energy comes to the earth from all suns in space by wave motion. No heat appears until waves strike against matter. So space is at the absolute zero—minus 461 degrees F. All life on earth is due to selective absorption. California has the honor of being a place where the laws of this wonderful property of absorption were worked out.

Professor S. P. Langley, who died February 27, 1906, ascended Mount Whitney with elaborate instruments in 1881. He had one set of instruments two miles higher than the set below. He made the now classic discovery "that the temperature of the earth's surface is not due principally to direct radiation from the sun, but to the quality of selective absorption in our atmosphere, without which the temperature of the soil, even in the tropics under a vertical sun, would probably not rise above 200 degrees below zero." These are the great scientist's own words.

This law is, that if the air, aqueous vapor in the air and the soil itself did not change wave lengths of solar radiant energy, and retain most of the energy, life could not exist on earth. The longest visible waves that can appear as heat when they surrender their energy to matter run 33,000 to the inch. But he found millions of longer waves, beyond the red and invisible. These keep up the life of the earth, because they are absorbed. Thus the waves penetrate the air and watery vapor, and these retain the energy and permit its escape to frigid space again. And the phenomenon has received the name selective absorption, and is a basic law of nature.

Thus in the spectroscope in this observatory the lines due to this marvelous absorption are plainly visible, and they vary with the humidity of the atmosphere. Our lives depend on absorption of solar energy.

Q. 6. Is the Galactic circle the only great system of stars, or are there others still more remote?—C. I. G.

A. 6. As no telescope can see beyond the Milky way, we do not know whether there are still other systems outside. The millions of suns that appear on sensitive plates are, without doubt, not farther away than the Galactic ring.

Low rate excursion tickets east via the Northern Pacific. Full particulars at ticket office, 255 Morrison street, corner Third, Portland, Oregon.

ATTENTION, STUDENTS

DON'T NEGLECT THIS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE THIS MEANS FOR CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION.

OREGON DAILY JOURNAL'S EDUCATIONAL CONTEST

Your Choice of the Following List of Scholarships and Cash Prizes as Remuneration for Services Rendered The Journal During Your Leisure Hours This Summer.

CASH PRIZES.

1. To assist a pupil electing to attend any State or private institution providing free tuition for a period of not less than one year $300.00
2. Same conditions as the foregoing 200.00
3. Cash for incidental expenses in addition to a scholarship to be selected from the following list 100.00
4. Same conditions as the foregoing 75.00
5. Same conditions as the foregoing 50.00
6. Same conditions as the foregoing 25.00

SCHOLARSHIPS.

ACADEMY OF THE HOLY NAMES, Astoria, Oregon—Tuition for full academic course. Value 250.00

ALBANY COLLEGE, Albany, Oregon—Two years' tuition in the classical, scientific, academical or commercial course 100.00

BEHNKE-WALKER BUSINESS COLLEGE, Portland—One or more scholarships good for one year's tuition in bookkeeping, shorthand or commercial courses 100.00

CAPITAL BUSINESS COLLEGE, Salem, Oregon—Ten months' tuition in business or shorthand departments 100.00

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, Portland—Tuition and dinner on school days for school year beginning September 5, 1906 ..... 100.00

GILLESPIE SCHOOL OF EXPRESSION, Portland—Two private and one class lesson per week and use of library for one school year 120.00

HILL MILITARY ACADEMY, Portland—One year's tuition 100.00

HOLMES BUSINESS COLLEGE, Portland—One or more scholarships good for one year's tuition in the bookkeeping, shorthand or commercial courses 100.00

HOLMES-FLANDERS PRIVATE SCHOOL, Portland—One year's special university training, one year's normal course, or a practical English course for one and one-half years 150.00

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS of Scranton, Pennsylvania—Any of the regular home study courses valued at 110.00

OREGON CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, Portland—One pianoforte scholarship good for one year's tuition and the use of music for the course 200.00

One violin scholarship (Sevcik semi-tone system), same as the preceding 125.00

One guitar and mandolin scholarship, same as preceding 100.00

PACIFIC COLLEGE, Newberg, Oregon—Two years' tuition 100.00

PACIFIC TELEGRAPH INSTITUTE, Portland—A life course in railway and commercial telegraphy, railroad accounting, typewriting, penmanship, etc. 125.00

PORTLAND SCHOOL OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE, Portland (Y. W. C. T. U.)—General training in domestic science for one school year or the equivalent in special classes 100.00

SACRED HEART ACADEMY, Salem, Oregon—Tuition and board for one school year 140.00

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY, Portland—Tuition for the entire academic course (four years) or board and tuition for one year 200.00

Negotiations are pending for several other valuable scholarships to be added to the foregoing list, thus affording a still greater number and variety for the winners to select their prizes from.

CONDITIONS OF THE CONTEST.

First choice of the prizes above mentioned to go to the contestant making highest score, that is, receiving the most credit points or votes allowed on prepaid subscriptions to the Daily, Sunday and Semi-Weekly editions of The Oregon Journal during the months of June, July and August; second choice of prizes to go to the contestant making the second highest score, and so on until no less than 20 prizes are awarded, provided there shall be at least 20 active contestants who have achieved results justifying such liberal remuneration.

Any young person of school age who can furnish satisfactory references as to character and worthiness of assistance in the endeavor to secure a good education may compete; provided, however, that successful contestants will be restricted in their choice of scholarships to such as are suited to their personal use, as the scholarships will be non-transferable.

Candidates for scholarships may enter the contest at any time between the opening date, June 1st, and the close, September 1st. An early start will be found advantageous.

HOW TO COMPETE.

During the entire time that the contest is in progress persons paying advance subscriptions to The Journal will have the privilege of casting a certain number of votes in favor of any young person whom they desire to assist in winning a scholarship. The business of contestants will be to induce their friends, and strangers, if they choose, to subscribe for The Journal, if they are not already taking the paper, or renew their subscriptions by paying up for as long a period in advance as convenient, thereby giving the contestants the benefit of the votes allowed on advance payments. A cash commission will be paid contestants on all new subscriptions secured by them personally, or procured directly through their influence.

Votes will be allowed on all advance payments on subscriptions whether solicited by the contestants themselves, or paid or remitted direct to The Journal office, or through any of the regular agents or collectors, but in all cases the money must be in The Journal office before credit will be given for the votes.

Blank voting certificates or ballots will be furnished on request to contestants or others who may have use for them. For each subscription prepaid one of these ballots may be filled out to correspond with the amount and length of time paid for, the number of votes due, the name of the contestant favored, etc., to be voted at the convenience of the subscriber or contestant, but no ballots will be valid unless approved by the superintendent of circulation.

Contestants need not begin turning in their votes before June 11. On that date the polls will be regularly opened and remain open until the close of the contest. As soon as a considerable number of young people have commenced active work the score will be published daily or as often as convenient, so that the public may keep informed as to the progress of the contest.

VOTING POWER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The voting power of subscriptions will be in accordance with the following schedule:

Daily and Sunday Journal.

Time.	Price by Carrier.	Price by Mail.	Votes.
One Year	$7.50	$7.00	1,500
Six Months	3.75	3.75	700
Three Months	1.95	1.90	300
Two Months	1.30	1.30	150
One Month	.65	.65	65

Sunday Journal.

Time.	Price by Carrier.	Price by Mail.	Votes.
One Year	$2.50	$2.00	500
Six Months	1.25	1.00	200

Daily Journal Without Sunday.

Time.	Price by Carrier.	Price by Mail.	Votes.
One Year	$5.00	$5.00	1,000
Six Months	2.60	2.75	450
Three Months	1.30	1.40	200
Two Months	1.00	1.00	125
One Month	.50	.50	50

Semi-Weekly Journal.

Time.	Price by Carrier.	Price by Mail.	Votes.
One Year	...	$1.50	400
Six Months	...	.75	100

For further information, if desired, apply to Contest Department, Oregon Journal, Portland, Oregon.

Educational Contest, 1906

Oregon Journal
PORTLAND, OREGON.

SUBSCRIBER'S VOTING CERTIFICATE

Name of Subscriber .....

Address .....

Amount Paid $..... For ..... Journal

For ..... Months Beginning ..... 1906.

New or Old? ..... Good for ..... Votes.

CAST IN FAVOR OF

..... Contestant.

APPROVED BY

..... Superintendent of Circulation.