

Drake University.

BARTON O. AYLESWORTH, President.

Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 10, 1894.

Albion Tourjee,

Dear Sir:

May I ask a favor? I not only make a speciality of modern American Literature before my senior class, but also have charge of "groups" throughout the city and in neighboring towns which devote themselves exclusively to our own more recent letters.

It places the best books in scores of good homes, and further adds tenfold interest in the personnel of our Litterateurs. I assure you it is a high and dignified work.

But you can readily see that my work in the preparation of character sketches must be done largely without the aid of "Biographies."

Where can I find the truest and most discriminative words about yourself?

Most fraternally,

Barton O. Aylesworth

(This may grow into a text book on modern American Literature.)

My dear Sir: I have yours of Aug. 10., but
 hardly know what answer to make.
 As far as the mere facts of birth, resi-
 dence and occupation are concerned, they
 are, I suppose easily accessible.
 Beyond that, I do not know that
 events of my life or things
 ever been written. I have worked
 with some persistence, both biography
 and auto-biography. None except of my
 own household has come near enough
 to me for the former and I have small
 inclination for the latter. I do not
 know that there is anything worth
 saying about me. The world has cu-
 riously persisted in trying to make me
 wear a coat I never possessed and
 has sometimes cursed and sometimes laughed
 at me because it did not fit. I

Enclaves biographical sketch
 and Boole's work