

Mayville. N.Y.. May 8, 1897.

Dear Sir:

I hoped until the last moment. to be able to attend the services at the dedication of the tablet in commemoration of Miss Kilbourne's work in connection with the Erie High School. Hurried preparation for a prolonged absence makes this impossible.

I am sure that no monument that could be erected to her memory would have been so pleasing and satisfactory to Miss Kilbourne as this token of appreciation of the work which was the life of her life. During the thirty years of service as a teacher in the High School, nearly all her vacations were passed with us, and no one who did not know her occupation during those vacations can fully appreciate her devotion to her work. Her custom was during each year to keep a memorandum of the subjects that demanded investigation in connection with her duties. Of these, she selected those of most pressing importance, and gave her vacation in the main, to looking them up. By this means, she was practically always engaged in her work. The range of her investigations was very great and some of them <sup>would no doubt</sup> have seemed but remotely connected with the duties devolving upon her. But they were the outcome of experience and left her at the end of each year's vacation better prepared for the next year's work. If I were to attempt an analysis of her character, I should say she was the most remarkable instance of embodied conscience I have ever known. Her duty was never complete until she had done the very best she could for each and every pupil. Her interest in her scholars was (fairly) hardly affected by her regard for them as individuals.

Not infrequently those who had given her the most trouble and seemed to be the least likely to reward particular attention and care were the subjects of her most earnest consideration.. Not seldom were we, whose lives were gladdened by her close association, importuned to make suggestions as to how this or that one who had not made the progress they should, might be stimulated to better endeavor in the future. In some cases, we learned afterwards that good results followed others we never heard of again.

As a teacher, it seemed to me, her work was always concrete and individual. She never cared much for theory and put little reliance in wholesale methods. She was never fond of pedagogy with science. Each pupil was a distinct factor in the problem "How shall my work be done?" — "My duty as a teacher performed?" This she always tried to solve, not by general rule or some theory applicable to all, but by making each one of the unknown quantity in a separate equation. It is this amazing conscientiousness which counted the least duty as important as the greatest and would not permit her to rest until it was performed, and this individualizing of her thought, by which each pupil was in turn the pivot on which her thought hung, which gave her such rare success as a teacher. She did not try to attain average results. The fact that her classes reached a certain standard did not satisfy her. She was content only when she felt that she had done the best for each mind entrusted to her, or induced each one to do the best for himself or herself that it was possible for her to do or to stimulate the pupil to do. This fact made her influence a potent one on a vast number of lives. Each pupil felt that Miss Kilbourne labored not for her own ~~aredeifareadfanatageonnaintotheceasesashugheuvbeugeharsc.~~ ~~for~~ ~~These~~ ~~pupils~~ ~~in-~~

credit or advantage. not to secure a high average, but for the personal welfare of each one in the classes under her charge. These qualities did not permit her to countenance or excuse poor work. Rhadamanthus himself was not a more inflexible judge. No fondness for one or lack of personal interest in another, could induce her to vary the least fraction the verdict pronounced upon the work of each. Her judgments may not always have been true. but they were the truest and most correct she could formulate. Unsparing in her demands upon herself, she demanded the same rigor in performance of others.

Her love for truth and sincerity overpowered all other considerations. Towards other weaknesses she was tolerant to an extreme. It mattered little who or what one might be. if they were sincere they had her regard. Wealth. poverty. or power never flexed her judgments or made any difference in her assiduity. But insincerity, pretense, falsehood. in any form she could not endure. As a friend. she was singularly affectionate and forbearing. If she was ever anyone's enemy it went no farther than the most guarded statement of doubt as to their sincerity.

Her life was devoted. to a remarkable extent. to the happiness of others. In this, as in her professional work. her tendency was to the concrete rather than the abstract. She had little interest in great movements. What are termed reforms or humanitarians works in mass appealed to her sense of justice. but she had little of the tendency so frequently met with among those of her intellectual character,---the desire to set the world right. Her relatives. her friends. her church her pupils. did not bound her sympathies. but they absorbed most of

her activities.

As a Christian, her faith was particularly catholic and undoubting. She troubled herself very little about forms and creeds, and even less with self-analysis. To her, religion was much less a means of individual salvation---a prescribed method by which she might secure her own enjoyment in another world--- than a means by which she might give happiness to others. She esteemed the church, as a cult, hardly more than she did pedagogy as an abstract science, but the group of believers of which she was one stood next to her pupils in her tender regard.

In a peculiar sense her life from her earliest days was devoted to the welfare of others. And in her last moments the same quality was predominant. A soldier who died upon the field of Lutzen became immortal for the self-denial with which he waved aside the cooling draught which was presented to his lips and said of another who lay dying at his side, "This Man first; his need is greater than mine." When the physician came to examine the injury from which in a few brief hours she died, the heroic soul to whom this tablet is erected said, "My sister first, doctor; her hurt is more serious than mine."

The heroism of the knight sans peur et sans reproche was not finer than that of the woman who put aside the healing hand that another's pain might be assuaged. In life, she was a model for all who would live well; in death an example to those who would die nobly. While we who knew her best mourn her lost companionship we must ever rejoice in the happy memories which cluster about a life so full of beneficial purpose, so rich in unquestioning devotion. In behalf of the immediate family of Miss Kilbourne, permit me through you to offer thanks to the pupils who have so kindly remembered one dearly loved.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. J. C. Diehl.

Albion W. Tourgel.