

# THE NORMAL ECHO

VOL. III.

OCTOBER, 1911.

No. 1

## MY FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE NORMAL.

On the morning of Sept. 22, 1911, I arrived in Conway, and went as soon as possible to the Normal School. As I looked at these beautiful buildings I thought, "Surely that is an excellent place to work."

On entering the building, I found the corridors thronging with young men and young women filled with life and enthusiasm. Many of them were former students and felt much as if they had returned to their homes. Some "old boy" saw me enter and saw that I was a "new fellow." He at once introduced himself and then introduced me to many of the students, and each seemed to vie with the other in making me feel at home among them.

I was then shown into the office, where I met several members of the faculty, and "Miss Amy," as everyone calls her, President Doyne's excellent private secretary. After I had had a brief interview with her, during which she indelibly impressed me that she is the right person in the right place, Mr. Womack, chairman of the Classification Committee, took me in charge. I felt that here, too, is a personality to be reckoned with in more ways than one as he leaves an everlasting impression for good.

From Mr. Womack I went to the chapel. Here were gathered all the teachers and students of the Normal.

No one can see such a number of deeply interested people without feeling that "it is good to be here."

As it was Friday and the literary societies were to meet that night, I was "assaulted" time after time, now by a Wingo, now by a Clary. I found that both the societies are doing very excellent work; and the same is reported as true of the two societies for the young ladies—the Crestomath and the Nikatima.

The last thing I shall mention is the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. These organizations are doing much among the boys and girls of the Normal to train them for religious work. Although they have not the regular paid secretaries, yet they are well organized and hold meetings each week. Every student is being urged to affiliate with one or the other of these associations, and it is the intention of their members to help every student who needs help that they can give.

So, to sum up, I feel that the Normal, with the capable management it has and with its strong corps of teachers, and with a student body, "the like of which," says Mr. Doyne, "cannot be found elsewhere in the state," is doing a very great work for the schools of Arkansas. I am very proud indeed that I am here.

—G. S.