

8-1873

## The Crucible, v. 1, no. 1

J. M. Oak

G. H. Hamlin

C. E. Reed

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# THE CRUCIBLE.

MAINE STATE COLLEGE, ORONO.

VOL. I.

AUGUST, 1873.

NO. 1

## THE CRUCIBLE.

PUBLISHED BY THE  
STUDENTS OF THE  
MAINE STATE COLLEGE.

EDITORS:

J. M. OAK, G. H. HAMLIN, C. E. REED.

### EDITORIAL.

The question of publishing a paper under the direction of the Literary Fraternity, is one which has been discussed at our regular meetings from time to time during the last year.

Although from the first there has been a feeling among the members, that the interests of the society required that some movement should be made in this direction; yet on account of the many difficulties attending the enterprise, the matter has been postponed, until at last the editors having been appointed, and the whole matter being left in their hands, they have fixed upon the summer term as the most convenient and appropriate time for its publication.

We feel that considerable responsibility rests upon those who thus have the honor of representing the society in its first issue.

To make the position still more enjoyable, we have heard it hinted strongly by some, that the paper would never be known after its first publication; but being well acquainted with the character and disposition of those into whose hands it will be intrusted for several years to come, our fears are only for the present.

If then, in this first number of the paper, the arrangement and management shall be such as to please those whose interests we represent, we shall be fully satisfied. We have thought it best to confine the paper principally to matters pertaining to the College.

In presenting the college organizations, we have endeavored to place them as nearly as possible ac-

ording to their importance, giving the older ones the preference in cases of equal merit.

With these explanations, we will proceed at once to the subject matter of the editorial.

As we are rapidly approaching the time when each will go out into the world for himself, and when we can no longer expect those who have directly and indirectly aided us in pursuing our course of study to make further provision for us, and when each is to decide for himself whether he will be somebody or nobody, it is well to look back over the course that is now so rapidly drawing to a close, and note the improvements which have been made.

Of the improvement which *we* have made, perhaps it will be better to allow those with whom we are associated to judge.

We hope, however, that the efforts that have been made in our behalf have not been wholly lost.

Like many others who have gone before us, we are now fully prepared to realize the truth of all that has been said in respect to hours that might have been better improved.

But such reflections will avail us nothing, and when the few weeks which remain shall have been passed, and we shall regretfully cut ourselves loose from our Alma Mater and its valued privileges and associations, to enter upon the struggles incident to manhood, we trust that each student will find that all the exertions that he has made, or that others have made in his behalf, have been made to good purpose, and that the Institution will have no occasion to be ashamed of those whom it sends forth into the battle of life.

Since our connection with the College we have watched with much interest the development of plans for the welfare and education of the students.

At the commencement of our course, in 1869, we found two sets of farm buildings—the gift of Orono and Oldtown to the College. These are now occupied by one of the Professors and the Farm Superintendent.

White Hall, a building of attractive exterior, had

been built by the officers of the College. The Chemical Laboratory, a substantial brick building of pleasing proportions and fine adaptation, was completed in 1870.

The commodious Boarding House was built in 1870, and the construction of the brick Dormitory Building was begun the same year, and completed the year following.

Last year a spacious dwelling was built for the President, and a smaller house is building the present year for one of the Professors.

Apparatus of the most modern and approved construction, and materials for illustration have been provided, as the wants of the College demanded.

The beginning of a library, containing books adapted to the wants of those engaged in scientific and special research, as well as to the requirements of general reading has been made, and a valuable addition has been contributed thereto by the timely and generous gift of \$1000, by Ex-Gov. Coburn.

The fine elevation upon which the college buildings are placed has been thoroughly underdrained, and greatly improved thereby. Some progress has been made in laying out the grounds. Carriage-ways and walks have been constructed and well gravelled, and others have been projected and put in process of construction.

The landscape embracing the buildings and surrounding objects, is already pleasing, and a moderate exhibition of skill and diligence will make it, within a few years, a place of great attractiveness.

Among the improvements of the present season the lower floor of White Hall has been so remodelled as to afford a fine room for drawing, a branch which receives much attention.

Another room has been fitted up for Natural History purposes. These changes are highly prized by the students in these respective departments.

A large and well-devised barn is in process of construction, which will be a valuable addition to the farm buildings and of advantage to those pursuing the course in Agriculture, affording as it will, increased facilities for keeping representative animals of the different families of thoroughbred stock.

Up to the time when we entered the Institution there had been only one Professor. Upon him was placed the responsibility of the management of its affairs.

Opposition to the Institution was developed upon every side, and in quarters where it was least expected. Its purposes and plans were misapprehended by the public. Criticisms were freely indulged in by those who knew but little of the design of Congress, in making provision for this class of institutions.

The name by which it was designated led people astray. The farmers on the one hand, expected that it would be devoted almost exclusively to instruction in Agriculture. The friends of Classical Education believed that it would never amount to much unless the old Curriculum was followed. That a course of study could be so arranged and carried out as to give young men a liberal education, and at the same time to fit them successfully to engage in some one of the many industrial callings opening upon every side, was deemed impracticable.

With such opposition, misapprehension and prejudice to encounter, it required a firm and steady hand, and an intelligent and well-balanced mind to manage affairs. Fortunately for the cause of Industrial Education in this State, the man who was at the helm at this time, possessed these qualities, and the Institution outrode the storm. And now, as we are about to take leave of the Institution, we gladly embrace the opportunity to assure him that the kindness with which he has treated us, the ability with which he has instructed us, the interest which he has always manifested for our welfare, as well as for the welfare and success of the Institution, has secured for him the greatest confidence and warmest esteem of every member of the pioneer classes.

We will not enter into a detailed account of the changes which have occurred in the Board of Instruction since our connection with the Institution.

With the re-organization of the Board, however, at the commencement of the fourth year, came additional strength; and the constant increase in the number of students and the growing popularity of the Institution since their coming, bear evidence of their character too plain to be misinterpreted.

The graduation of the Pioneer class was an event looked forward to by many with the greatest interest; for their scholarship and attainments were

to be some indication of the character of the Institution.

Although having labored under the many disadvantages connected with their course, they sustained their parts in a manner which would have been creditable to any institution, and which fully met the expectations of their most sanguine friends.

The promptness with which the members of this class were called to fill positions of usefulness and responsibility, inspires new hopes for the future of those who are soon to graduate.

The present Senior and Junior classes, having entered before an equilibrium in the affairs of the College was fairly attained, have suffered to some extent the same disadvantages as were encountered by the first class; yet with the excellent and efficient instruction which they have received during the latter part of their course, we trust they will not be wholly unprepared to act their parts in the Drama of Life.

With the Sophomore and Freshman classes came not only numbers, but "pluck." The Sophomores are unquestionably at the present time the most studious class in the Institution; while the Freshmen with their labor and studies, find enough to keep themselves well employed.

There are those in both classes from whom we shall expect to hear, after their graduation.

The Scientific Society having for its object original research in the several departments of Science, promises to be of great benefit to the students.

Aside from the advantages which they will derive from their Scientific researches, the very fact of their being associated in the same society with those who are older and more experienced, will make the organization vastly more useful to them, than if they had been left to their own unaided efforts. We hope that those to whom subjects have been assigned will make such thorough investigation of them that they will not feel any delicacy in presenting their reports, when called for at the October meeting.

The care of the Reading Room has been placed by the Faculty under the direction of the Literary Fraternity. To the reading matter which has been generously provided by the proprietors of many of our State papers, and by private subscription, the Faculty and students have added nearly all the

leading newspapers and periodicals of the day; so that we now have a Reading Room which affords advantages that would not suffer by comparison with those of the older institutions.

The Monitorial system has been adopted for the maintenance of order in the Dormitory Building. The students on each floor elect two Monitors. All irregularities are reported by them to a Council elected by the classes. Offenders against good order are tried by the Council and its decisions are reported to the Faculty. Unless there is an appeal the decision of the Council is carried out; but if the accused can show sufficient cause, the decision of the Council is set aside. The system works well. It tends to create a sentiment in favor of good order, and to develop the power of self-government in those who are soon to become citizens of the State.

A little more watchfulness by the Monitors and a little more severity on the part of the Council are needed, however, for the perfection of the system.

We hope that others who are interested in the welfare of this Institution will manifest their interest by following the example of the worthy gentleman who has contributed to the Library. Donations are solicited not only for the Library, but for other departments, and particularly for the Natural History department. All contributions to this department will be gratefully received and credited to those who may contribute.

And now in drawing our editorial to a close, we feel that we have performed but too imperfectly the part assigned us. Begging our readers to pardon our inexperience, and leaving those who come after us to profit by our errors, we will lay aside our editorial quill with the best of wishes for the future prosperity of the paper, and for those who may succeed us in the editorial chair.

#### MAINE STATE COLLEGE.

The object of this institution, is to give to its graduates a liberal education, and at the same time an education, which is capable of being made more practical than that given by the classical colleges.

With this object in view, it confines itself, chiefly, to researches and instruction in mathematics and the natural sciences, not excluding other

branches of study which are consistent with its object. For however desirable it may be that all should have the advantage of that culture, which a long course of study in the classics will give, it is not essential to the highest degree of success in science and the arts, whether scientific studies are pursued on account of their relation to ordinary practical life, and the tangible results of success, or whether they are pursued for that higher object of an education, the discipline of the mind in the search for truth, and the discovery of new principles in science.

But there is at the present time a numerous class of persons, who cannot, or will not see the truth of this statement, and hence look upon the course of study pursued here as superficial, and unworthy of a man who has any other object in obtaining an education than its direct influence upon ordinary life.

The fact that this college does not include in its curriculum the ancient languages, would naturally incline one to think that there was a low standard of education, were it not for the fact, which many entirely overlook, that the course extends over as many years, and that the place of Greek and Latin is supplied by other branches of study, which are equally beneficial in disciplining the mind, and are of far more value in the struggle for existence.

While we do not in the least agree with those who decry the study of the ancient languages as useless, and who regard the time spent upon them as wasted, yet we believe that in order to realize the greatest progress of science, learning and civilization in a country, there must be, on the part of those who devote themselves to learning, a division of studies, both on account of the adaptability of different persons to different departments of learning, and on account of the impossibility of the attainment of universal knowledge by any person.

And especially in a country like this of ours, containing a vast amount of undeveloped resources, increasing in wealth and population at a rate unexampled in all past time, equally proud of her achievements in science and the useful arts, and already so far advanced in both, is such a division of labor in our institutions of learning required.

How many there are who spend years of their

most valuable time, poring over Greek and Latin, simply because these languages are included in a college course; not because they have a special taste for such studies. Such graduates would be of much greater value to themselves, to their country and to the world, had they in the beginning applied themselves to something more congenial to their nature.

To whom is it that the world owes nearly all of the great discoveries in science unless it be to those who have devoted their whole life to the study of some special department of science, to the exclusion of almost everything else?

It is true that had they extended their researches and studies over a broader field of labor, they would have attained a more universal knowledge, but to what good end would this knowledge have availed?

As the mass of mankind must ever devote the greater part of their time to the more active pursuits of life, and as science has been so developed that in our times the greatest success in any of the professions or callings, is attainable only with a good degree of knowledge of the physical sciences, it follows that the sciences being equally valuable in training the mind, must be largely substituted for the languages.

Thousands of young men among us every year give up the idea of carrying their education beyond that furnished by the public school; because they cannot devote so much time to studies which are so foreign to the practical pursuits of life.

The result is, the number of those who graduate from colleges in proportion to the whole population is rapidly decreasing. And the only remedy for this state of things without lowering the standard of acquirements in courses of study required for a degree, is to change the nature of those acquirements. Upon these principles we believe this college was founded, and by it a want, which has long existed in this State, has been supplied.

Her mission in the future must be, to educate the sons and daughters of Maine, to dignify manual labor, and at the same time by the application of science to art, to render the tasks of industry so light that productive employments may gratify the senses with gentle exercise, delight new formed intellectual powers and ensure success.

In this way only will the curse of labor be changed to a blessing and the refined intellect no longer revolt from the toiling hands.

The degree in which she fulfills this mission and becomes a pride and an honor to the State, founded as she is, depends entirely upon the State's liberality towards her, which we trust will ever be as great as her demands.

About a year ago the question of a College Paper was first agitated; after some discussion a board of three editors was elected, with instructions to create a paper and publish it sometime during the year. This was rather indefinite, and owing to the fact that the chief editor elect was engaged in an extensive flirtation which occupied most of his time, except a few minutes each morning in which he got his lessons—he was smart; you can't *horse* Rankine and calculus—and the laziness of the other two, the paper was *non est*. So that project died and was buried with due honors.

But last Spring a public spirited Junior arose in one of the society meetings and in a carefully prepared speech impressed upon the members the importance of having a paper. He closed by making a motion that the chair appoint three men as editors who would put the thing through.

The Professor held the office of chair at that time (he got in by bribing a Sophomore to electioneer for him). The motion being carried, the Professor appointed himself. H. J., (the member from the "*roostick*") and *we*, (we is the word used by editors when speaking of themselves) to constitute that board.

The delighted editors left the room arm in arm, passing between lines of admiring Freshmen, drawn up in military style.

In our confusion we mistook Prof. F's henhouse for the Brick Hall; after feeling in vain for the number of our rooms, we struck a match, discovered our situation, and somewhat crestfallen, retraced our steps, sought our rooms and went to bed.

A few days after, H. J. called a meeting of the editors, (H. J. knows how to do such things,) so after turning ink all over the table and littering the floor with torn paper, he tipped back in his chair, and after planting his feet carefully on the

dictionary, he announced that he supposed it was his place to act as chief editor. Amazed at his cheek we remained silent. He then produced a nondescript looking pile of College papers, which he said were to serve as models.

We opened one of them. O, horror! upon the first page appeared the *names* of the editors; what should we do? Not being Sophomores we did not have the assurance to believe that anything would be tolerated that had our names upon the first page. At length the Professor hit upon an idea. Why not borrow the names of three *Seniors*? They would not know it until it would be too late to help themselves. Happy thought! we put them in a hat—not the Seniors, but their names—and after carefully tying it to the steam pipe near the ceiling, each ascended in turn and drew out a name. We laid them on the table and took a look at them. The Professor's countenance fell. "We have drawn the hardest tics in the lot," said he; "but I suppose they will have to do."

The next thing was to snap a copper to see who should come first, and so our corps of *aliases* was arranged.

H. J. then dove under the bed, and after considerable floundering about emerged bearing a bottle of pop beer, half a dozen crackers, and a collar box full of peanuts, and we proceeded to celebrate.

Thus the paper was born, and if it does not come quite up to what you could have wished, remember that we labored under *difficulties*.

#### The Scientific Society of the Maine State College.

Under this title has recently been organized a society, whose object it is "To promote the cause of Science in its application to the Industrial pursuits, to awaken a general interest in the investigation of principles and to ascertain the best methods of their application to the useful arts." This Society is divided into four sections. 1st, Agriculture; 2d, Natural History; 3d, Chemistry and Physics; 4th, Mechanical, Civil and Mining Engineering. There is thus embraced a sufficiently wide range of topics to interest nearly all in its workings. Each Section has been organized and topics for investigation have been assigned to the

several members of the four divisions. The officers are—President, G. O. Weston; Vice President, G. H. Hamlin; Secretary, F. Lamson Scribner; Treasurer, Walter Balentine. The managers of the Society are—Mr. J. R. Farrington, President C. F. Allen, Prof. M. C. Fernald and Prof. W. A. Pike. These gentlemen are respectively chairman of the Sections as above given. Under the present efficient board of managers the Society ought to perform much valuable work, and we have no doubt but that at the first regular meeting in October next, the products of the season's labor will give a high standing to the Society as an organization for original investigation and practical improvement.

The Society embraces three classes of members, Active members, Honorary members and Patrons. The first must consist of students or graduates of the College; the second may include any one engaged in scientific pursuits whom the Society shall elect by a three-fourths vote; the third includes those who are sufficiently friendly to the College, or to the cause of science and progress in Agricultural pursuits, to donate to the Society a sum not less than fifty dollars. The Faculty of the College are at all times Ex-officio members. The object of this Society is highly laudable, and we wish it all success.

The following are the topics which have been assigned to the several sections of the Scientific Society, for investigation the present season:

SECTION A.—(*Agriculture.*)

Mr. J. R. Farrington, Chairman.

1. Relation of Agriculture to other Industries.
2. The best method of raising onions, and protecting them from the onion fly.
3. Value and habits of Grasses.
4. Best method of planting potatoes.
5. Experiments to determine the results of applying to grass lands the same elements in the same proportion as the grass takes from the soil.
6. Comparative value of Apple trees grown in New York nurseries to those raised in the State of Maine.

SECTION B.—(*Natural History.*)

Pres. C. F. Allen, Chairman.

1. Flora of Orono and vicinity.

2. Insects of Orono injurious to vegetation.
3. Birds found in Orono.
4. Land and Fresh water shells.
5. Geology of this vicinity.
6. Our Fishes.
7. Mammals of this neighborhood.
8. Minerals of this vicinity.

SECTION C.—(*Chemistry and Physics.*)

Prof. M. C. Fernald, Chairman.

1. Experiments for the determination of the laws of oscillation of a pendulum.
2. Experiments to determine the elasticity of traction in wires and rods.
3. Experiments to determine the laws of friction.
4. Variation of the Magnetic Needle.
5. Analysis, &c., for Section A.

SECTION D.—(*Engineering.*)

Prof. W. A. Pike, Chairman.

1. Mineral resources of Maine, and experiments on Mortars, concrete and hydraulic cements.
2. Experiments on the flow of water through orifices and tubes.
3. Classification of American woods for Engineering purposes.
4. Experiments on the strength of Timber.

We are on the eve of another commencement, when we shall be exposed to a cross-fire of criticism from all directions, and by *some*, our efforts will undoubtedly be compared with those of graduates of literary colleges. We say by *some*, for we know that there are those who will not subject us to a test so unfair. Unfair it certainly is, for the exercises of the class at commencement only show the result of the *literary* training given by the institution, and we cannot expect to hold our own with those who have devoted their time almost exclusively to literary studies.

In a classical college it is expected, and justly so, that the spread which the student is able to make at commencement will be an exponent of the progress he has made. We suppose we must have a commencement every year, as it is the *fashion*, and a scientific thesis is not just the thing to present on such an occasion. We could hardly expect the people to keep awake on a warm summer day under such an infliction. We must fall back, to a cer-

tain extent, on literary subjects. As is well known, the amount of literary training received in some of our courses of study—engineering for example—is very small, and we do object to being trotted out and compared with students of literary institutions on their own ground.

The custom in most scientific institutions is for the student to prepare a thesis containing original investigations in the line of study he has been pursuing. Thus he has the advantage of handling subjects with which he is best acquainted, and of presenting his ideas, and manner of working in his chosen specialty, and a true index of his proficiency is obtained. This thesis is deposited with the Faculty, and no public demonstration simply for show is made.

We wish it was so with us; but as it is not—and perhaps it would not be good policy at present to pursue this course—we must do the best we can, reserving to ourselves the inalienable right to grumble.

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LOCALS.

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Low water in the river at *all* hours of the day.

The resting place of "Woodhull and Douglass" has been found. The remains could hardly be identified by their most *intimate friends*.

Another length has been added to the proposed picket fence in front of the College Buildings; and there is a prospect of its being built the whole length of the line, sometime in the dim future. Whether the first length will be standing then is a problem to be solved by time, in which the known terms are good materials, good workmanship and plenty of paint.

Progress on the barn cellar is quite good at the present time and there is a prospect of the frame being up by the time of commencement. There is also some chance of the completion of the road in back of the buildings, for the foundations have been carried down some deeper.

The day for the election of Company Officers is getting to be one of *the* days in the College Calendar. Wire pulling, rivaling that of the Cincin-

nati Convention, shows that future politics of State and nation will be well attended to by the coming alumni.

The cash prize received by the Coburn Cadets on the 4th, at Bangor, has been appropriated by a unanimous vote to the purchase of a Company flag.

We learn that Professor Atwater has received an invitation from his Alma Mater (Wesleyan University), to accept the position of Professor of Chemistry, with the offer of much greater pay than is given by any of the Colleges in Maine. If he accepts this position, which we all hope he will not, Maine will lose another of her ablest men, simply because she does not give them sufficient encouragement to remain in the State.

A Freshman, on the 4th of July, in attempting to speak of the Color Guard, was heard to mention it as the "*Flag Staff*."

Some "Sophomore Surveyors" have evinced a desire to calculate by triangulation the distance to a certain damsel's house, "over the stream," and then to test it by *pacing*. Be patient, "Sophs," and for the present be content with gazing through the telescope of the transit.

Work on Prof. C. H. Fernald's house is progressing rapidly. The outside is completed and the building will probably be ready for occupancy by the beginning of next term.

The prospects for the next Freshman Class are very flattering. From present indications the number will be limited only by want of room.

One of our ambitious youths attempting to cross the river on a boom, placed too much confidence in a log which was "rolling rapidly," and suddenly found himself floundering in "one of the most beautiful rivers in Maine." Moral—Beware of "quails."

Prof. C. H. Fernald has gone to Penakese Island to pass the summer vacation at Prof. Agassiz's School.



## COLLEGE FACULTY.

REV. CHARLES F. ALLEN, D. D.,  
President and Professor of English Literature,  
Mental and Moral Science.

MERRITT C. FERNALD, A. M.,  
Professor of Mathematics and Physics.

W. O. ATWATER, Ph. D.,  
Professor of Chemistry, French and German.

WILLIAM A. PIKE, C. E.,  
Professor of Civil Engineering.

CHARLES H. FERNALD, A. M.,  
Professor of Natural History.

JOSEPH R. FARRINGTON,  
Farm Superintendent.

CAPT. JAMES DEAN,  
Military Instructor.

JOHN PERLEY,  
Instructor in Book Keeping and Commercial Forms.

REV. A. W. REED,  
Steward.

## LITERARY SOCIETIES.

### LITERARY FRATERNITY.

#### OFFICERS:

*President* - - - - W. Balentine.  
*Vice-President* - - - - W. Webb.  
*Secretary* - - - - C. P. Allen.  
*Asst. Secretary* - - - - F. L. Moore.  
*Treasurer* - - - - W. H. Gerrish.  
*Directors*—H. M. Estabrooke, W. A. Allen, W.  
H. Jordan.

### FRESHMEN DEBATING SOCIETY.

#### OFFICERS:

*President* - - - - J. W. Linnell.  
*Secretary* - - - - E. B. Pillsbury.  
*Asst. Secretary* - - - - V. Cyr.  
*Treasurer* - - - - H. Peirce.  
*Directors*—C. M. Brainard, O. Crosby, F. A.  
Haseltine.

### COBURN CADETS.

#### OFFICERS OF '72 and '73.

*Company A.* Capt., H. B. Thayer; 1st Lieut.,  
G. H. Hamlin; 2d Lieut., J. M. Oak,

*Company B.* Capt., C. E. Reed; 1st Lieut.,  
W. A. Allen; 2d Lieut., J. I. Gurney.

Officers of *Company A* for the coming year are  
as follows: Capt., J. I. Gurney; 1st Lieut., W.  
H. Reed; 2d Lieut., W. Balentine; Major of Col-  
lege Battalion, W. A. Allen.

### PRIZES.

#### *Class of 1873.*

SOPHOMORE PRIZE—For best selected Decla-  
mation, C. E. Reed.

JUNIOR PRIZE—For best Composition, F. W.  
Holt.

#### *Class of 1874.*

SOPHOMORE PRIZE—For best selected Declama-  
tion, J. I. Gurney.

### CLASS OFFICERS.

SENIORS.—President, G. H. Hamlin; Vice-Pres-  
ident, J. M. Oak; Secretary, F. L. Scribner; His-  
torian, C. E. Reed; Treasurer, Fred W. Holt;  
Committee of Arrangements, H. B. Thayer, R.  
W. Eaton.

JUNIORS.—President, W. A. Allen; Vice-Pres-  
ident, W. H. Reed; Secretary, J. I. Gurney; Treas-  
urer, W. Balentine; Committee of Arrangements,  
R. D. Hunter, W. H. Gerrish.

SOPHOMORES.—President, E. D. Mayo; Secre-  
tary, A. M. Goodale; Treasurer, W. Webb; His-  
torian, C. F. Durham; Poet, C. F. Colesworthy;  
Committee of Arrangements, E. F. Hitchings, W.  
Webb.

### KATAHDIN BASE BALL CLUB.

W. A. ALLEN, Captain.

Bumps, c.

Bates, p.

Allen, s. s.

Goodale, 1st b.

Shaw, 2d b.

Gerrish, 3d b.

Durham, 1. f.

Coburn, c. f.

Southard, r. f.

Board of Directors—C. F. Durham, A. M.  
Goodale, S. W. Bates.