

N. B. Alumni Day, Wednesday, June 14th.
Commencement, Thursday, June 15th.

To the Alumni and Friends of Dean Academy:—

In presenting to the friends of Dean this seventeenth annual circular letter detailing something of the activities and life of the school for the year, I am mindful that this year is one of exceeding interest to us all, marking as it does the close of a half century of organized life. Chartered in 1865 by an act of the legislature signed by the great war governor, John A. Andrew; located in Franklin, because of the munificent gift of Dr. Oliver Dean, whose name it bears; opened, before a building could be erected, in the vestry of a church in October 1866 that the already aged benefactor might see the beginning of his venture before death came; experiencing during fifty years the successes and failures, the adversity and prosperity that are the common lot of individuals and institutions: it rounds out its fifty years with numbers, equipment, endowment, and prestige greater than at any time before in its history. This is not the place for a history of Dean Academy. Some day it should be written and its story of gradual growth in power and strength, through a series of misfortunes and some mistakes, that would have daunted less brave and loyal friends than those of Dean, will make an interesting pamphlet.

Our preparations for this anniversary began early with the dedication of the Alumni Building two years ago, an admirable and thoroughly appreciated gift. We began to provide also for a better setting for our campus than the old picket fence, in honor of the fiftieth year. The class of 1913-1914 joined to build a central gate. 1915 added two sections of fence and the present graduating class, 1916, has voted to give two more. Other friends have not only provided other sections, but two most substantial and attractive gates, one at each driveway. It is hoped that the whole will be completed by Commencement and all but two of the sections have been provided for. May donors for these come speedily! Mrs. Walter Johnson, '84, of Newark, N. J., a former resident of Franklin, gave the money for the gateway at the Dean Avenue end, and Mr. and Mrs. Adelbert D. Thayer erected the one at the end of the driveway next the Universalist Church, as a Memorial to the late Herbert W. Thayer, an early student and long-time friend of Dean. The following, in addition to the classes mentioned above, gave \$125 each to provide for a section of this fence: the Dean Club (two); Mr. J. F. Geb; Mr. and Mrs. Marston Sanborn; Mr. James F. Ray, for the class of 1869; Mr. Harry T. Hayward; Mrs. Mabel Nason Wilder, for the class of 1883; Mrs. Charles Whiting, '83; Mr. Fred D. Stoutenberg, '75-'77, for himself and wife, Carrie Bartholomew Stoutenberg, '75-'76; Austin B. Fletcher; Class of 1891, as a Twenty-fifth Anniversary Gift; Class of 1868, the first class, by a friend. The completion of the fence and gateways will involve an expense of about \$1000. The improvement in appearance of the school grounds by this permanent and attractive fence must be a pleasure to the donors, to whom the school owes a debt of gratitude.

It is to be hoped that the fiftieth anniversary will not go by without further gifts for the strengthening of the school. Larger endowment is the great need. We need it to be able to retain and secure good teachers by higher salaries; to strengthen the school against possible days of hard times and unusual expenses; to insure the adequate and progressive "upkeep" of plant and teaching facilities. What a splendid thing if this anniversary might see the beginning, at least, of fifty thousand dollars in additional endowment.

It has been a good year at Dean. In numbers, it breaks the record. Despite the fact so large a class graduated in 1915, we record an average of 239 for the year. There were no more boarding pupils than last year, for the very good reason that there was not room, but the day pupils increased. Again we have found it necessary to refuse a number of pupils who applied too late. The numbers have kept up unusually well through the year. The table of the attendance for the last five years follows:

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	AVERAGE
1911-1912	183	173	167	174
1912-1913	207	209	186	201
1913-1914	205	201	191	199
1914-1915	239	235	228	234
1915-1916	236	246	235	239

The average attendance of boarding pupils is shown by the following table:—

1911-1912	139
1912-1913	150
1913-1914	152
1914-1915	173
1915-1916	171

In matters of health and scholarship, the year has also been a good one. We have had no epidemics of contagious diseases, though they seem to have been very prevalent in the schools of New England this year. A large proportion of the student body has shown commendable interest in school work. Good reports come to us from the more than one hundred Dean students in the colleges of the country, many of them taking leading places in their college communities.

Notable improvements in equipment have marked the year. New hardwood floors, greatly needed, were laid in the rooms and corridors of the girls' dormitory. If some of you lived on the splintery soft wood floors of the former days, you will know how to appreciate this change. New tables, chairs and dressers of mission type were put into all the girls' rooms. We hope the coming summer to make a similar improvement on the boys' side of the main building. The halls on the girls' side were repainted with a dark grained color on the wainscoting and a light cream on the walls above, giving a much more airy and attractive appearance to the whole dormitory. New cork matting trends were laid on the stairs and landings. The room that some know as "Paradise" was entirely refitted, including new bathroom fittings. The laundry was entirely made over with a new cement floor and new and improved tubs. The old elevator for the transportation of trunks and heavy articles was replaced by a new electric elevator, the gift of an interested alumnus to save the backs of men carrying trunks. The school office was rehabilitated with new paper, new floor and new paint and curtains. New steel files supplanted the old wooden ones. Perhaps the most notable transformation is in the Reception Room which was

flote over by the thoughtfulness of an ever-generous Alumnus. A new hard-wood floor was laid, with a beautiful soft grey rug. The walls were repapered and the room painted in a soft grey, with new draperies and new furniture, making it a very attractive room. The principal's office next to the reception room has also a new hard-wood floor and a new rug.

Besides the many gifts mentioned above we are glad to acknowledge gratefully our indebtedness to many friends for many other gifts.

Mary Cushing, '15, presented a picture to the girls' parlor, one of Wallace Nutting's "New England Roads." Mrs. Kate Dewey Godard, '84, of Hartford, Ct., presented, for the same room, a beautiful photograph of the Capitol building at Hartford and the State Library, of which her husband is the librarian. A new piano for the girls' parlor was the thoughtful and timely gift of Gretchen Thayer, '10. A new bubbling fountain on the Athletic Field testifies to the interest of Mrs. Annie Roy Thayer, '74, for the Athletic teams of the school. A new adding machine was a gift to the office. Luella B. Ames, '07, designed and presented an attractive book plate for the books in the girls' parlor, and Florence L. Goding, '02, generously supplied the same need for the Boys' Recreation Room. A set of the new International Encyclopedia was given to the library by Mrs. Peirce, '72. A collection of birds' eggs and nests was the thoughtful gift of Mr. W. K. Wood of Franklin, Clarence B. Billing, '88-'92, of Hartford, Ct., remembered his Aluna Mater by a gift of 100 copies of "America, America," a song of his own composing which he was anxious to have sung first at Dean. Mr. H. F. Miller generously repaired a piano for us without expense. A fine deer's head for the Boys' Recreation Room is the gift of Maurice Voshurg, Lake Clear, N. Y., a student of the school. Mrs. Harry T. Hayward gladdened the hearts of the boys by the gift of a new pool table for the game room. The collection of autograph letters in the main corridor has increased by the gift of a McKinley letter sent by Mr. Arthur H. Dittreck of Hudson, Ohio, father of the President of the class, of 1915. The collection now lacks only letters of the elder Harrison and of Chester A. Arthur. A number of pictures have been bought from the income of the Ballou Improvement Fund.

The endowment fund was increased by the thousand dollar gift of the Dean Club, contributions made for permanent membership in that organization. Extra dividends in stock and cash on securities of the U. S. Shoe Manufacturing Co., bequeathed by the late David Cummings, added approximately \$6000 to the Cummings' Fund. No bequests were received or reported this year, an unusual circumstance. We have reason to believe, however, that there are many friends of the school who have made provisions for it in their wills, and we trust that the lasting usefulness of such provisions will be impressed on the minds of many who have not already done so.

The Dean Club is an unqualified success. Its second annual report has been sent to members of the club and all graduates, and need not be repeated here. It is a pleasure to note that the club enrolls a larger percentage of former pupils than any other school or college trying this plan which has come to our notice; but we ought to do better still, and care. Those interested in the school see so many opportunities for improvement, by the wise benefactions of such funds, that it is a duty to urge upon those not members to join. The fiftieth anniversary is a time for special loyalty. If you cannot do big things, help by your small gifts to make the Dean Club capable of big things. If the opportunity to enlist has been passed by, write the Secretary, Mrs. Lydia P. Ray Peirce, Franklin, Mass., for an enrollment card.

The new organization of the Dean Alumni Association has been perfected, and

lots have been sent to the members, and the result of the ballot will be reported at Commencement. Not so many of the non-graduate students have taken advantage of the opportunity for membership as could have been wished, but a goodly number have already joined, and there will be more to follow. For many years the school has made a reasonably earnest effort to keep in close touch with its alumni, but has almost absolutely neglected the non-graduates. The roster of the Dean Club testifies that many of these are as loyal and willing to help as any. The school ought to work steadily to keep all former students informed about itself and its work and to foster their interest and loyalty in their old school home.

Much work has been done on the preparation of a catalog of the students of the school, from its opening in 1866 to the present date, a stupendous task, which, when once done, will never be so hard again. The Principal is deeply indebted to hundreds for hearty support given him in this effort. Much still remains to be done, but the proposed catalog, even if imperfect, will help to renew old associations and will be one means of discovering the large constituency of Dean to each other and helping to bind them more closely to the school. It will be of interest to know that the school has graduated up to and including the present class about 1,175 students, of whom approximately 1,075 are still living. From the beginning until today 4,305 have been enrolled as students here, 2,028 young women, and 2,277 young men. Of this number probably about 450 are not living.

The full program of the fiftieth anniversary celebration and Commencement will come to you on a separate circular. We shall graduate in June between seventy and eighty pupils, a considerable proportion of whom will enter college. This year calls for special reunions of the classes of 1891, 1906 and 1913, and while we are expecting large representations from all, we hope these classes will be present in largest numbers. Reports from every direction seem to promise a large number of former students, and we appeal to every one to come back and make the anniversary red-letter days for Dean.

Catalogs have been sent, as usual, to one-fifth of the alumni body, the classes dating back every fifth year from 1916. We trust they will be read with interest by those who receive them and that they may be used, wherever possible, to interest the right kind of young people to come to Dean. We increasingly need the help of our friends to keep the right type of young people coming to the school. Large graduating classes leave big gaps for enrollment to be filled. Will you not do what you can to turn desirable students our way? Catalogs will be gladly sent to any names sent to the school office. Enrollments are coming in for next September in unusual numbers for this time of the year, but it takes hard work and much of it, in the keen competition of schools, to keep our enrollment up to its recent standards. This we must do, for we have felt the strain of high prices for coal and provisions this year, and only a full school makes possible paying the bills without a deficit.

Not many of us, who are now interested in Dean, will be present when it shall celebrate its centennial, fifty years from now; but we can be sure that if we all do our best to insure its present and its immediate future, that it will round out its one hundred years, a better school than it is now and even more deserving of the love and loyalty of its friends. In the confident trust that none of us will fail in doing his full duty, we believe that we can look forward hopefully to a future Dean that will be the better for the loyalty and support that we are giving it today. May the next fifty years more than fulfill the promise of the present.

ARTHUR W. PEIRCE, Principal.

May, 1916.