



UNION ALUMNI MONTHLY

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January, 1936

No. 3

NEWS AND COMMENT

The Pearson Diaries

AN oil portrait of Jonathan Pearson given the College by his son, John M. Pearson '66, was formally presented at the student assembly December 14. Mr. Codman Hislop '31 was the speaker on this occasion.

The reproduction of the portrait supplies the frontispiece of this *Monthly*, and the paper Mr. Hislop read before the local Historical Society last spring on the Pearson diaries provides us with the main article. The occasion, to your editor, was far more than just another presentation of a portrait, much as we have been interested in all of these, for which we must thank our President's zeal in making undergraduates conscious of their alma mater's distinguished past.

Long before we entered the Blue Gate the Pearson name was familiar to us. It was included in the list of Union notables of whom our father delighted to tell us in talking of his own college

days. We knew him as Pinky Pearson, who had translated the Dutch entries in our family Bible. He was a teacher of our grandfather. Later we owed much to his son, Dr. William L. Pearson '68, who brought our three children into the world and was our beloved family physician from the time we married until he himself died. We were in college with a grandson, who bore his name; we still know a number of his attractive granddaughters as well as a great-grandson, Allen S. Peck, Jr. '32; but it is through his diaries, which were given the College two years ago, that the man has come fully to life in our own mind, and with him, the College during the forty-two years during which he wrote of it in these pages. Mr. Hislop is making an index of its ten volumes and hopes to have the work completed by the end of next summer, a work made possible by the generosity of Dr. E. Z. Hawkes '87.

These diaries are by all odds the most important source we have of the history of the College. They are fascinating reading; and while the article we are publishing in this number is based upon but four of the volumes, we can assure our readers that they will miss much if they skip this article. We doubt not it will whet their appetites for more. It may well be that at some future date a considerable part of these diaries will find their way into print, for they reflect not only the history of our College from the height of its reputation well into its decline, but explain pretty fully the causes of that decline. While this is the central theme of the diary, it has a much wider interest in the way it reflects contemporary life, and perhaps best of all, the portrait it gives of the author himself; so we would repeat, be sure and catch the glimpses we give you into the pages of Pearson's "Thinking Books."

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The Fine Arts

We have listened many times to our President as he addressed an alumni meeting; and although the story he had to tell was itself old to us, we have invariably found its retelling interesting and have been caught up with the rest of the audience in a wave of pride in our college. It is not, however, the fine art of public speaking, practiced so competently by Dr. Fox, which we have in mind; rather it is a description he gave at the recent gathering of the New York alumni of what we are doing on the campus to encourage the fine arts. It comes to our mind frequently, for it was entirely lacking in the college we knew thirty years ago. Our own interest in painting and sculpture came entirely from our out-of-class friendship with

Dr. Hale and Lee W. Case '82. Of course, we read Shakespeare and Moliere in the classroom; but poor vaudeville was the best description one could give of our campus dramatics; and as for music, our glee and instrumental clubs learned only pleasant jingles under the ever-changing direction of some local worthy in need of the less than modest stipend available for such coaching. What a different picture Dr. Fox can give of the opportunities the college now provides in the fine arts. There is a play production course, and a well-equipped campus theatre, and still another course where the student can find help in the appreciation of music and the opportunity to hear both on the organ and the capehart, artistic renderings of a wide range of Masterpieces.

Now all this is immediately at hand, as is a course in History of Art, competently taught and supplemented by frequent exhibits of paintings, etc. When we think of the truly beautiful Christmas choral services Dr. Tidmarsh and the choir gave the Sunday before vacation, which literally filled the Chapel on three different occasions during the day, we feel justified in writing of such matters again. Many alumni, if they would but tune in on WGY for our Sunday services at 11:15, would be pleasantly surprised at the musical standard now taken for granted on our campus. We would note in this year's Christmas program a lovely carol, the music for which was written by H. William Smith '33 and the words by Codman Hislop '31.

As for the Mountebanks, we have

UCSLA#1835 Pearson - J - 0002
MOUNTEBANKS

COMMENT

days. We knew him as Pinky Pearson, who had translated the Dutch entries in our family Bible. He was a teacher of our grandfather. Later we owed much to his son, Dr. William L. Pearson '68, who brought our three children

Give Portrait Of Pearson to Union College

Schenectady Gazette
136
His Caustic Diary, Quoted
at Presentation, Tells of
Hogs and Cattle Roving
Schenectady's Streets

~~DEC 16 1935~~

A portrait of a famous Union College alumnus who once wrote in his diary that "Schenectady is only fit for hogs and Dutchmen" was presented to the college Saturday morning in an informal exercise held in the memorial chapel. In fact, so informal was the presentation of the portrait of Johnathan Pearson, 1835, that there was no acceptance of it. Or at least the student body did not wait for it to be accepted.

Pearson's recordings of Union College life for 43 years, during which he was a student, tutor, professor or natural philosophy, agriculture, chemistry, botany and mathematics and was librarian and treasurer, are regarded as one of the best intimate histories dealing with the Schenectady and Albany of the middle 19th century.

Pearson's more complete description of the Schenectady of 100 years ago says: "One cannot walk the streets without brushing against a hog or meeting a cow on the sidewalk; he cannot sleep for the yelping of curs or the caterwauling of lambs, and such narrow, contracted, illiberal minds as make up this community are its only fit inhabitants. Why have we no aqueduct? Why are the streets inhabited by cattle? Why are the walks and ways never cleaned? Why never repaired? Oh, what a world of filth."

Cadman Bishop of the faculty, in his discourse, quoted numerous passages from the Pearson diary, showing the development and changes of habits. The dress of fashionable ladies in Pearson's time evidently was as unique as that of today, for he said: "What the backs of the young misses of today will arrive to is certainly a serious question. They protrude already more than a camel's rump and increase daily. A full-dressed miss nowadays juts behind more than a foot—her waist may be as large as a quart mug, her hips and appurtenances from the size of a barrel to that of a good fat hogs-head.

"But thanks to the fashion, this totundity is not all solid matter, else they would never enter a door or sit upon a chair. It's nothing but down, hair, feather, cotton, wool, or, in some cases, wind."

Mr. Hislop spent many months in indexing the 10 volumes which were given to the college by Pearson's son, John.

100 Jonathan Pearson, B.A., '35; M.A.; F.B.K. Born, Chichester, N. H., February 23, 1813. Dover, Pembroke and New Hampton (N. H.) academies Union College, 1833-'35. Tutor, Union College, 1836-'39; Assistant Professor Chemistry and Natural Philosophy 1839-'49; Professor Natural History, 1849-'73; Professor Agriculture and Botany, 1873-'84. Librarian Union College, 1854-'66; Treasurer, 1854-'83. Professor Emeritus, 1884-'87. Published "The History of the Schenectady Patent," and other historical papers; "General Catalogue Union College," 1868. Member, N. Y. Historical Society, Albany Institute. Died, Schenectady, N. Y., June 20, 1887.

Kappa Alpha cat. 1941

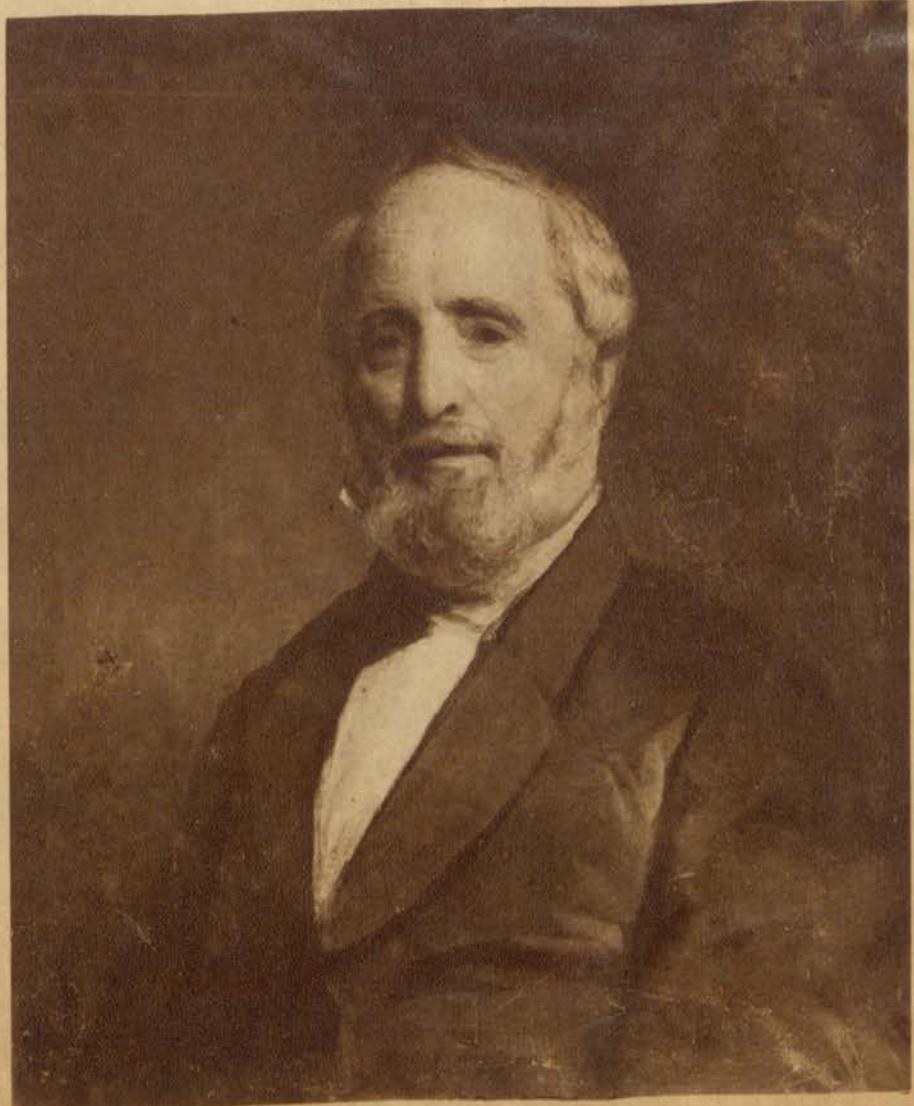
1835

Kappa Alpha Cat.

JULY 7, 1935

SIGNIFICANT PORTRAITS AT UNION COLLEGE

Recent Acquisitions



JONATHAN PEARSON, teacher, of the class of 1832, who served the college from the time of his graduation until his death in the late 70's. His 10 large volumes of diaries contain an extraordinary day by day account of the presidency of Eliphalet Nott.

PEARSON MATERIAL

1. Letter dated Dec. 17, 1860 from Eliphalet Nott to Prof. Pearson. expresses the wish to be able to furnish satisfactory evidence at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees that he had, irrespective of all personal considerations, sought thro' good and evil report to further the interests of the College, and that there are considerations of vital consequence to the institution why all existing litigations should cease and more things be studied and more measures adopted and only those which make peace.
2. Letter dated Feb. 21, 1860 from Eliphalet Nott to Pearson--asks for a loan of \$100 as Mrs. Nott's funds which she received up to that time had met their expenses.
3. Letter dated Dec. 1860 from Harriet Douglas Conger to Dr. Nott-- she will be responsible for \$1500 which is to be borrowed in sums of \$500 each and at definite times. When all has been received, the scholarships are to be returned to her allowing to the plan of Dr. Nott.
4. Letter dated Jan. 9, 1861 from Mrs. Nott to Mr. Pearson-- she asks Mr. Pearson to supervise the finishing of the President's house.
5. Letter from Eliphalet Nott to Prof. Pearson dated Dec. 21, 1860.
6. Letter dated Dec. 3, 1859 from W. M. Gillespie to Pearson asking for \$30 to buy books for college library.

7. Letter dated October 30, 1861 from Fitz Hugh Ludlow to Pearson
he wonders why Union never offered him a professorship of Belles Lettres.
8. Notes on J. V. Driessen and Johs Van Driessen from the fly leaf of Salomon Van Til's Theological Naturalis Compendium.
9. 1892 catalogue of addresses of surviving Alumni of Union College.
corrected to June 1905.
10. 1909-10 Alumni Directory
11. Article from Albany "Argus" on the Van Rensselaers.
12. Centennial Catalogue of Union University.
13. Cut of Jonathan Pearson
14. Picture of Class of 1866 at Commencement in 1921
15. Columbia County, Soil, Climate, & Agricultural Resources by John Stanton Gould.
16. Treasurer's Reports of Union College 1853-1872
17. A copy of Virgil with Interlinear Translation given to U. C. Library by Charles Martin.
18. Treasurer's Reports 1873-1882.

19. Union College 1882 includes charter
20. Copies of Song of Old Union.
21. History of the Presbyterian Church at New Scotland, N. Y.
22. Annual Report of the Treasurer of Union College made May 31, 1875.
23. Address at the funeral of the Rev. Dr. Nott, Schenectady, Feb. 2, 1866 in the Presbyterian Church by the pastor, Rev. J. Trumbull Backus, D. D.
24. Inauguration of the Rev. John G. Lansing, A. M., as Professor of Old Testament Languages and Exegesis, at New Brunswick, New Jersey, September, 23, 1884.
25. Proceedings of the Lyman Reunion 1871
26. Albany Medical Annals August 1911
27. An old check book
28. Union College Circular and Catalogue 1883-84
29. Union College Circular and Catalogue 1883-84
30. General Catalogue Union College 1854
31. Circular and Catalogue of Union College 1870-71.
32. Special Report on Public Libraries in the U. S. Part II

33. Circular and Catalogue of Union College 1868
34. The Union University Catalogue 1873-4.
35. Annual Report of the Treasurer of Union College Made June 30, 1863.
36. Circular and Catalogue of Union College, 1866
37. Recent Additions to the Engineering Models of Union College
38. Catalogue of the Flowering Plants of Schenectady County by E. W. Paige.
39. Plants of Wisconsin I. A. Lapham
40. American Manures; and Farmers' and Planters' Guide
James Bennett Chynoweth
41. Catalogue of Plants, Growing without Cultivation in the Vicinity of Troy. John Wright and James Hall
42. Ditto
43. The True National Democrat and Morning Star
44. The Church Almanac for 1853
45. The Church Almanac for 1852
46. The Church Almanac for 1851

47. Early History of Georgia Embracing the Embassy of Sir Alexander Cumming to the Country of the Cherokees in 1730 With a Map of the Cherokee Country, From a Draft made by the Indians.
48. Catalogue of Hobart College 1867-8
49. Address of Horatio Potter, Honourary Chancellor, of Union University 1875
50. Laws of Union College as Revised and Enacted January 24, 1871.
51. Annual Report of Board of Managers of the Buffalo Historical Society January 12, 1886.
52. Conversation with Two Military Officers in a Stage Coach.
53. Proceedings at the Inauguration of Eliphalet Nott Potter and the Annual Report of the President of Union College 1871-72.
54. Notes on the Iroquois of Western New York by Henry R. Schoolcraft.
55. Botanical Observations in Southern Utah in 1874 by Dr. C.C. Parry
56. Four copies of the Catalogue of Union College for the years 1870-71.
57. Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the Connection of Prof. Isaac W. W. Jackson, LL.D. with the Faculty of Union College 1876 - 2 copies
58. Address of the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, at the Annual Meeting of the New England Historic, Genealogical Society, January 8, 1877.
59. General Catalogue of the Officers, Graduates and Students of Union College from 1795-1868.

60. The Union College Magazine March 1867 contains a sketch of the life of Col. Elias Peissner.
61. Historical Sketch of Union College prepared in compliance with an invitation from the Commissioner of the Bureau of Education, representing the Department of the Interior in matters relating to the National Centennial of 1876.
62. Catalogue of Union College 1875-6.
63. Catalogue of Union College 1870-71
64. General Catalogue of the Officers, Graduates and Students of Union College, 1795-1868.
65. same as 53
66. Discourses Commemorative of Professor Tayler Lewis Delivered at Commencement, 1878 by Eliphalet Nott Potter.
67. A Catalogue of the Hitherto Known Native and Naturalized Plants of North America, arranged according to the sexual system of Linnaeus. By Henry Muhlenberg, D.D.
68. A General Catalogue of Union College from 1795-1854
69. Bulletin of the U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. Vol. III No. 1
70. same Vol. III No. 2
- 71 same Vol. II No. 4
72. General Catalogue of Union College 1795-1868

73. Catalogue of Union College 1875-6
74. Circulars of Information of the Bureau of Education 1880
75. Telemaque Union College Classic Library No. 2251
76. The First Visit of De La Salle to the Senecas made in 1669.
77. Memorial of Samuel Gilman Brown 1813-1885
78. Memorial of the Second Reformed Church of Albany, N. Y. 1879-1881.
79. Hope College Remembrancer First Commencement 1866
80. Biographical Sketch of the Most Rev. John Hughes, D.D. 1864
81. Sermon by Rev. James Brownlee
82. Centennial Celebration of Reformed Prot. Dutch Church of Claverack 1867
83. Defence of Dr. Gould by the Scientific Council of the Dudley Observatory. 1858
84. Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Union College 1855
85. Catalogue of the Graduates of Middlebury College--A Biographical Register and Directory 1853
86. Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Library of the State of New York 1855

87. Eighth Annual Report of the Regents of the University of the State
of New York on the Condition of the State Cabinet of Natural
History and of the Historical and Antiquarian Collection
Made to the Senate, January 15, 1855.

88. Catalogue of Hamilton College 1853-4

89. Wereldkennis en Levensgenot, of Practische Bijdragen tot bevor-
dering van Levenswijsheid van Friedrich Burchard Beneken door
D. Ijsenbeek 1840

90. same

91. Hoogduitsche Geletterden Door D. Ijsenbeek 1850

92. Oration by John T. Hogeboom at the Centennial Celebration at
Hudson N. Y. July 4, 1876.

93. Central New York in the Revolution. An Address delivered August
15th, 1878, at the unveiling of a Monument in commemoration of
the Massacre at Cherry Valley, New York in 1778. by Douglas Camp-
bell.

94. Extracts from the Baptismal Register of the Reformed Protestant
Dutch Church of Schenectady, N. Y. 1864 13 copies

95. Nomina Senatus Academicus et Eorum Qui Munera et Officia Academica
Gesserunt, Quique Aliquopiam Gradu Exornati Sunt, in Collegio
Concordiae Dedicato, Quod Floret Schenectadiae, in Republica
Novi Eboraci.

96. Letter dated June 18, 1842 from Eliphalet Nott to the Librarian
telling him to call in all books before July 15.

97. Letter dated July 19, 1845 from R. M. K. Strong to Pearson.
telling him he will not be able to attend a class meeting.
98. A letter of recommendation dated May 22, 1835 written by
Eliphalet Nott about Jonathan Pierson.
99. Letter dated July 1845 written by James C. Smith to Jonathan
Pearson. asking Pearson to make reservations at the Givens
Hotel for him while he attends the College Commencement.
100. Letter from Eliphalet Nott to Pearson
asks Pearson to have all books belonging to library to be re-
turned so that their place may be known in the new library.
101. A clipping from Schenectady "Cabinet dated July 8, 1845
about the Semi-Centennial Jubilee of the Graduates of Union C.
102. A note to Professor Pearson from A. Potter
asking for the list of Alumni with their occupations.
103. A bond for \$117.83 signed by Jonathan Pearson
104. A list of students requesting Jonathan Pierson to continue
teaching Botany another week.
105. A list of books received into the Lancaster School Library in
Schenectady. Signed by G. M. Van De Bogert
106. A letter from Edw. Tuckerman to Rev. Dr. Potter dated May 20,
1845. refuses to write an Ode for the Celebration in Latin.
Prof. Tayler Lewis dedicated his volume on Platonif-- to Dr.
Nott.
107. A letter from a committee to whom the trustees of the Lancaster
School Society have entrusted the management of the library to
Mr. West telling him of new resolutions as to hours and handling of
books in the library.

108. A list of books lost.

109. Letter from Duyckman to Pearson dated July 21, 1845
regretting that he can not attend some celebration at Union

110. A library report signed by A. B. Austin and B. V. Vedder

111. Commencement Program July 25, 1849

112. Invitation to Mr. Lamoreaux for the Commencement Soiree of 1849

113. Jonathan Pearson was held for a note made by Eliphilet Nott and
protested.

114. A note from E. Nott to Jonathan Pearson telling him that the
library has been too loosely kept causing the loss of many
books and that in the future the can not be taken out without
Mr. Pearson's being present.

115. List of books lost.

116. Papers belonging to the Trustees of the Lancaster School Society
Books received and books lost
List of books recommended to be purchased
Receipt for payment of maps.
Three receipts for books
Receipt for set of Holbrook's apparatus
Report of the Committee to purchase books for the District Li-
brary
Receipt for \$159. 58 given by Alex. Holland for books.
List of books bought of G. Y. Van De Bogert

117. Letter from Henry Pomeroy to Pearson dated July 3, 1844 asks Pearson if he would like specimen of rare fish which he often finds when fishing
118. Commencement programs for 1849 and 1859
119. Picture of the Class of 1868 at one of their reunions
120. Portrait of Jonathan Pearson painted in 1875 by Saxton
121. Large cardboard covers containing several plans and three pictures of A. D. Gillette, pastor of the 11th Baptist Church of Philadelphia
Copy of the Lord's Prayer in Burmese, Karen, and English.
Four copies of a picture of Eliphilet Nott
An Engraving of J. Brodhead, D. D. which was engraved from the original picture in the possession of James Anderson, M. D.
A lithograph of Eliphilet Nott drawn by Ch. Fenderich in 1845.
122. Four T. squares

Jonathan Pearson '35

The ancestors of Jonathan Pearson settled in the village of Rowley, in Eastern Massachusetts, close to Ipswich. Caleb Pearson, the father of Professor Pearson, settled in New Hampshire at the close of the Revolutionary War. In 1831 he joined a caravan headed for the West, but was attracted by Schenectady and made his home there.

His son Jonathan was born at Chichester, N.H., Feb. 23, 1813. He prepared for college at Dover, Pembroke and New Hampton Academies, in New Hampshire, near his former home. In January 1832, he entered Union College, and graduated with honor in 1835. The following year he was appointed tutor, and in 1839 assistant professor of Chemistry and Natural History. In 1849, he was elected Professor of Natural History, and in 1873 was transferred to the department of Agriculture and Botany. He collected and catalogued some 600 species of plants in the vicinity of Schenectady.

He died at Schenectady, June 20, 1887.

Jonathan Pearson '35

Was born in 1813, in Chichester, N.H. In College, he was a Philomathian. In addition to teaching, he was for many years also Librarian and Treasurer of the College. As Librarian, he made an exhaustive Catalogue of the Collection, classifying and arranging the whole on the Survey plan - a work for which his persistent industry fully qualified him. He also prepared through many years the General Catalogue of Alumne. He was made a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He had the true spirit of Antiquarian research, exploring, as few were caud, the obscure records of Early Albany, and of the Dutch settlements along the Mohawk.

He published:

- Genealogical Record of the Pearson Family in this Country.
- Early Records of the County of Albany.
- Genealogies of the First Settlers of Schenectady.
- Genealogies of the First Settlers of Albany.
- History of the Protestant Dutch Church of Schenectady.
- A History of Schenectady Patent in Dutch and English Times. (Standard historical work.)

Prof. Jonathan Pearson

Prof. Pearson was a scholar in the Dutch language, and translated the Records of the Dutch Church in Schenectady, and the Dutch Records in the Clerk's office at Albany.

He was a Republican and a member of the Baptist Church. He was on the Board of Health of Schenectady in 1849

Jonathan Pearson

The Pearson family settled in Rowley, Mass., before 1643, where the first John Pearson erected a fulling mill which became the seat of the first cloth manufactory in New England. Caleb Pearson, Jonathan's grandfather, soldier of the Revolution at 14, pushed westward after the war into New Hampshire, where he opened mills at Chichester, which were long operated for him by his son Caleb. Here Jonathan was born on February 23, 1813.

Prof. Pearson's "Diaries", covering the years 1832-1875 were presented to the College. They are very complete, and form the most important source of material we possess in the history of the College.

Prof. Pearson was elected to the New York Historical Society, Dec. 1, 1874, and to membership in the Albany Institute, Nov. 15, 1870.

100.11835 pearson-j-0018

JONATHAN PEARSON, B.A., '35, M.A., Ø. B. K.

Born, 1813. Schenectady, N. Y. Student, Union College, 1833-'35. Tutor, Union College, 1836-'39; Assistant Professor Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, 1839-'49; Professor Natural History, 1849-'73; Professor Agriculture and Botany, 1873-'84. Librarian Union College, 1854-'66; Treasurer, 1854-'83. Professor Emeritus, 1884-'87. Published "The History of the Schenectady Patent," and other historical papers; "General Catalogue Union College," 1868.

Died, Schenectady, N. Y., June 20, 1887.

From: Kappa Alpha in U. C.
1825-1913

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SCHENE

Shoemaker and Pot of Gold

Legendary Tale of Old Dorp

Some day a writer will gather all the folklore of the Mohawk valley—either an energetic stripling or a grandfather with bent shoulders and a beard, so long as he delights in the aroma of stone attics and the soft brown curlicues left by the quill pens of the pioneers, so long as he remembers that those forebears who set up a civilization beyond silk-stockinged Albany were forced to depend upon imagination, the magic of darkness and serenity of a virgin countryside for their amusement.

These tales, gathered from red plub libraries, research rooms and wrinkled descendants of the first families, will be pattered out from the steel jaws of a typewriter, mangled, cut and scribbled upon, dressed in their prettiest and published. Were one to wager upon the contents, one would lay red pennies that the little known tale of the dreaming shoemaker and the pot of gold is included.

So far as that goes, there is no need of waiting for the publication. The yarn has been lying cold and stiff in various attics for the past 180 years. Doubtless there are copies of it to be found where the writer tells of a father or great-uncle who saw the shoemaker with his own eyes. This particular version comes from the papers of the late Jonathan Pearson, now in the hands of the Schenectady County Historical Society. Dr. Pearson, most astutely, made no mention of the veracity of his tale.

The Future Drab

The narrative has been timed for the period immediately preceding the revolutionary war and the shoemaker's home was in the immediate vicinity of the site now occupied by the Gazette building. Let the original writer describe it:

"In State street where the canal now runs on the left hand side going up toward the hill, there used to stand an old fashioned house once occupied by a poor shoemaker and his wife.

"The shoemaker, whose name was Jan, was a contemplative old fellow with a shaggy mass of gray hair and blue eyes that peered gravely across the counter toward you through the squares of horn rimmed spectacles.

"Each night, Jan would step to his porch near sunset, seat himself upon the railing and gaze with philosophical intent upon the river valley. There would be the clatter of the stone dishes from within, then the slow walk of the old

woman. She joined him and they sat through the dusk, talking slowly of their youth, of dreams now impossible, of desires and hopes that occasionally shivered up from the dormancy and dull routine of existence.

Opportunity Knocks

"This night upon which the story is based, Jan came to the porch alone and saw approaching him an old man, a tottering old man on a stick, dressed all in gray. He paused before the house, looked toward Jan and nodded, then turned in through the gate.

"No word was spoken, no move from either save for the rhythmic shuffle of the sire's walk. Before the stoop he paused, then beckoned. Jan, afraid through something in the other's appearance, held back. The sire beckoned again. Jan made no move. The old one turned about, tapped his stick. His body disappeared.

"A few minutes later, the wife came to the porch. Jan told the story. She scoffed him. 'Tomorrow night, we will come out together at the same time. Perhaps he will come again. Watch. I shall not be afraid.'

He Knocks Again

"The next night, at the same time, the gray, bent figure made its appearance again. He stood before the porch and beckoned. The wife smiled and stepped toward him. Jan held back. 'Come' said the wife.

"They were led around the side of the house, through the garden toward an old tree that stood in a corner by the wall. The figure pointed down, made a scratching movement with his stick, gave that slow, stately turn again—and disappeared.

"Jan, following the good wife's directions, brought a shovel from the tool shed and a candle. They dug by turns for a quarter hour. The shovel scraped the sides of an old pot. The vessel was uncovered, hauled up and turned upside down. Out tumbled a mass of colonial Dutch and French coins.

"And like all most other tales, that of Jan and his wife ends happily. A fortune of gold confronted them. They took it to bankers in Albany. Purchased a new home, traveled to their hearts content, visited friends far and near, purchased new dishes, hired servants and died the death of respected aristocrats."

Now, see who wins that cent in the folklore bet.

- Obeys to "Dutel community who arrives here
desire to explore." 7 generations of Dutel ancestors.
- Before 1692 John P., carpenter, served in town of
Rowley, Essex Co., Mass. Entered a fulling mill
and became 1st mfg. of cloth in colony.
- Caleb P. grandfather of Jonathan, in Revt. at 18 yrs
as a fifer, served through whole war.
- After Rev. settled in Chelmsford, N. H., opened
mills, which his son Caleb owned and operated for
him.
- Jonathan P. born here 2/23/1813.
- Caleb in 1831 found caravan moving westward
journeyed by Erie Canal - charmed by prospect of
Sch'y & Union College - chance to educate children
settled here - died here.
- Jonathan then 18, had earlier received prop.
education at Dover, Penobscot, and later Hampton
Academy.
- Entered Univ. in Jan. 1832, was grad. with honors 1835
- App'tee tutor 1835-36. Wrote Hanuman Dist.

His interest in phi investigating his own family
tree led him to think of exploring the puzzling and
scattered records of the Dutel families of New England,
Massachusetts, provincial Canada.

From Pearson Diary

Jan. 1, 1833 Tuesday.

In fact what vows have I to make and break again? Is there no need of virtuous and healthful resolutions for God's service? If a man can live unto holiness without resolving with himself and pledging honour, by the innate desires and love towards God will it for him. Better never make determination to live more holy than only vow to break.

Where is the latent spark of divine love which was first kindled in my heart by the peace speaking voice of the Spirit of all Grace? Where those holy aspirations of godliness and those longings after near fellowship with God? All- All- stifled and lost among the rubbish of worldly affections. Oh the vile influence of worldly ambition and pride!

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Where is the latent spark of divine love which was first kindled in my heart by the peace speaking voice of the Spirit of all Grace? Where those holy aspirations of godliness and those longings after near fellowship with God? All- All- stifled and lost among the rubbish of worldly affections. Oh the vile influence of worldly ambition and pride!

1841

Friday, Jan 11 (Evening, 9 o'clock.)

The good wishes of happiness, the smiling faces and happy hearts. The annual calls of ceremony have ushered in the commencement of another year, but how many of these light hearts will cease their motion this year! How many pangs of sorrow will wring them, how fleeting will this earthly joyfulness be found!

Learn wisdom from these anniversaries.

Made 63 calls upon families of my acquaintance and closed the day in a snowstorm.

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Made 63 calls upon families of my acquaintance and closed the day in a snowstorm.

Friday, Dec. 31, 1841

Temperance is making wonderful progress now every-
where. Teetotalism I mean. The new feature which it takes
is the reform of drunkards. They form Soc. of their own
called Wash. Temperance Soc. and within the year it is thought
80,000@tiplers and topers became temperate sober men.

Saturday, Jan 1st, 1842

An attempt has been made to get wine set aside from
tables furnished for visitors today. Dr. Nott has called on
some of our biggest folks for this purpose: and with some
success too. These are the calls I have made today. Those
giving wine and punch are marked to show the progress of
reform. (List follows.)

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giving wine and punch are marked to show the progress of
reform. (List follows.)

1845

Jan. 1, Wednesday.

A perfect April day -- no snow, indeed we have had none for a month. The last of Nov. there fell 6 in. which made us sleighlings for a few days -- since then we have none to speak of. I sallied forth without an overcoat to make the customary "calls." and visited as follows.

Prof. Jackson	Judge Jones	Mr. Gilbert
Prof. Reed	Mrs. Boyd	Doct. Dulap
Dr. Nott	Maj. Martin	Mr. Harvey Davis
Dr. Potter	Mr. Platt Potter	Rev. T. Backus
Dr. Yates	Mrs. Mumford	Mrs. Kelley
Mr. Fisk	Mr. A. C. Paige	Mr. Van Niger
Dr. Proudfit	Mr. Cochran	Mr. Beckley
Mr. Thompson	Mrs. Fuller	
Mr. Robert Cunningham	Mr. William Walton	
Mr. Andrew McPherson	Mr. A. C. Gibson	
Misses	"	Misses Graham
Mr. Van Ingen	Judge Sim	
Mr. Walters	Mr. Lyman	
Mr. Cobb	Mr. Carley	
Doct. Wm. N. Duane	Mr. Grant	
Misses Holland	Mr. Howe	
Dr. Van Vechten	Doct. A. Vedder	
Dr. Craig	Mrs. Bazeley	
Judge Tomlinson	Mr. McCanning	

-- a list that kept me "trotting" till near sundown.

It would seem that this old and honored custom is rather declining of late which is much to be regretted.

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Jonathan Pearson, 1835

Prof. Jonathan Pearson, A. M., was born February 23, 1813 at Chichester, N. H. His father, Caleb Pearson journeying westward by the Erie Canal was attracted by the rich valley about Schenectady, and especially by Union College and settled there in 1831.

Jonathan entered Union in January, 1832 and graduated with honor in 1835.

The following year he was appointed tutor and in 1839 assistant professor of chemistry and natural philosophy. In 1849 he was elected professor of natural history, and in 1873 was transferred to the department of Agriculture and Botany.

Prof. Pearson was long Treasurer of the College and its librarian. He always got out the general catalogue and was in addition antiquarian and famous historian of the Mohawk Valley. "He first transcribed, translated, and collated" the ancient Dutch annals, which were further complicated by English, Canadian, French, and Indian words.

R.C.D., '03
R.C.D., '03

JONATHAN PEARSON

Jonathan Pearson was on the Board of Health of Schenectady in
1849.

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 339

The Pearson Papers in the Schenectady Historical Society

The boxes are numbered in pencil in the upper right hand corner.

Box

1. Schemerhorn papers. Deeds, land transfers, estate receipts, family correspondence dating as early as the latter part of the 17th century. Many of these papers are in Dutch. Here also will be found several "pastoral calls" issued by the Dutch Church, 1802-07.
2. Schemerhorn papers. As above.
3. Papers of the Peck or Peek family. Wills, estate papers, family correspondence.
4. Papers of the Van der Volgen Family. Largely land transactions.
5. Papers of the D.J.Toll Family. Wills, estate papers, land trans.
6. Papers of A.S.Bratt. Wills, estate papers, land transactions.
7. Schemerhorn papers as in numbers 1 and 2.
8. " " " " "
9. Glen family correspondence, etc. (John, William, Cornelius, Simon.) The majority of these papers concern the extensive Indian business in which the Glens seem to have been involved, officially and otherwise. This box contains letters to Washington(at Princeton), Alex. Hamilton, Wolcott, John Marshall, and many other figures of the Revolutionary period; many of these letters are of an official nature regarding the movements of supplies, the building of "botteau" and the payment of troops. Here are General Putnam's accounts with the Glens, letters to Gen'l Knox. Governor Jos.C.Yates papers In Chancery are here, as his correspondence with the Glens during his governorship. There are also letters from Cadwallader Colden and Elkanah Watson, the Van Rensselaers and other prominent figures.
-Ordinances of the City of Schenectady-1800.
-Many land transfers by the City of Schenectady to purchasers.
10. Cornelius Glen, financial transactions. Letter to Alex. Hamilton asking for his endorsement of a certificate of service.(Glen notes the tie in the votes of the presidential electors then meeting, and speculates on the action of Congress which is soon to follow-Jan. 1, 1801.)
-Lord Jeffrey Amherst's warrant for inspecting the provisions to be transferred to the Crown. 1/7/1763. (A copy, but signed.)
-Amherst's agreement with Watts and DeLancey for delivering over the contractor's provisions to the Crown. 11/3/1763.
-Cadwallader Colden's letter re. the settlement of a long-standing account due Colden's father. 10/15/1788.

Pearson papers in the Schenectady Historical Society.

Bdx

11. Schemerhorn papers, as in boxes 1 and 2.
12. " "
13. Jonathan Pearson's typed msx. of the "First Settlers of Schenectady"
14. " " family records (ms.)
15. " " ms. for a "History of Schenectady"(?), including many of the original deeds, etc. used in the preparation of the "History".

This list is intended only to indicate the general nature of the Pearson collection. There are many hundreds of items, running back into the first days of the Schenectady settlement. A careful listing of them should indicate many documents of considerable historical interest, particular among the Glen papers. Pearson has evidently gathered many deeds, family records, etc., that are here preserved in uncatalogued obscurity. It would appear that many of the items had been borrowed by Pearson.

Pearson Collection(Books)

1. Account book of the Trustees of the City of Schenectady(1795-1833)
2. Ledger of Walter Swits,circa 1800.
3. Account book of Roger Schemerhorn (begins 5/30/1743)
4. Constitution of the Northern Missionary Soc.
-book
5. Letter of Daniel Campbell (1771-1799)
6. Minute Book of the Trustees of Schenectady (1795-1798)
7. Schenectady Families-2 Vols. (1662-1800) mss/ records.
8. Doop-Boek (1694-1851) records of Dutch families in Sch'dy.
9. Records of Sch'dy land holdings, Street by street(4 vols.)
(In many cases the original deeds to the property described
are pinned to the typed sheets.)
- 10/ Ryer Schemerhorn's copy book,badly damaged.
11. Miss(?)Eve Clute's copy book,circ 1750 (paper-covered, badly damaged)
12. Record of local propertymowners (mss. unknown author)
13. Vital statistics of Sch'dy. (Mss. note book)
14. Daniel Campbell's receipt book (1764-1799)
15. Mayor J.C.Yates book of licenses (issued 1798-1807)
- 16/ Small leather note book containing scattered vital statistics.



B. BOHNER

D

UCLaf1835pearson-j-0035

'35

Pearson

Jan. 1, 1858

Union College, Friday

Bro-in-law Magoun came last night at one o'clock.

All day in Treas. Office.

The custom of making New Year's visits seems to be falling into disuse except among the children: made none myself.

U.A.M. June 1940

The Harvard Alumni Bulletin of April 26, 1940 contains an article, "Electives before Eliot," by Dr. HAROLD A. LARRABEE. Mentioned in the article are Dr. NOTT, FRANCIS WAYLAND (1813), and JONATHAN PEARSON (1835)

PROFESSOR PEARSON

An interesting biography of Professor Pearson appears in the large volume "History of the Schenectady Patent", written mainly by Professor Pearson, and published in 1883. Pearson's ancestors had settled in the little village of Rowley, in eastern Massachusetts, close to Ipswich and the great Newburyport marshes. "Caleb Pearson, the father of Professor Pearson, settled in New Hampshire at the close of the Revolutionary War. He apparently became dissatisfied with the fruits which his labor could wring from a sterile soil, for in 1831 he joined the caravan that was then moving slowly westward to populate the plains of the interior. As he journeyed by the great thoroughfare of that day the Erie Canal, his eye was charmed by the rich valley about Schenectady, and especially by the sight of Union College, which seemed to promise him what he ~~had~~ coveted, the opportunity to educate his children. He accordingly changed his plans, made his home in the ancient Dutch city, and resided there till the day of his death.

"His son, Jonathan, then a youth of eighteen, (at the time of his father's settling in Schenectady) had secured a preparatory education at Dover, Pembroke, and New Hampton, academies in the vicinity of his former home. In January, 1832, he entered Union College and graduated with honor in 1835.

"The following year he was appointed tutor, and in 1839, assistant professor of Chemistry and Natural History. In 1849, he was elected professor of Natural History, and in 1873 was transferred to the department of Agriculture and Botany." Professor Pearson died in 1887. -----

Professor Pearson was interested in the collection of plants, for we find him corresponding with such dignitaries as Grisebach, who published an enormous work on the flora of the West Indies, and with Schenck another prominent botanist; Accompanying the specimens of plants is a catalogue reading as follows:

Catalogue of the Accompanying Plants.

The following catalogue of dried plants contains nearly 600 species. In most cases there are at least two specimens of each species, - in many instances half a dozen.

As will be seen by the labels these plants were collected in the vicinity of Schenectady, and are the results of the subscriber's rambles with his annual summer class in Botany.

The works most used in naming the plants are, Alphonso Wood's "Class Book of Botany" and Dr. A. Gray's "Flora of the Northern States," the first of which will be sent with the plants. It is believed that the names are authentic and reliable, altho from the fact that frequent changes have been made in names of late years, in American plants, it is possible the subscriber may not have kept up with the times in a few instances.

The climate and soil of Schenectady are various.

The town is 15 miles from Albany, the Capital of the state and head of navigation on the Hudson, and is therefore not over a hundred higher than tide water at New York City.

It is subject to great extremes of heat and cold - from 25° to (plus) 100° Fahr. - all its plants therefore growing in open air may be considered of the hardiest kinds.

The town stands upon the Hudson river slates (of the New York geologists) one of the lowest series of the fossiliferous rocks. The prevailing soil in the vicinity is silicious ~~xx~~ sand, except along the Mohawk river bottoms where there exists a deep black mould, the deposit of successive floods in the spring.

A few of the plants were gathered upon a limestone ridge, - the Helderberg, - about 12 miles distant from the city. I have collected within a circle of 10 miles ~~xx~~ about Schenectady nearly 1000 plants (flowering).

As it respects plants to be returned in exchange, I am not particular as to the kind or locality, if only they be foreign to the United States, for our herbarium contains but few European plants and those chiefly from England.

If selected from a local Flora I shall be glad also to receive the handbook chiefly used in naming them as that will be a useful authority to refer to.

Jonathan Pearson.

Dec. 22, 1854.

Accompanying a set of plants sent by Grisebach is the following note:-

350 species of European and Asiatic plants, presented to Mr. Pearson by Dr. Grisebach of Gottingen. - "Dieses Siegel ist nur von Mr. Pearson zu öffnen." Below this is the naive translation, "Mr. Pearson is the only man who can break the seal."

To the plants obtained by Tuckerman and Pearson were added small collections from Virginia, Texas, and Alabama, and more recently a collection of ferns and allied plants of Schenectady has been added by Professor Stoller.

Although Professor Pearson did not publish much along botanical lines, still he must have ~~known~~ kept up interest, for in 1864 appeared a pamphlet of 48 pages by one of his students entitled "Catalogue of the Flowering Plants of Schenectady County" by E. W. Paige, of the class of 1864. This had the following introduction:

Catalogue of the Flowering Plants of Schenectady County.

by E. W. Paige.

PREFACE

The geological formations of Schenectady County, although in themselves not particularly interesting, become eminently so when one considers their bearing upon the vegetation of the region. Besides the general character of the greater part of the soil, which is in nowise different from that of the surrounding country, one may observe three peculiar formations, which give rise to as many forms of vegetable life. These are, the river flats; the highlands of the Mohawk; and the Pine Plains. The first support ~~most~~ a vegetation peculiarly their own; a vegetation differing almost totally from that of the neighboring rivers, and seeming to exist only in formations of similar lacustrine origin at isolated intervals. In the last, one finds many plants of an almost exclusive southern range, and which exist nowhere else in the State, except in similar formations of Long Island; while on the highlands of the Mohawk, in the midst of the ordinary vegetation of the surrounding country, some few plants of a truly Alpine character flourish luxuriantly. When all these causes are considered, the extensive and varied flora of this region can no longer be a matter of surprise.

It cannot be pretended that all the plants of the county are described in the accompanying catalogue, - much yet remains to be done; - but it is believed that none are described that do not actually exist, or have not so existed, within its limits. In every case where any plant has not been found by the compiler, its existence has either been inferred from the examination of dried specimens that have been here collected, or has been taken upon the authority of another; in which latter case the authority has ~~not~~

always been given. The species, that are believed to be naturalized, have the mark placed before them.

For important information with respect to localities, for dried specimens for examination which I could not otherwise have procured, and for essential aid in various ways, I am greatly indebted to Professor Pearson; whose kindness during my whole work, I here most gratefully acknowledge.

E.W.P.

/

Taken from "A History of Botany at Union College" article by H. K. Svenson 6/6/24

Pearson Material

a Biography of Pearson in "The Schenectady Patriot"; written mainly by Pearson. P's. ancestors had settled in the little village of Rowley, in eastern Mass. close to Ipswich and the great Newburyport marshes. "Caleb Pearson, the father of Johnathan, settled in New Hampshire at the close of the Revolutionary war. He apparently became dissatisfied with the fruits which his labor could bring from a sterile soil, for in 1831, he joined the caravan that was then moving slowly westward to populate the plains of the interior. As he journeyed by the great thoroughfare of that day the Erie Canal, his eye was charmed by the rich valley of the Mohawk about Schenectady, and especially by the sight of Union College, which seemed to promise him what he had coveted, the opportunity to educate his children. He accordingly changed his plans and made his home in the ancient Dutch city, and resided there to the day of his death.

"His son Jonathan, then a youth of 18, had secured a preparatory education at Dover, Pembroke, and New Hampton, academies in the vicinity of his former home. In January, 1832, he entered Union College, and graduated with honor in 1835.

"The following year he was appointed tutor, and in 1839, assistant professor of Chemistry and Natural History. In 1849, he was elected professor of Natural History, and in 1873 was transferred to the department of Agriculture and Botany." He died at Schenectay, June 20, 1887.

Professor Pearson was interested in the collection of plants for we find him corresponding with such dignitaries as Griesbach, who published an enormous work on the flora of the "est Indies, and with Schenck another prominent botanist.

Prof. Pearson prepared a catalogue of the flora of Schenectady containing notes on some 600 species (Dec. 22, 1854) "the results of the subscriber's rambles with his annual summer class in Botany."

The works most used in naming the plants are?Alphonso Wood's "Class Book of Botany" and Dr. A. Gray's, "Flora of the Northern States" Although Prof. Pearson did not publish much in the field of Botany he must have kept up his interest, for in 1864 he prefaced a pamphlet "A Catalogue of the Flowering Plants of Schenectady County" pub. by E.W. Paige, of the class of 1864.

Svenson, H.K., A History of Botany at Union College

Jonathan Pearson, B.A. 1835., M.A., Phi Beta Kappa
Born 1813. Student Union College 1832-35.

Tutor, Union College, 1836-39; Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy 1839-49; Professor of Natural History, 1849-73 Professor of Agriculture and Botany, 1873-84. Librarian Union College 1854-8466; Treasurer, 1854-83. Professor Emeritus, 1884-1887.

From; Kappa Alpha in U.C.

1825-1913.

2/3/83

2. was born in Chicester, N.H. In college, a Philomateon.

As librarian he made an exhaustive study of the collection, classifying and arranging the whole on the Dewey system--He also prepared through many years a general catalogue of the Alumni. He had the true spirit of antiquarian research, exploring as few men could, the obscure records of early Albany and Schenectady and the Dutch settlements along the Mohawk valley.

He published a "1. Genealogical Record of the Pearson Family in this Country".

2. Genealogies of the First Settlers of Schenectady .

3. Genealogies of the First Settlers of Albany.

4. History of the Protestant Dutch Church in Schenectady

He also left unpublished manuscripts of in reference to the Albany patent. He was a republican and a member of the Baptist Church.

3. Prof. Pearson was a descendant of Caleb Pearson, an English carpenter who settled in the town of Rowley, Essex County, Mass. in 1643, and became the first manufacturer of cloth in the infant colony.

c. June 1887.

5. Bib. 5. History of the Schenectady Patent in Dutch and English Tine(1883) ..most noted work.

6. John M. Pearson, '66 has presented the College with the diaries of his father, Jonathan Pearson, '35. These cover the years 1832-1835. They are very complete and form the most important source of material we possess on the History of the College...day-by-day account of the life of our campus." July-Aug. ALMON. 1934

6. "He translated the records of the Dutch Church in Schenectady and the Dutch Records in the Clerk's office in Albany. He was called "Pinky Pearson" because he had the habit of wearing a pink in his button hole.
7. Pearson was on the Board of health in Schenectady in 1849.
Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book, p, 339.
8. The college owns the following membership certificates:
 1. Corresponding member of the Albany Inst. 11/16/1870
 2. Corresponding member of the N.Y.Hist.Soc. 12/1/1874
 3. License to teach in Sch. 8/24/1864

Pearson Diaries 1832-1875

PEARSON:

1836/6/21: Tutorship: In all probability I can have a tutorship at U.C.; next year, & if I get it the appointment, I shall doubtless go."

²³
Tutorship: 9/7/1836: "To be a tutor in a large college of wild young men is by no means a comfortable thing; one must have a great prudence and be careful in everthing that he does. I tremble when I anticipate what I have before me and reflect upon my inexperience. Age usually carries with it respect; a professor may feel himself atbease with only common prudence, but a tutor od the same age ~~must~~ walk very circumspectly else his authority will be absolutely despised. I need wisdom fromabove to guide in my arduous duties."

V.2,pp.435-436

²⁴
teaching doubt, 3/8/1837: "I am resolved to bestir myself and follw some other ~~profession~~ calling-perhaps engineering-I had rather carry a hod on my back with health than possess the most splendid acquirements with a diseased body."

V."2,pp.534-535

²⁵
doubt removed: 5/11/1837: It would be foolish to give up teaching ad a comfortable livelihood when the country is in the midst of hard times". V.2,pp.586-587

²⁶
On being an engineer, 10/21/1837:?"..I ought to have been a mechanic-a machinist or engineer as such employments have ever been my felight and study." V.3,p.16

²⁷
Dr. Nott re. Pearson's salary, 19/8/1838: "Dr. Nott has a last raised my salary to \$725. with the encouragement of giving me the other #75. toward the interest accruing on my lot. He has ~~much~~ much in his character to be admired and much to be despised-a strange mixture of greatness and littleness...."

V.3,pp.115-116

Marriage, 4/16/1841: "I read this from the New Yorker of this date: 'Apr 16. Married by the ev. Mr. Fowler at ~~tica~~, Jona. Pearson to Miss Mary L. Hosford, of the former place.' I am told th

the happy couple started imediately after their marriage for Phil.
in company with Miss Urania X. Sheldon and her niece, Miss H.
Annable." V.3, p.320

Class of 1832: #7/30/1835: "...was characterized as an uncommonly talented set of young men...no succeeding class, perhaps has been equal to it...several of its members were known as vicious young men..not a very strange ~~xight~~ occurrence to meet certain 'hard cases' staggering up to their rooms late at night full of noise and wine. Vulgar and profane language was too often indulged in..(same were careless and filthy in their dress and scorned all etiquette."

V.2,p.164

(not web.5.)

Barnard,W.F.1833:7/30/1835: "of Poughkeepsie, 'Bull' Bernand was was the most profane and wicked fellow in college ...exact picture of a Cataline, pale and haggard in his features, his eyes black and piercing; one could not but read the villain in him..cunning intriguer..stopping at no means.talents + doubt not, were of the first order...neglected and perverted..he was the author of two sarcastic poems entitled 'Truth by the Invisible' and the 'Last "arning"'. (College has these poems) V.2,pp.164-165

13

John Bruikshank,1834;8/12/1835: "...was Fuller's greatest butt..he was a great cowardly dunce possessing more vanity than common sense His pride of personal appearance was founded upon a pair of downy whiskers which cause him much trouble in raising...it so happened that Fuller after dinner very comfortably upon his cot, and cautiously performed the tonsorial operation upon one of the whiskers, leaving the other unharmed. When C. knew his predicament his anger knew no bounds..at a subsequent period he reported some stories derogatory to Fuller's character who, although he cared nothing for the man, seized the occasion to gratify his love of fun.

Having possessed himself of a couple of horsemen's pistols primed only with percussion caps and having stationed Beldon in his ~~private~~ closet, he called C. very privately into his room wherein he had no sooner entered than the door was bolted and the pistols drawn! Than it might have been a most laughable spectacle to see a little puny boy blustering up to a tall son of Anak who trembled and quaked with sudden fear of having his brains blown out. At this moment the fellow in the closet began to move this was sufficient, 'Brook' took to his heels and fled to his

room with the greatest precipitation." V.2,pp.176-177

Colloquialisms:

"Bootlicking a prof. so as to get a high bill."

V.1,p.34, 6/7/1832

"I am much saluted with the name 'Poler' here. i.e."poleing
for maximums"." V.1,p.48.

" a fellow who can 'bore' most as they call it, gets to be very
popular". 6/20/1832

"Old Measure Folk"...P. frequently, speaks thus of those who object
to the new revivalist methods which are coming into the church.

"Paedo-sprinklers"...a dissenting sect of "aptists. V.1,p.431

"'PUKE', which, in college slang, means that he is a very
disagreeable fellow." V.2,p.95 4/14/1835

Faculty: 10/4/1842: "The faculty of Union college consists of 12 prof.
and tutors-with 2 or 3 exceptions, not very eminent men or very
anxious to be so. Most of them will never become notorious-they
have but one book-maker, and he an industrious, laborious man;
perhaps we should not regret that it is so-folks that supply most
matter to their printers supply little to their readers and pupils
I suppose many an excellent teacher never write a book-perhaps were
never known to fame beyond the affection of their students. Be it as
it may our faculty dont(sic) make books of course they cant
be very learned men² I allow that and that they are lazy too-
some of them." V. 2,pp.251-252.

Faculty custom: 9/12/1838: Our fashion here is to do as little as
possible and get as much as possible for it. It is for my interest,
however, to do as much as possible that ^{with} may ~~the~~ better grace
as for an increase in salary." V.3,p.98/

Mr. Hasler;10/11/1841: "Now head of our course, but formerly prof. here..
with all his mathematical talent which are very considerable he had
not the tact for managing boys..hence in the recitation room they
reigned ascendant...he would become somabsorbed in his ~~recitation~~
demonstrations, his students woud walk out on him, and he would
neber be conscious of their absence.

Faculty (cont) 10/12/1841: (Hasler) "It is also told of this extraordinary
man that he made his own bread at home (why, + don't know) and came
to class with flour on his coat. They also tell of his making his son
clothes and that he cut them by laying him flat upon the cloth and
marking out his figure."

"Once he attempted to officiate in chapel, the others being absent.
He commenced the Lord's prayer, and either his memory failed him
or he was confused by the novelty of his position-so stopping he
said to the students, 'I can't pray-I never prayed in my life'.

V.4, pp .38-40

✓ Jonas Holland; 8/18/1832: "He ~~knows~~ uses such ungentle language as to cut
the tender feelings of my humble heart." (refused library key)

V.1, p.93

Schenectady

29 9/24/1835: "Arrived in 'Dorp Von Schaghnahtada' soon enough to brakfast. The good Dutch city preserves wellits ancient character for want of change and were it not for a few enterprising New England souls would be ten times more insupportably dull than the ~~six~~ sleepy energies of the fumigating "Vons" have already rendered it. Five years past has brightened the face of things more than the preceeding 50...." V.2,pp.211

30 10/29/1836: "Schenectady is only fit for hogs and Dutchmen. A dirtier place never existed on this footstool. One cannot walk the streets without brushing against a hog or meeting a cow on the sidewalk; he cannot sleep for yelping of curs or the caterwauling of lambs(sic) and such naked narrow, contracted, illiberal minds as make up this community are the only fit inhabitants. Why have we no aqueduct? Why are the streets inhabited by cattle? Why are the ways and walks never cleaned? Why never repaired? Oh, what a world of filth." V.2,p.464

Sch'y. in depression: "The "Hard Times" couldn't move the phlegm of our citizens. They jigged along almost unmindful of the fortunes made and lost in our neighboring cities...property has not attained a fictitious value. Rents are cheap, lots are cheap...most mechanics own cottages of their own...they become a permanent population."

V. 34,pp.91,92. 12/19-21/1841.

31 Sch'y weather: 1/5/1835: "During the two days past the weather has been growing coleder until the thermometer stood 32 degrees below zero! An extreme which has not been felt in our climate these 50 years..."

1/11/1833: reflection on the mildness of the winter..no snow:"such winters we are expecting now and then, for by the course of nature as fast as a country becomes cleared and cultivated the duration and severity of the winter decreases." (So?) V.1,p.206

Hard Times!

4

prelude to; 12/8/1836: "Men are made princes and beggars in a day. The wildest schemes are broached and accomplished with a celerity which is astounding. Speculation is the order of the day or rather peculation.. some speculate in stocks, some in land, some in bread stuffs, and some in merchandize. The price of eatable is enormous and unaccountable scarce.

V.2, p.486

6

3/15/1837: "Flour is \$12 a barrel; butter is half lard; banks refuse to discount speculator's notes, because their agents in New York can shave notes at 2 and 3% a month." Hard Times' is in everybody's mouth.. but as to the casue all differ... 'Down with the banks', "away with your rags!" cry the poco locos. 'Metallic currency and easy times' say the true Bentonians. The Jackson men curse the Monster, the oppositon the Specie ~~xxxxxx~~ circular'. Some say the short crops and influx of immigration cause the scarcity if provisions, and the great body of the people lay the Hard times at the doors of the Speculators. ...our banking system is corrupt. The 'specie circular' by its operation has driven the coin into our western states and drained our eastern banks who bf course have drawn in their debts and curtailed their business as a necessary act of fortification..."

V.2, pp. 540-542

3.

5/22/1837: "The whole country seems to be on the eve of bankruptcy. Since the formation of this government we have never seen such times,-in which the want of money is so great and failure so extensive. The 'pressure' reaches every village and hamlet and paralizes all sorts of business. The rich and the poor equally suffer, or I might say the poor laborer is the chief sufferer for he is thrown out of employ and left to starve with his needy family. The New York "merchants and mechanics are particularly great sufferers..nearly 200 large houses have already fallen a sacrifice to the Gold Experiment of Gen. Jackson and from this point the pressure is moving northward through New England and shooting up the cotton mills and throwing hundreds of laborers out of work employ. Amidst this universal distress our Government will not relent or relax their destructive measures..." XXX...the commercial affairs

MS. A. 1. 1835. Part 1. -j- 0050

Hard Times (cont)

of our country are deranged almost past remedy. In spite of "r. Van Buren setting things in their right places by repealing the Treasury Circular, It will come to late, however. to save us." V.2, pp.579-581.

6/7/1842: Five years later P. continues the discussion of hard Times..

"many old heads say that we have not yet reached bottom".

war on banks general-money scarce-import duties almost at vanishing point-country flooded with foreign goods-am. mfgs. undersold-criticizes southern planters cry for free trade—"We have bought cheap sold cheap, have bought too much and can't pay. The great fever for getting rich which for the past 10 or 15 years crazed the whole country has ended in the complete frustration of its business and energies." many states refuse to pay interest on their bonds.

V.4, pp.179-183.

2/14/1843: "Poor, people are very abundant and necessitous. There is little or no work for them and no money to pay them with. Provisions are uncommonly cheap. One can live fully 1/3 cheaper than he could 4 or 5 years ago." V.2 4, p.311.

Miscellaneous comments

8/22/1833: "My wish is now to be a mechanic and mathematician e.i., to be engaged in some active pursuit where the two great kindred arts of machinery and mathematics are combined. V-Civil engineering would suit me very well + believe." V.1, p.337

Ambition: 12/30/1832: "Oh , how humiliating the thought that man is not a God, my mind aspires to be what it never can be, and "aspiring to be a God, + rebel." V.1,p.198.

Same; Phil.(Haddington) 5/30/1835:

"As paradoxically as it may appear I can say that no man ever desired to be a great man more than + and yet no one ever acted half so carelessly to the perfection of his plan as +, ad in the realizing of his hopes. Then will is undecided but the mind is undecided. The die I fear, is cast.t o my utter disgrace." V.2, pp.13-14(Phil.Journ.)

"An American";3/30/1836

35 "Who ever heard an American speak 19 words if "dollar" was not one of them?" His mind is an arithmetic of loss and gain."
V.2,p.342.

Children(Haddington) 11/14/1835;

"Of all Hells, deliver me from one where there is the squalling of children. I can suffer any harsh music, I can listen to the jargon of a multitude, but..." V.2,p.240

Colds and their cure;2/17/1841

"..take jalup and pills and gruel and sweets, and having swallowed te vile and nauseous medicine and been roast3d alive with hot brocks ajd and bottles of hot water , am now mending." V.3,p.307.

On Leaving College";11/17/1835

"The dismemberm nt of a class in college is like to,opening of Pandora's box. The seeds of life and death are cast upon the waters of life...." V.2,p.243.

"Country friends";9/17/1835

"They are good simple folk- think the worth of a visit lies in its length and that the height of politness and good ususage lies in a displayn of plenty. Their tables grown under a profusion of danties and substantial solids which they imagine is a proof of breeding to urg upon you until surfeit follows sufficiency." V.2,p.204-205.

Misc. cont.

Souls commune as happily-lips kiss as sweetly, eyes sparkle as brightly, herts throb as happily in foul as in fair weather. Kisses they tell me should be used sparingly, lest they cloy. Nonsense! O eschew all such heresy." V.3,p.194

In love, Utica., 10/4/1840

" Tonight I leave Lord-I go as Adam leaving paradise...

3 hours sleep in 3 nights-too much for human nature. Headaches, backaches stomach nauseous. Whew! Love's a witch to bother me so."

V.3,p.196

Ministerial ignorance, 10/23/1837

"Pre. Mr. Gilbert, Bap. minister)," Speaking of Paul's sermon at Athens , he said' A then is a city of Asia and that when he came into that seat of learning and colleges he found it given up to Idolatry. So, being brought before the Areopagus which was an office like our Judge, he preached so forcibly the incumbent of that office, Dinnysius, was converted!" V.3,p.18

Music, 3/23/1835

"...Instrumental martial music better accords with my feelings -as would make a man strong in battle. This I call noble music fit for a man. The soft and melting notes of the Italians music is better adapted to the female heart." V.2,p.50

Nea Years Day, 1841-1845

"Made 63 calls upon families of my acquaintance and closed the day in a ~~snow~~ snow storm." (Notes all who serve wine and spirits.)

Old Maids; 2/9/1836

"Old maids are a commodity which ought to be shipped to Boston Bay with the other refuse of society. The change would not only be an advantage to them, but to us..send the bachelors also off to the same place." V. 2,p.309

Summer tan; 8/20/1833

36
"I am almost as tawny as an Indian and am almost ashamed to be seen by my friends so , have concluded to stay in my room for the present and endeavor to read." V.1,p.338

P.'s study at home, 12/22/1834

37
"It is all a scholar wants. My little stove warms me. my old fiddle cheers me, and my shelf of books feeds me..." V.1,p.545-546.

James, brother of Henry, Sr., 5/24/1885

"..the talented, eccentric James at the Presbyterian Church is a powerful writer but a miserable speaker." "ells tale re., failed to appear for service..full church.
elders called to see what was the matter, found James with his feet on the mantle. James told them to go away. saying "I am not going to Chapel. I have nothing to say." b V.2, p.119.

(Note, James says " Money is the root of all evil" ..his father 2nd richest man in New York State, etc.)

use for criticism

Misc. comment (cont)

Diary; 5/18/1840

"If I say harsh things they are not to their detriment (of those criticized) more than my thoughts; openly I speak to know man's hurt. This is my thinking book; no one may open it, as I do not my mind. If I say what I think to myself with whom I can commune most freely and honestly, how many of those whom I see from afar off I thought Gods would dwindle into mere men—mere flesh and blood like myself?"

(sharp Nott criticism follows). V.3, p.185

On Early rising; 1/8/1836

9 "Rise regularly at 4 o'clock and retire at 10 o'clock. No student who wishes to wrest ~~from~~ time from the useless indulgence of sleep and appropriate it to important purpose should gratify his feeling by laying in bed in the morning." V.2, p.287

Femine Fashion; 1/11/1845:

33 "What the backs of the young misses of today will arrive to is certainly a serious question. They protrude already more than a camel's rump and increase daily. A full dressed miss nowadays juts out behind more than a foot—her waist may be as large as qt. mug—her hips and appurtenances from the size of a barrel to that of a good fat hog—head. but thanks to the fashion all this rotundity is not solid matter, else they could never enter a door or sit upon a chair—it's nothin but down, hair, feather, cotton, wool, or, in some cases, wind—the latter a most admirable contrivance for life preservers—only it might buoy the wrong end up in the water...." C.4, pp.337-338.

FDreign travel; 2/4/1837

34 "It spoils most of our young men to cross the Atlantic. They come back with their heads fulled with foreign notions, fashions, and with mustachios so that ne would think the salt wa water had turned them into complete apes." V.2, p.515.

Ghosts; 10/16/1834;

38 " finds no evidence to support a belief in ghosts..." but from the days of our boyhood when we sat in the chimney corner to the ~~many~~ years of powerful manhood, a chill has come over our spirits when listening to some thrilling ghost story, and for a moment, forgetting our philosophy, we have tacitly acknowledged a belief." V1.511.

Misc. comments (cont)

Pearson's "immortality" 5/30/1835

"Who will know thy name a 100 years hence. It may find a place among the family records or be faintly deciphered upon some mouldering moss-grown tomb stone, but will be cherished in knoo one's heart."

(Use for intro.) V.2, Phil. Journ., pp. 14-15.

Latin in Greek in the schools; 11/27/1832

cc "---lamentably neglected in our schools and colleges...because of the degeneracy in regard for their importance." V.1, p. 180

Lawlessness; 2/22/1841

"Our newspapers are filled with accounts of murders and every heinous crime. Most persons think such offenses against our laws are increasing to an alarming extent." V.3, p. 312

Marriage.

remarks are at first pretty violent against

1/9/1836: "Perhaps it might not be wicked to wish for a wife who in addition to all her other accomplishments had that very charming grace - a snug little fortune. In fact, wealth in the world is the highest adoration and the most powerful attraction that a young woman can have." V.2, p. 283

-"it is better to marry than burn.."

-after meeting Miss Lord, of Utica, his ideas change; 10/12/1837; "Woman softens the savagery of man's nature and tames him down into a sociable being...a man who lives a bachelor until 30 years of age and has not mingled in female society cannot ordinarily profit by marriage..." V.3, p. 9-12

On falling in love; 3/28/1840

"Came as near getting in love some months ago as could and miss it - Came off only by the skin of my teeth. My heart got some miserable har twinges..the good-for-nothing black-eyed, rosy cheeked thing tried her prettiest but my Capt, "eason wouldn't budge an inch--plaguey long story hangs thereon-but won't tell it," V.3, pp. 156-157

In Love; Utica, 10/3/1840

"At Utica. What for? to see Lord--the prettiest, the best in all the world. Rained like Noah's flood all day which prevented an expedition Trenton Falls,. May it rain if it pleases when I visit Lord..So

Steamboats:

Albany Night Boat: 4/5/1835; "If ~~I~~ should curse a man... would cause him to go from N.Y.C. to Albany in a night boat with 500 passengers... every birth filled... floor of cabin clean fore and aft was covered with sleepers... a couple of Dr. Nott's stoves without fires..." V.2, p.90

"S.S. Swallow"; S.S. Rochester" race; 4/29/1837: "Left city at 5 o'clock on the steambat "Swallow" which was followed by the "Rochester" in chas. Perhaps two biats were never so equally mated in speed from "ew York to Newburgh. I do not think the distance between them five rods notwithstanding both were pressing all the power possible. Pitch wood was used on baord both boats and split into small bitsmfor the pu pose of raising the great heat.

~~Joe~~ cannot conceive the excitement which reigned ~~in~~ among the passengers and men., the pale affrighted looks among the women and the significant ~~looks~~ glances of the men. If it be in the night t the spectacle is doubly heightened by the mingled clouds of fire and smoke which pour from the chimney. The rade was over, however, before we arribed at Newburgh, onaccount of the breking os something on bord of the Rochester. We accomplished the distance to Newburgh in 3 hours 16 minutes which is said to be a wick passage. . ."

V.2, pp.576-578.

"S.S. Swallow"; 4/20/1837: "Took passage on a new boat called the Swallow which was crowded to excess. 'h, a night on baord such a craft! It is sufficient to driveone craze.. sleep you cannot, for it is thump, thump thump all night."

"Arrived in city a 2 o'clock in 9 hours from Albany! What would the Fathers have said to this!" V.2, p.565

Railroads

Exaggeration? 7/3/1833: "There is an immense travel through this city to and from N.Y. Almost every hour cars arrive loaded with passengers." V.1,p318.

21 1835: "Jumped into the railroad cars and found myself snugly seated at home in a very shortn two hours." V.22,p.91

20 Camden and Amboy R.R.;4/13/1836: "What comfortable things these railroad cars are! So thought + as , rode from Bordentown to Amboy. The top of our~~xxxx~~ vehicle leaked like a sieve so that I was forced to carry an umbrella. 8 of us were packed in where 6 ought to have been, plus 2 children, baskets, band boxes, ahd budgets. Add to this the music of their pipes, the whizzing of steam, and the clattering of our crazy coach, and who wonders that we all had sour looks..." (speed 15 miles ahd hour.. thought it should be doubled)

V.2,pp.346-347

22 Mohawk and Hudson;11/23/1836: "...in operation about 5 years. It ought to be about as good stock as any in the country but owing to mistakes in its construction to the two stationary engines and to the various fixtures at either extremity it is an unprofitable concern....we pay \$.75 to go to Albany by R.R., formerly \$62 $\frac{1}{2}$ by stage. We pay \$.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ for other people's vBunders." V.2,pp.478-479

19 "...It is a majestic sight to see a train of carriages with a locomotive at their head move off at the rate of 30 miles an hour and bidding defiance to every construction-scouring the country with the quickness of sight and annihilating sace' A few years may supercede even this great fac lity and introduce a still greater."

V.2,p.564, 4/20/1837

10/22/1841: speaks of the Great "estern R.R. from Boston to Albany opening up a new era of trade...worries "ew York. V.4,pp.92-93

College anecdotes.

1/25/1833: "Thompson—" so eager in his desires--had the daring to keep a girl in his rooms where he strode her away for a no. of days..It require some adroitness to get her out again...he managed to get her on his back and cover her with his cloak..he was met by the last man he wished to see..'what you got there, Thompson?...a saddle, sir, just been riding..going to carry it home!.. 'Oh, yes, says Old 'rex,'I see the stirrups hanging down'"...V.1,p.213.

The Pasture Cows, 12/5/1835

"Beldon and Dunc Kennedy on one occasion invented their devilish roguery upon the cattle which feed in the great park before the college For this purpose they manufactured a couple of rope bridles and gearing the uncouth beasts of a pleasant night, rode them all about town."

V.2,p.255

Journeys:

Battle of Saratoga described by eye witness, 8/1/1832

taken about fied by Maj. Buell(89) " who had served as a guide to the army." V.1,76-86

Newburgh, 4/3/1835

"Whaleship"Portland was towed to Newburgh. "She has just returned from a 22 months' cruise in which time 1650 bb. of oil was obtained. The sailors were a hardy looking ~~xxx~~ fellows full of health and spirits." V.2,pp.89-90

New Hampshire Stagecoach trip..

JONATHAN PEARSON, '35,

was born in 1813, in Chichester, N. H. In College, he was a Philomathean. He was Tutor at Union, 1836-39; Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, 1839-49; Professor of Natural History, 1849-73 and Professor of Agriculture and Botany. For many years he was also Librarian and Treasurer. As Librarian, he made an exhaustive catalogue of the collection, classifying and arranging the whole on the Dewey plan--a work for which his persistent industry fully qualified him. He also prepared through many years the General Catalogue of Alumni. He was made a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He had the true spirit of antiquarian research; exploring, as few men could, the obscure records of early Albany and of the Dutch settlements along the Mohawk. He published a "Genealogical Record of the Pearson Family in this Country," "Early Records of the County of Albany," "Genealogies of the First Settlers of Schenectady," "Genealogies of the First Settlers of Albany," "History of the Protestant Dutch Church in Schenectady." He also left unpublished manuscripts in reference to the Albany Patent. He was a Republican and a member of the Baptist Church. He died at Schenectady, June 20th, 1887, leaving two sons.

JONATHAN PEARSON HATED WOMEN—FOR A FEW YEARS

Famed Union Alumnus Had Views Transformed by a Utica Girl; His "Captain Reason" Badly Defeated

In a reprint from the diary of the famous Union College alumnus, Jonathan Pearson of the class of 1835, the Union newspaper, *The Concordiensis*, makes mention of the former librarian and treasurer of the institution as "one of the most ardent of woman haters" in his younger days, and says "This dislike included not only women but marriage and children as well."

In November 1835, Pearson wrote: "Of all hells, deliver me from one where there is the squalling of children. I can listen to the jargon of a multitude, but—" Two months later he expresses an idea that is still currently popular, although today the situation is reversed in that it is usually the woman who has her eye on that all important marital factor—money!

Snug Fortune

"Perhaps it might not be wicked to wish for a wife who in addition to all her other accomplishments had that very charming grace—a snug little fortune. In fact, wealth in the world is the highest adornment, and the most powerful attraction that a young woman can have."

In his scouring of the feminine sex, he is thorough, and even the old maids fail to escape his attention.

"Old maids are a commodity which ought to be shipped to Botany bay with the other refuse of society," he wrote.

But within the short space of one year, this dyed-in-the-wool mesoginist suddenly reverses his position, and through the acquaintance and warming influence of one Miss Lord of Utica becomes a strong champion of romance. He weakens to the point of writing, "Woman softens the savagery of man's nature and tames him down into a sociable being—a man who lives a bachelor until 30 years of age and has not mingled in female society cannot ordinarily profit by marriage."

The change has set in, and by 1840, Pearson's surrender is complete, although he does not care to admit it fully:

"Came as near getting in love some months ago as I could and still miss it. Came off only by the skin of my teeth. My heart got some miserable twinges. The good-for-nothing, black-eyed, rosy-cheeked thing tried her prettiest but my Captain Reason wouldn't budge an inch—plaguey long story hangs thereon, but I won't tell it."

"Best in World"

This sounds as though it might be a last determined effort on Pearson's part to regain his earlier indifference, but an entry written in his diary eight months later shows that the attempt was in vain:

"At Utica. And what for? To see Lord—the prettiest, the best in the world."

A short time after this entry, Pearson married this young woman who figured so largely in his thoughts and in his writings.

Although he was by this time reconciled to women, he was not reconciled to their dress or to the feminine fashions of the day. In 1845 he writes:

"What the backs of the young misses of today will arrive at is indeed a serious question. They protrude already more than a camel's rump and increase daily. A full-dressed woman nowadays juts out behind more than a foot—her waist may be as large as a quart mug—her hips and appurtenances may be from the size of a barrel to that of a good fat hogs-head, but thanks to the fashion, all this rotundity is not solid matter, else they could never enter a door or sit upon a chair; it's nothing but down, hair, feather, cotton, wool, or, in some cases, wind—the latter a most admirable contrivance for life preservers only it might hold the wrong end up in the water."

make / copy

Pearson, Jonathan 1835 A.M.

Herald American
SYRACUSE, N.Y.
SUN. 242,973

OCT 10 1976 *Bell*

Genealogy: Pearson's classic records reprinted

By JAY WRIGHT

Prof. Jonathan Pearson's classic compilations of records of the early settlers of Albany and Schenectady, first published more than a century ago, are now available in reprints.

Pearson was a professor of agriculture and botany at Union College in Schenectady whose hobby was early Dutch genealogy. He had already traced his own ancestry back to the Puritans of Essex County, Mass., when he became interested in the untranslated Dutch records of the First Dutch Church in Schenectady. He mastered the provincial dialect in order to translate those records and then translated the records of the First Dutch Reformed Church in Albany and records in the office of the Albany county clerk.

In 1872, when Pearson was 59 years old, his "Contributions for the Genealogies of the First Settlers of the Ancient County of Albany, From 1630 to 1800" was published. The following year, "Contributions for the Genealogies of the Descendants of the First Settlers of the Patent and

City of Schenectady, From 1662 to 1800" appeared.

Albany County was originally, of course, much larger than today, and the records published include those of a number of Scotch-Irish and New Englanders in addition to the many Dutch.

Many Careful Entries

Pearson's entries in both books are crammed with names and dates which came primarily from baptismal and marriage records of the Dutch Reformed churches. The author did not include the sources of the individual entries, but he was careful, and most of the entries can be relied upon as accurate. In addition to the church records, Pearson used family records, county court records, cemetery inscriptions and other sources.

Descendants of early New York Dutch families, once they can trace their lineage back to one of the families in Pearson's books, can frequently tie in with many more because of the completeness of the records.

One Syracuse resident, for example, knowing that an Onondaga County ancestor who died in

the 1830s had a Dutch surname, checked Pearson's volumes and found a variety of ancestors who settled in the Albany and Schenectady areas as early as 1637.

The Albany book is 182 pages, clothbound, has an index of nearly 7,000 entries, and costs \$12. The Schenectady book is 324 pages, clothbound, has an index of more than 6,000 entries, and costs \$15. Both are available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 521-523 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, Md., 21202. There is a postage and handling charge of 35 cents for one book or 45 cents for both.

Queries From Readers

Readers are invited to submit queries of 30 words or less, typewritten or printed, with a Central or Upstate New York connection. Send queries to Jay Wright, Syracuse Herald-American, Clinton Square, Syracuse, 13201.

Q-827. Want information on ancestors and descendants of Rufus DeVOE and Elizabeth BISHOP DeVoe of Schoharie and Madison Counties, N.Y. Son Martin born 1825. — Peggy L. DeVoe, 105 Atwater St., Durand, Mich. 49429.

Q-828. Looking for McGRAIL family. Have reason to believe they settled in Auburn or vicinity for awhile in mid-1800s. Any descendants still in area? Or anyone with knowledge of them? — Catherine Patten Haar, 153 N. Edwards Ave., Syracuse, 13206.

Q-829. Seeking ancestry of Ebenezer BENNETT, died about 1828, Otsego County, N.Y. Children: Eben, Lemuel (married Charlotte KETCHUM), Lyman, Philo (married, second, Electa?), Betsey, Anna (married Walker SHARMAN?), Tabutha (married Elijah FRENCH). — Ruth Bennett Wible, 5901 N. U.S. 35, LaPorte, Ind., 46350.

Q-830. Seek ancestors of James WOOD, born 1819, England, died 1895, Utica, N.Y. Wife was Mary FINN (1822-92). Owned grocery store. Children: James Barton (born 1846), Henry Herbert (1847), Elizabeth (1850), Annie (1851), Franklin T.W. (1854), Frederick J. (1856), William G. (1858), Mary L. (1860), Sarah B. (1863). — Mrs. Carol M. Williams, 4177 West 224 St., Fairview Park, Ohio, 44126.

Jan. 1, 1858

Union College, Friday

Bro-in-law Magoun came last night at one o'clock.

All day in Treas. Office.

The custom of making New Year's visits seems to be falling into disuse except among the children: made none myself.

Finds Evidence Fountain Pens Were Used As Early As 1858

College Librarian's Discovery *Feb. 10, 1941*
Disproves Reference Books' Data

Evidence that practical fountain pens were originated at least 26 years before reference works indicate, was discovered recently in the correspondence of Jonathan Pearson, Union College Treasurer at the time of Eliphalet Nott, by Kenneth Hayes, assistant librarian at the college.

Cost \$3.00

Library reference books claim that the first practical fountain pens were developed by Lewis Waterman in 1884 and that 200 were manufactured during the first year, mostly by hand.

In a letter dated June 14, 1858, Mr. Pearson wrote to S. R. Gray of Albany: "After using the fountain pen one week I have concluded to keep it and have enclosed three \$1.00 dollars the price of same. It comes much higher to perfection than I had supposed such a contrivance could

come: the pen is excellent, and if the fountain does not get out of order it will suit me well."

The letterpress copy of the document in the college files showed a neat and easily-read line of penmanship and if written with the fountain pen attests for its efficiency.

Mr. Pearson paid for the pen with a two-dollar check on a Schenectady bank, another one-dollar check on the same bank and 50 cents in postage.

JONATHAN PEARSON, '35,

was born in 1813, in Chichester, N. H. In College, he was a Philomathean. He was Tutor at Union, 1836-39; Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, 1839-49; Professor of Natural History, 1849-73 and Professor of Agriculture and Botany. For many years he was also Librarian and Treasurer. As Librarian, he made an exhaustive catalogue of the collection, classifying and arranging the whole on the Dewey plan—a work for which his persistent industry fully qualified him. He also prepared through many years the General Catalogue of Alumni. He was made a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He had the true spirit of antiquarian research; exploring, as few men could, the obscure records of early Albany and of the Dutch settlements along the Mohawk. He published a "Genealogical Record of the Pearson Family in this Country," "Early Records of the County of Albany," "Genealogies of the First Settlers of Schenectady," "Genealogies of the First Settlers of Albany," "History of the Protestant Dutch Church in Schenectady." He

*also left unpublished ms. in manuscript
on the Albany Patent. Died at
Schenectady. June 20, 1887.*

1884
1868
1884

July Recd. u.a.m. 1934

JOHN M. PEARSON '66 has presented the College with the diaries of his father, Jonathan Pearson '35. These cover the years 1832-1875. They are very complete and form the most important source of material we possess on the history of the College, for be it remembered he served, at different times, as teacher, librarian, and treasurer; and he was in a position to give a most intimate and authoritative account of the day-by-day life of our campus.

1835 The portrait of Jonathan Pearson, which we are to dedicate on December 14th, was a gift of the Pearson family to the College which Professor Pearson served so long and well. *u.a.m. Dec.
1935*

JONATHAN PEARSON 1835 *Reading under portrait*
(1813 - 1887)

Professor of Natural History, Librarian,
Treasurer Etc.

By S. H. Sexton

UC3Laf 1835 Pearson - J-0065

Archives

Records of alumni of Union College from 1800 to 1858 of great interest and value have been presented to the college by John M. Pearson, Esq., '66, of Schenectady, and are deposited in the safe in the library. These records were collected by the donor's father, Jonathan Pearson, '35, who was for many years alumni cataloguer of Union College and whose catalogues were the patterns of others of their time. Jonathan Pearson was a

member of the faculty from 1836 until his death in 1887 and at different times taught chemistry, natural history, botany, agriculture, and conic sections. He was librarian from 1873 to 1887. He was the leading authority on the history of Schenectady and his *History of the Schenectady Patent in Dutch and English Times* (1883) is classic.

Nov 1915

U.G.M.

//

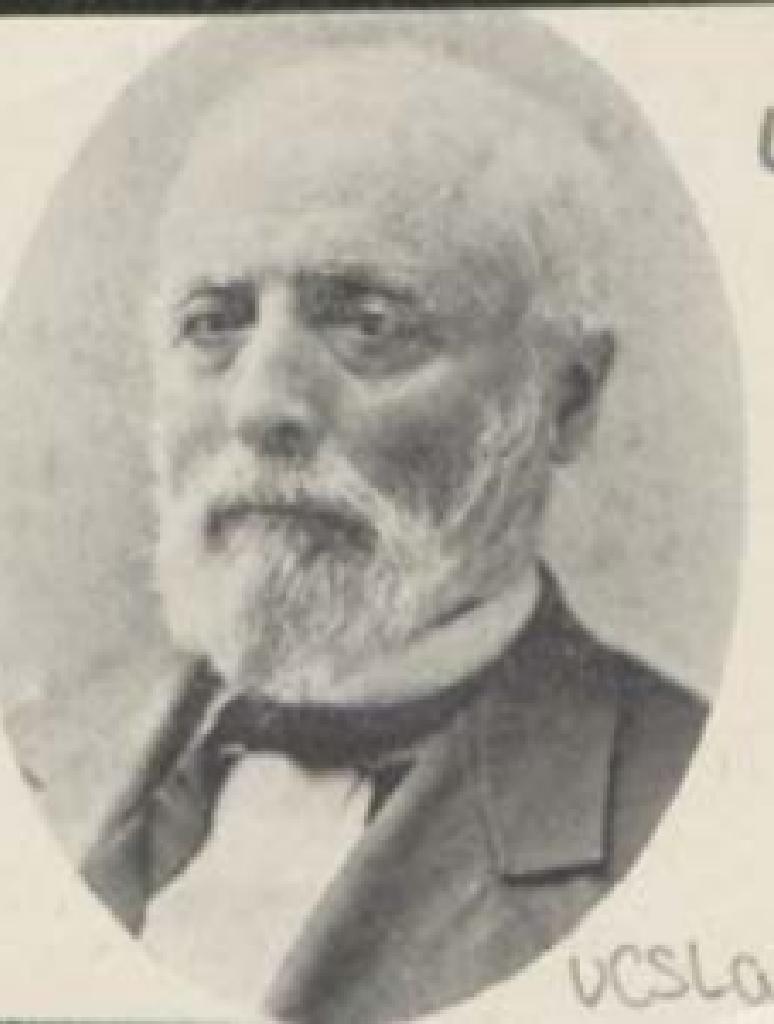
Class '35
UCSLA 1935 Pearson -j- 6066

Pearson埋葬 - College Plot
 Yale Cemetery - Schenectady

Relationship to
Prof. Jonathan Pearson

Caleb Pearson	Father of	"
Heity Libby Pearson	Mother of	"
Mary Pearson Magoun	Sister of	"
Stephens L. Magoun	Brother-in-law of	"
Prof. Jonathan Pearson		
Mary Hooford Pearson	wife	g.
Hevy H. Pearson	son	"
Dr. William Libby Pearson	son	"

"Pinky" Pearson was another veteran; he joined the faculty in the same year as old Jack, in 1836, the year of his graduation from Union. He had retired from active teaching and had charge of the library. Fifty-one years he faithfully served the college, passing away in 1887.



W.A.M.
Superior
, 1916

UCSLAF1835pearson-j-0068

1835 Jonathan Pearson

Professor Pearson's work is the most scholarly treatment of the history of Schenectady that has yet appeared. Unfortunately it is very fragmentary and incomplete, a mass of invaluable information on the early history of the city, but totally lacking popular and systematic arrangement. Pearson's History of the Schenectady Patent.

Centennial History of the
First Methodist Episcopal Church
Schenectady, N.Y.
1907

p17 foot note

Eighty Ways

Schenectady Works Professor Pearson's History Discusses Many Phases of Schenectady

Sept. 11, 1936

Albany's first name was Schenectady and the removal of the Mohawk tribe from the plot of ground Mr. Van Curler purchased brought the name 18 miles to the west. Professor Jonathan Pearson's "History of the Schenectady Patent" is authority for the statement. Schenectady has the greatest variety of spellings of any city in the United States, the book shows also. There are 74 listed. Some historians claim that there are between 80 and 90 spellings.

The first recorded spelling of Schenectady is in the Indian deed of 1661, when the section is referred to as Schonowe. This is believed to be the writer's conception of the spelling of the early Mohawk name for the city, Sguan-ho-ha. The commonly accepted translation of Schenectady is "without the door." It came about in this way, according to the pages of Professor Pearson's history:

The Mohawks were the chief power of the Indian confederacy of the Five Nations and claimed the exclusive power to initiate treaties with other tribes and foreign powers. In figurative language, the Mohawks were the door of the long house of the confederacy.

Before the coming of the white man the Mohican tribes had been driven from this section forever. Schenectady was the door or Sguan-ho-ha of the long house, or the Mohawks' frontier outpost. Albany, the first white settlement beyond the Mohawk lands, was beyond the door or S'Guan-ho-ha-hac-ta-tie, Pearson tells. This spelling was simplified by the early whites to S'Guan-hac-ta-tie.

John Bleecker, an early Indian interpreter of Albany, told one historian that the early Indian name for the Hudson river was Schenectadea cahohahactatea, or the river that flows beyond the town without a door. Rumor has it that it was at or near Schenectady that the original treaty for the formation of the Five Nations was made. Another Indian name for Schenectady was one meaning the town of much driftwood, because of the quantities of wood that piled up on the banks of the Mohawk after the spring freshets.

When Van Curler purchased Schenectady from the Mohawk chieftains the tribe moved its outposts back to Fort Hunter and Sguan-ho-ha became S'Guan-ho-ha-hac-ta-tie. Van Curler, in registering his new settle-

ment during May, 1663, baptized it Schenecchstede. Governor Stuyvesant in June, that year, spelled the name as it is known today for the first time. He called it Schenectady.

This did not end misspelling or the use of the earlier terms on the part of tradesmen, historians and farmers. As late as 1802 a group of settlers in making a petition referred to Schan-ectady. The Dutch historians, Danker and Sluyter, refer to the territory as Schoonechtendeel, meaning beautiful portion.

A few of the spellings which have bugabooed the Electric City down through the centuries in official documents are Scan-ech-tade, Scan-ec-ta-de, Schaenhechtede, Schanagtada, Schaneghstede, Schenectide, Schanitade, Schonegh-tade Schoneghstende, Schoonechtede, Schoonechtendeel and Shinnectady.

"Mr. Jonathan Pierson(sic) a member of the Senior
class of this Institution is a gentleman
of talents, & of unblemished moral & religious charac-
ter. Mr. Pierson has always held a very high
rank as a scholar, & in the estimation of the
subscribers is qualified to become a very
valuable & efficient instructor.

Union College
May 22, 1835-

Eliph't Nott
R. Proudfit
Alonzo Potter
C. Averill Jno. A. Yates
Thos. C. Reed B.F.Joslin

(original in possession of Codman Hislop, by permission C.N.Waldron, 11/6/1935)

JONATHAN PEARSONS "THINKING BOOKS"

By CODMAN HISLOP, '31

U. A. M. January 1936.

IMAGINE a Mohawk Valley May just one hundred years ago—May, 1835—lush and beautiful, the world crowded and green with young life. The Erie canal flows through Dutch Schenectady—"Dorp" to the villagers—a great vein, rich with the blood of the new nation. There is stir and talk and movement everywhere. On Dr. Nott's hill stands his college, two great westward staring buildings separated from the town by pastures and a scattering of houses. In one of these buildings sits a young man a year or two past twenty. The sounds and odors of May drift by him unheeded. He holds his quill above a blank page in his diary, poised, as though waiting for some word to clot on its point. He has just left this May world with the easy flight of the dreamer and soared a hundred years out of time—into May, 1935. His stay is short, and a little disappointing, for, on his return, he writes at the top of that empty page the following note on his unenduring fame;

Who will know my name a hundred years hence? It may find a place among the family records or be faintly deciphered upon some mouldering, moss-grown tomb-stone, but it will be cherished in no one's heart.

This is the year. This is the place to which Jonathan Pearson came out of yesterday, to return with a slim record of bad prophecy. We do cherish his name, after the lapse of a hundred years, cherish it as the name of one of the great students of the Mohawk Valley's rich history. It was he, who, a

yankie and a foreigner in the valley of the "Vans," preserved and made available the most valuable pages of their scattered records. His chief work, the "History of the Schenectady Patent" will guarantee to him a monument more enduring than the "mouldering, moss-grown tomb-stone" which appears to have lain like a moat in his prophetic eye.

The biographical facts of Jonathan Pearson's life are probably familiar to most of us. We read the paragraphs which contain the usual lists of sterile dates and honors, and pass on with a disbelieving nod one would accord a ghost. How quaint! He was a professor of Natural History and of Natural Philosophy at Union College—so long ago—Gold was found in California just the year before he was given these forbidding titles. He was Professor of Agriculture—a year or so after the Civil war. (Professor of Agriculture—the present Union Faculty may be inclined to smile a little at that). The College gave him other titles and tasks too; the sore labor of building up Union's inadequate library; the tragic labor of coping, as Treasurer for twenty-nine years, with Dr. Nott's fantastic financial maze. Jonathan Pearson began his service to Union College in 1835 and continued in that service until 1884 when he retired as Professor-Emeritus—rare and kindly man whose life story is not to be found in the fact-warehouse of the biographical dictionary.

Yet we must take a few more "facts" from the dark shelves of history before

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we can adventure into the bright world of the "thinking books." The most important one for us to remember is that Jonathan Pearson was a Yankee whose years until he was 18 were spent among the barer hills and the less fertile ground of New Hampshire. The Pearson family had settled in Rowley, Mass., before 1643, where the first John Pearson erected a fulling mill which became the seat of the first cloth manufacture in New England. Caleb Pearson, Jonathan's grandfather, soldier of the Revolution at 14, pushed westward after the war into New Hampshire where he opened mills at Chichester which were long operated for him by his son Caleb. Here Jonathan was born on February 23, 1813. Here in New Hampshire he received his early education at the academies at Dover, Pembroke, and New Hampton.

In 1831 Jonathan's father, discouraged with the living to be gained among his New Hampshire neighbors, capitulated to the lure of the New West, and, with his family, joined a caravan that was moving into the plains of the interior. Yankeedom faded behind them as they journeyed slowly along that strange and adventurous highway, the Erie canal. Legend says that Caleb Pearson was so charmed by the rich valley of the Mohawk about Schenectady and by the prospect of Union College which he could see from the cluttered deck of their boat, that he straightway disembarked, settling his family in a town where he could realize what he had coveted most—an opportunity to educate his children.

Schenectady was not Chichester. Jonathan Pearson found himself in a

world still broadly bordered with Dutch virtues, patterned with Holland houses, a conservative world somewhat annoyed by the bustle and hurry of life which was more and more crowding through it toward the west. Schenectady, however, had learned to appreciate another New Englander and had given him comfort and encouragement in a great project. Union College and Eliphalet Nott made a Yankee island in the shrinking Dutch sea which still spread westward from Albany to Rome.

Jonathan Pearson entered Union College in January 1832. The College's great president was then over 60, still energetic beyond the imagination of most men, an inventor, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, a financier, a steamboat proprietor, hater of slavery, a husband for the third time. Into a world presided over by such a monarch moved Jonathan, the first volume of his "thinking books" under his arm, his quill ready for ink and comments on the excitement of college opening.

Some subtle magic is brewed as we turn to the first page of the ten stout leather-bound volumes. A film of blotting-sand makes the brown ink look more faded than it is. As we hold the book up, the tiny grains sift into the trough between the binding and the first sheet—part of them drift into a little pile on the desk. The Diary must have meant a great deal to him for of it he said;

This is my thinking book; no one may open it, as I do not my mind. If I say what I think to myself with whom I can commune most freely, how many of those I see far off I thought Gods

JONATHAN PEARSON'S "THINKING BOOKS"

would dwindle into mere men—mere flesh and blood like myself?

Surely, from this point on, we can leave the clotted facts of biography alone. We have the greater privilege of standing beside Jonathan Pearson as he moved through a world forgotten by us, but a world of today and tomorrow to him. We all know the Jonathan Pearson, historian, whose Mohawk Valley work is classic, but now we shall talk with—Jonathan Pearson. Surely we can believe that he would not mind our looking into the "thinking book"—the people and the town about which he wrote are gone. Old animosities have lost even their echo. Only the shades of those canal boats with which he was so familiar move along the ghostly waters of an Erie canal that has become a boulevard. The "thinking book" will perform its magic for us, and Jonathan Pearson, historian, would think us foolish not to open its pages.

The college has been given those volumes which record Jonathan Pearson's Union life, a long span stretching from the coonskin politics of Andrew Jackson to the elegancies of Chester Alan Arthur, an early Union student of Pearson's. They have at last been made available to us through the far-sighted generosity of Professor Pearson's son, John M. Pearson, of the Union class of 1866.

Each entry runs about a page—sometimes the subject under consideration is continued from day to day for a week or more. Here are recorded scientific experiments—botonizing trips; on one page are elaborate plans for making an alarm-clock, plans which were immediately translated into jangling appara-

tus by the first students of tutor Pearson. Bits of poetry, reviews of the new books, and Sunday self-accusations of ungodliness lurid with the light of Hellfire are all crowded into pages rich with the voices and colors of the not-dead-past. Our only crime is in tearing the fabric for purposes of quotation; as the tailor's coat is hard to judge from his sample, so the immense pattern of this diary is hard to judge from the few strands we draw from the selvage.

The sentences will not always stand the gaze of the hard bright eyes of the grammarian—some of the remarks may not appear to be worthy of the grave gentleman whose picture graces the front of his published works. But you will find them the thoughts of a man active, critical, wise, who lived fully in his own time, who was not afraid to put down his own opinions. You will wonder, sometimes, at the oddly familiar ring of ideas, thoughts which we fondly believe are solely products of our own generation. With one of them let us open the pages of the "thinking book."

May 22, 1837:

"The whole country seems to be on the eve of bankruptcy. Since the formation of this government we have never seen such times in which the want of money is so great and failure so extensive. The 'pressure' reaches every village and hamlet and paralyzes all sorts of business. The rich and the poor equally suffer or I might say the poor laborer is the chief sufferer for he is thrown out of employ and left to starve with his needy family. The New York merchants and mechanics are particularly great sufferers—nearly 200 large houses have fallen a sacrifice to the

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Gold Experiment of General Jackson and, from this point the 'pressure' is moving northward through New England and shutting up the cotton mills and throwing hundreds of laborers out of employ. Amidst this universal distress, our government will not relent or relax their destructive measures—the commercial affairs of this country are deranged almost past remedy. In spite of Mr. Van Buren setting things in their right places by repealing the Treasury Circular, (improvement) will come too late, however, to save us."

If we substituted the word "depression" for "pressure" and changed a name or two we might fit Jonathan Pearson's thoughts on the state of the country into the middle of a Herald-Tribune editorial of today and rest assured that it would connect comfortably with the paragraphs which followed it.

The year before he had written, in December of 1836,

"Men are made princes and beggars in a day. The wildest schemes are broached and accomplished with a celerity which is astounding. Speculation is the order of the day, or rather peculation—some speculate in stocks, some in land, some in bread-stuffs, and some in merchandize. The price of eatables is enormous and unaccountably scarce."

Six years plodded by, years, evidently, of grief for many, for we find this entry on June 7, 1842:

"Many old heads say that we have not yet reached bottom—the country is flooded with foreign goods, our manufacturers are undersold—we have bought cheap, sold cheap, have bought too much,

and can't pay. The great fever for getting rich which for the past ten or fifteen years crazed the whole country has ebbed in the complete frustration of its business and energies."

Here is the bare outline of a depression which almost prostrated the new nation, a depression which is only remembered now by our more sentimental economists. But let us see how the "Brain Trustees" of Pearson's day faced their problem;

March 15, 1837.

"Hard Times" is in everybody's mouth—but as to the cause, all differ. 'Down with the banks!' 'away with your rags!' cry the Loco Focos. 'Metallic Currency and easy times' say the True Bentonians. The Jackson men curse the Monster, the opposition the Specie Circular. Some say the short crops and influx of immigration cause the scarcity of provisions, and the great body of the people lay the 'Hard Times' at the doors of the Speculators. Our banking system is corrupt—"

Perhaps we can take courage from this short view of yesterday's sorrow; it is at least comforting to know that we are not wrestling with a new enemy. Jonathan Pearson decried the ruin which appeared to him to be inevitable; but he bought a house and lot from the college land office, drew his salary, married, and lived through the ruin to a professorially prosperous old age.

But enough of "Hard Times!" Jonathan Pearson, even as do the rest of us, interspersed his tragic notes with comments which indicated that there were other problems and events equally absorbing. It is interesting to look over the

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young collegian's shoulder of 100 years ago as he writes about his campus life. Those were lusty days at Union, full of enthusiasm and rivalries which would puzzle today's undergraduate. Town and gown feuds, rivalries for such aesoteric honors as the privilege of being Hebrew Orator, Philomatheon Speaker, President of the College Senate, Speaker of its House of Representatives, filled the air with bitter controversy and class politics. In a long passage Pearson tells of a besiege of Dr. Nott's house by an irate town mob after the scalps of some of its particular student enemies.

College slang, so different from the "Okay-go-fly-a-kite" school of the present, is occasionally recorded by Jonathan's catholic quill.

He says, on one occasion;

"I am much saluted with the name 'poler' here. That is (I am accused of) poling for maximums.

A pleasantly figurative way of being accused of "oiling" or better, as he says himself;

"Bootlicking a prof. to get a high bill."

The following note, on "early rising" may explain this studious reputation:

"January 8, 1836: Rise regularly at 4 o'clock and retire at 10 o'clock. No student who wishes to wrest from time the useless indulgence of sleep and appropriate it to important purposes should gratify his feelings by laying (sic) in bed in the morning."

Oh, rare Jonathan Pearson!

Life at Union was usually a very

proper thing—but there were occasions.—We submit the following record as an addition to the growing Nott saga and as evidence of Pearson's power of abbreviated story-telling:

"January 25, 1833: Thompson (a fellow student) was so eager in his desire that he had the daring to keep a girl in his rooms, where he stowed her away for a number of days. It required some adroitness to get her out again. He managed (however) to get her on his back and cover her with his cloak—(on the way out) he met the last man he wished to see. 'What you got there, Thompson?' 'It's a saddle, sir—just been riding, and I'm going to carry it home.' 'Oh yes,' says Old Pres. 'I see the stirrups hanging down.'

Pearson adds, as a delightful understatement,

"Thompson was soon on his way home."

There were milder forms of college pastime, which because of our more efficient civilization, are now denied the hilldwellers. What for instance could have been a more pleasant occupation on a moonlight night than such activity as this;

"Beldon and 'Dunc' Kennedy on one occasion invented their roguery upon the cattle which feed in the Great Park before the college. For this purpose they manufactured a couple of rope bridles, and, gearing the uncouth beasts of a pleasant night, rode them all about town."

Another cheering activity on the part of the students seems to have been the burning of huge brush piles behind

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North and South colleges. The glare could always be counted on to rout out the primitive fire apparatus of the town. Then occasionally life was enlivened by the finding of a cow in the classroom, a bale of hay piled on the desk of some luckless tutor, or a pail of water sprung to inundate its victim. Pearson, who was generally a model citizen, tells with immense satisfaction the pleasure he derived from organizing and watching the effect of one of these waterfalls upon the person of the librarian—probably John Holland, who had refused him the key to the books.

Pearson devotes many pages of his early diary to characterizing his classmates. Every member of his class of 1835, and many others, come in for searching analysis. Here the temper of the time shows most clearly—the yardstick of his measurement is notched with religious qualifications, stigmas against drinking and profane language. Many college men of the early 19th century were keenly religious, enthusiastic supporters of the itinerant revivalists who brewed terror in every American community. They were signers, and resigners, of the temperance pledge, "Teetotalers," actively interested in all kinds of home and foreign missionary work. The college was then more a seminary than the impersonal place of freedom it is today. There were exceptions, however, to these rather severe portraits of our forgotten collegians. Here, for instance, is "Bull" Bernard of the class of 1833.

"Bull was the most profane and wicked fellow in college. He was the exact picture of a Cataline, pale and haggard in his features, his eyes black

and piercing; one could not but read the villain in him. He was a cunning intriguer, stopping at no means. His talents, I doubt not, were of the first order, though neglected and perverted. 'Bull' was the author of two sarcastic poems entitled 'Truth by the Invisible' and 'The Last Warning.'

These two poems of "the most profane and wicked fellow in college" may be seen today on the walls of the Student's Room Exhibit on the Union Campus—their sarcasms have cooled considerably in the intervening years, although they still do credit to the "villainy" of Bull Bernard.

The class of 1832 was summed up in this manner:

"They were characterized as an uncommonly talented set of young men—no succeeding class has, perhaps, been equal to it (although) several of its members were known as vicious young men—(indeed) it was not a very strange occurrence to meet certain 'Hard Cases' staggering up to their rooms late at night full of noise and wine. Vulgar and profane language was too often indulged in—some were careless and filthy in their dress and scorned all etiquette."

Pearson, for some reason, cited all students who came from Washington County, as stock rustics, the college "hayseeds." Merely to have come from that county was a crime in the eyes of the undergraduate sophisticates.

Jonathan Pearson was graduated by Union in 1835 with honors. In the fall of that year he went to teach in a Baptist boys' school, the Haddington Insti-

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tute, outside of Philadelphia. He stayed there only one unhappy year.

In June of the following year, however, he cheered himself with this entry:

"In all probability, I can have a tutorship at Union College next year, and if I get the appointment, I shall doubtless go."

The Haddington year was not entirely one of howling children and financial worry as he recorded in his diary. The trips from Schenectady to Philadelphia gave tutor Jonathan many opportunities to observe and remark upon the wonders of the new nation; on the "new transportation" which was beginning to fill the rivers of America with strange craft, and to crowd the stagecoach into country roads. Let us remember that the first wheezing engine with its rough carts on iron wheels pulled into Schenectady in 1831, and then marvel with Jonathan as he writes two years later:

"There is immense travel through this city to and from New York. Almost every hour cars arrive loaded with passengers."

There may be some exaggeration there, some fever of civic enthusiasm, but at least it is testimony of the opening of a new era. In 1835 we find this enthusiastic entry:

"Albany: Jumped into the railroad cars and found myself snugly seated at home in a very short two hours."

Perhaps the speed was not great, but the novelty and the faith in this new order of things was a fire to light such a picture as this:

"April 20, 1837: It is a majestic sight to see a train of carriages with a locomotive at their head move off at the rate of 30 miles an hour and bidding defiance to every construction—scouring the country with the quickness of sight and annihilating space. A few years may supersede even this great facility and introduce a still greater."

Thirty miles an hour seems hardly breath-taking, but perhaps Sir Malcolm Campbell, thinking of yesterday's blur of the sea and sand at Daytona Beach, might today subscribe to Jonathan's thought that "a few years may supersede even this great facility and introduce a still greater."

Returning to Schenectady from Haddington necessitated traveling by the cars from Camden, N. J. to Amboy, a trip lacking some of the upholstered comforts of today. Pearson's description of the journey might have been lifted from a chapter of Dickens:

"Camden and Amboy Railroad, April 13, 1836: What comfortable things these railroad cars are! So thought I as I rode from Bordentown to Amboy. The top of our vehicle leaked like a sieve so that I was forced to carry an umbrella. 8 of us were packed in where 6 ought to have been, plus 2 children, baskets, bandboxes, and budgets. Add to this the music of the (engine's) pipes, the whizzing of steam, and the clattering of our crazy coach, and who wonders that we all had sour looks. Our speed was 15 miles an hour."

The trip up the Hudson from New York to Albany on the Night Boat was not a very happy affair. We find this entry for April 5, 1835:

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"If I would curse a man—I would cause him to go from New York City to Albany in a night boat with 500 passengers—every birth was filled—the floor of the cabin clean fore and aft was covered with sleepers—and there were a couple of Dr. Nott's stoves—without any fires in them."

Hudson river travel in the early 19th century was a far more adventurous business than it is today, if we can trust this entry:

"April 29, 1837: I left this city at five o'clock on the steamboat "Swallow" which was followed by the "Rochester" in chase. Perhaps two boats were never so equally mated for speed from New York to Newburgh. I do not think the distance between them five rods notwithstanding both were pressing all the power possible. Pitch wood was used on board both boats and split into small bits for the purpose of raising the great heat.

"One cannot conceive the excitement which reigned among the passengers and men—the pale, aghast looks among the women and the significant glances of the men. If it be in the night the spectacle is doubly heightened by the mingled clouds of fire and smoke which pour from the chimney. The race was over, however, before we reached Newburgh, on account of the breaking of something on board the "Rochester." We accomplished the distance to Newburgh in 3 hours, 16 minutes which is said to be a quick passage."

The Haddington experience faded in the light of Dr. Nott's bright and stimulating world. In September, 1836, Jonathan Pearson became Tutor Pearson of Union College. On September 7th he wrote in some trepidation:

"To be a tutor in a large college of wild young men is by no means a comfortable thing; one must have a great prudence and be careful in everything he does. I tremble when I consider what lies before me and reflect upon my inexperience. Age usually carries with it respect; a professor may feel himself at ease with only common prudence, but a tutor of the same age must walk very circumspectly else his authority will be absolutely despised."

After a year of walking circumspectly he was assailed with doubts regarding his new profession:

"I am resolved to bestir myself, and follow some other calling—perhaps engineering—I had rather carry a hod on my back with health than possess the most splendid acquirements with a diseased body."

The doubts appear to have been removed, however, a few months later, for we find this sound conclusion on May 11, 1837:

"It would be foolish to give up teaching and a comfortable livelihood when the country is in the midst of hard times."

Tutor Pearson relates with some relish the following note regarding his salary and concludes with an estimate of Dr. Nott's character which he seems never to have changed:

"October 8, 1838: Dr. Nott has at last raised my salary to \$725 with the encouragement of giving me the other \$75. toward the interest accruing on my lot. He has much in his character to be admired and much to be despised; a strange mixture of greatness and littleness."

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This opinion of Dr. Nott is echoed time and again. Pearson saw him first through the eyes of an undergraduate, and later as an employer. He saw the great president outstay his useful years; he watched him become dictatorial and unreasonable, a patriarch trying to rule a family that had outgrown him. When the story of Dr. Nott is finally told, much of it will be in the words of Jonathan Pearson who fought for him and against him for thirty-four years.

Of Union's faculty under Dr. Nott, Pearson has much to say. Individual members of it he admired greatly, but as a group it frequently called forth rather rough criticism. Perhaps these following quotations may be pitched in a familiar key to some of his successors, as for example, this one, dated,

"September 12, 1838: Our fashion here is to do as little as possible and get as much as possible for it. It is for my interest, however, to do as much as possible that I may with better grace ask for an increase in salary."

Or perhaps a sympathetic chord will ring in response to this note:

"October 4, 1842: The faculty of Union College consists of 12 Profs and tutors—with 2 or 3 exceptions, not very eminent men or very anxious to be so. Most of them will never become notorious—they have but one bookmaker, and he is an industrious, laborious man; perhaps we should not regret that it is so—folks that supply most matter to their printers supply little to their readers and pupils. I suppose many an excellent teacher never wrote a book—perhaps were never known to fame beyond the affection of their students. Be

that as it may, (because) our faculty don't (sic) make books of course they can't be very learned men."

We should expect at least one report on the absent-minded professor, and we have it in a note on the great Hassler who taught at Union a short time before entering the government service.

"October 10, 1841: It is told of this extraordinary man that he made his own bread at home and came to class with flour on his coat. They also tell of his making his son's clothes and that he cut them out by laying (the boy) flat upon the cloth and marking out his figure.

"Once he attempted to officiate in chapel, the others being absent. He commenced the Lord's Prayer, and either his memory failed him or he was confused by the novelty of his position, so stopping, he said to the students, 'I can't pray, I never prayed in my life.'

Almost every member of the Faculty receives some mention—the "bookmakers" are gently scorned—those who hurried around the Lyceum circuit are chided for their publicity seeking—even Dr. Nott's son, who held a sinecure from the college, is mildly ridiculed as a colorless ghost of his father.

Tutor Pearson became Professor Pearson in 1839. Until his retirement in 1884 he taught many courses; Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, Natural History, Agriculture, Mathematics, Botany, acting concurrently as Librarian and Treasurer. His Diary followed him down these years, faithfully recording his thoughts on a myriad subjects, a few of which we can cut from the larger pattern of the "thinking books."

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What did he think of Schenectady? He speaks of the town with the familiar harshness of one who loved it, uttering blasphemies the first few years, perhaps, because he was a stranger in a society which was slow to open its doors to an outsider. Still the Yankee, he wrote, after a visit to his old home in New Hampshire, in August, 1835:

"Arrived in 'Dorp Von Schaghnaactada' soon enough to breakfast. The good Dutch city preserves well its ancient character for want of change, and were it not for a few enterprising New England souls would be ten times more insupportably dull than the sleepy energies of the fumigating 'Vans' have already rendered it. Five years past has brightened the face of things more than the preceding fifty."

This unkind blast, penned in October of the next year, must be considered the word of a man homesick for pastures still green in his memory:

"October 29, 1836: Schenectady is only fit for hogs and Dutchmen. A dirtier place never existed on (God's) footstool. One cannot walk the streets without brushing against a hog or meeting a cow on the sidewalk; he cannot sleep for the yelping of Iams (sic) and curs and such narrow, contracted minds as make up this community are its only fit inhabitants. Why have we no aqueduct? Why are the ways and walks never cleaned? Why never repaired? Oh, what a world of filth!"

In the Diary we find a wealth of off-hand remarks, sometimes unintentionally funny, many times wise, but always adding a third dimension to the

ordinarily flat picture we hold of the past.

Here we find a weather note which should give pause to our contemporaries who like to predict that our climate is changing, growing more tropical with each winter:

January 11, 1833: The winter has been very mild, no snow at all. Such winters we are expecting now and then, for by the course of nature as fast as a country becomes cleared and cultivated the duration and severity of the winter decreases."

The scientific explanation for this phenomenon may be called into question, certainly its proposer must have received a rude shock, for two years later we find this disconcerting entry:

"January 5, 1835: During the two days past the weather has been growing colder and colder until the thermometer stands at 32 degrees below zero, an extreme which has not been felt in this climate these fifty years."

Feminine fashions appear to have occupied some corner of the professional mind. In January of 1845 he writes:

"What the backs of the young misses of today will arrive to is certainly a serious question. They protrude already more than a camel's rump and increase daily. A full-dressed miss nowadays juts behind more than a foot—her waist may be as large as a quart mug, her hips and appurtenances from the size of a barrel to that of a good fat hogs-head. But thanks to the fashion all this rotundity is not all solid matter, else they could never enter a door or sit upon a chair. It's nothing but down, hair, feather, cotton,

JONATHAN PEARSON'S "THINKING BOOKS"

wool, or, in some cases, wind—the latter a most admirable contrivance for life-preservers, only it might buoy the wrong end up in the water."

Here we have a foreign travel note somewhat tinged with nationalism:

"February 4, 1837: It spoils most of our young men to cross the Atlantic. They come back with their heads filled with foreign notions, fashions, and with mustachios so that one would think the salt water had turned them into complete apes."

And yet Pearson was aware of a national trait which he deplored;

"March 30, 1836: Who ever heard an American speak ten words if 'dollar' was not one of them? His mind is an arithmetic of loss and gain."

Times change; one era's shame becomes another's virtue.

Here is a social note which finds its contradiction in the September face of every modern:

August 20, 1833: I am almost as tawny as an Indian and am almost ashamed to be seen by my friends, so I have concluded to stay in my room for the present and endeavor to read.

We have come a long way from the wells which fed such modesty. The room in which Pearson so shamefacedly attempted to read must have been a haven indeed; he writes of it briefly and charmingly:

It is all a scholar wants. My little stove warms me; my old fiddle cheers me, and my shelf of books feeds me.

His shelf of books must have fed him well. The Phi Beta Kappa Society honored him with membership. He was elected in later years a corresponding member of the Albany Institute and of the New York Historical Society. His several publications, too well-known to mention here, show a mind stored with a reader's treasures.

Yet the "thinking books" are, perhaps, the greatest of Jonathan Pearson's writing; in them we find a world different from our own only in the symbols with which it had to work. We have quoted here only scattered gleanings from the first four volumes; the remaining six when they are catalogued will bring back their ghosts too, ghosts in whom, as Dr. Pearson wrote,

... for a moment, forgetting our philosophy, we . . . tacitly acknowledge belief.

ATHLETICS

SPORTS CALENDAR

<i>Date</i>	<i>Sport</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Place</i>
Jan. 8	V. Basketball	Williams	Williamstown, Mass.
Jan. 8	V. Hockey	Middlebury	Schenectady
Jan. 11	V. Basketball	Trinity	Schenectady
Jan. 11	V. Swimming	Trinity	Schenectady
Jan. 11	V. Hockey	Army	West Point
Jan. 11	F. Basketball	Troy H. S.	Schenectady
Jan. 11	F. Hockey	Albany Academy	Albany
Jan. 15	V. Basketball	Toronto	Schenectady
Jan. 15	F. Hockey	Lenox School	Lenox, Mass.
Jan. 16	V. Hockey	Williams	Williamstown, Mass.
Jan. 18	V. Basketball	Rensselaer	Troy
Jan. 18	V. Swimming	Williams	Williamstown, Mass.
Jan. 18	V. Hockey (t'n'tive)	Cornell	Ithaca
Jan. 18	F. Basketball	Rensselaer F.	Troy
Jan. 21	V. Hockey	Mass. State	Schenectady
Jan. 25	V. Basketball	Colgate	Hamilton
Jan. 25	V. Swimming	Colgate	Hamilton
Jan. 25	F. Basketball	Mt. Pleasant H. S.	Schenectady
Jan. 25	F. Hockey	Williston Academy	Easthampton, Mass.
Feb. 1	V. Basketball	Rochester	Rochester
Feb. 1	V. Swimming	Syracuse	Schenectady
Feb. 1	F. Basketball	N. T. H. S.	Nott Terrace
Feb. 8	V. Basketball	Stevens Institute	Schenectady
Feb. 8	V. Swimming	Rochester	Rochester
Feb. 8	V. Hockey	Hamilton	Clinton
Feb. 8	F. Basketball	Riordan School	Schenectady
Feb. 8	F. Hockey	Hoosac School	Schenectady
Feb. 12	V. Basketball	C. C. N. Y.	New York City
Feb. 15	V. Basketball	Hamilton	Schenectady
Feb. 15	V. Swimming	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Feb. 15	V. Hockey	Colgate	Schenectady
Feb. 15	F. Basketball	Albany Academy	Schenectady
Feb. 21	V. Basketball	Swarthmore	Schenectady
Feb. 21	V. Swimming	Swarthmore	Schenectady
Feb. 22	V. Basketball	Haverford	Schenectady
Mar. 7	V. Basketball	Rensselaer	Schenectady

JONATHAN PEARSON, A.B., A.M., born Chichester, N. H., Feb. 23, 1813; grad. U. C., 1835; Phi Beta Kappa; tutor U. C., 1835; adj. prof. chemistry and natural philosophy, 1839-50; prof. of same, 1850-7; prof. natural history, 1857-73; prof. agriculture, botany, and librarian, 1873-87; treasurer, 1854-83; died Schenectady, N. Y., 1887. Author of "Early Records of the County of Albany," "The Genealogy of the First Settlers in Schenectady and Albany," and "A History of Schenectady

Patent in the Dutch and English Times" (Albany, 1883), a standard historical work. He translated the Records of the Dutch Church in Schenectady and the Dutch Records in the Clerk's office at Albany. It was said he knew every plant and flower in the region; he taught us botany (an elective); he was called "Pinky Pearson" because he had the habit of wearing a pink in his button hole; a handsome, pleasant-faced, and able gentleman and teacher.

U.S.L of 1835 Pearson -j-0081

Prof. Jonathan Pearson died June 20, 1887 at his residence 189 Union Street. Prof. Pearson was born in 1813 in Chichester, N.H. He entered Union in 1832 and was graduated with honor in 1835. The year following he was appointed tutor and in 1839 he was made assistant professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy. In 1849 he was elected professor of Natural History and in 1873 he was transferred to the department of Agriculture and Botany. In 1854 he was chosen treasurer of the college and held that office until a few years ago. For many years he had charge of arranging the General Catalogue of the College. Caleb Pearson, the father of Professor Pearson served in the Revolutionary war. He also held the office of Librarian. Prof. Pearson severed his active connection with the faculty about six years ago and resigned the treasuryship four years ago.

Prof. Pearson was a descendant of Caleb Pearson, an English carpenter who settled in the town of Rowley, Essex County, Mass in 1643, and became the first manufacturer of cloth in the infant colony.

.....

C. June 1887

IT IS SAD to see the wrecks made in our colleges by the mistaken policy so rife. Every thriving town; each religious denomination must have a college in each state. To start the machine it requires but \$50,000; \$100,000 will put it in splendid operation! An American college consists simply of a large brick boarding & lodging hall with a small church attached called "the chapel." If these two buildings do not exhaust the cash, a fine President's house is added and perhaps a Professor's also.

The College is now finely under way; true, it has no library & apparatus, its professors are weak men living on slender salaries, its attractions are few for one thirsting for intellectual knowledge, competition with its neighbors diminishes its numbers. What, then, is it not a college? Behold its fine buildings!

*— From the diary of Jonathan Pearson,
Treasurer of Union College*

March 12, 1856

Symposium Summer 1962

UCLAFIBSS pearson - j-0083

Pearson Jonathan

1835

Author

- "Early Records of the City & County of Albany"
- "First Settlers of Ancient County of Albany."
- "History of the Schenectady Patent."

and others - no record

NAME
or NO.

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