

Professor's book chided city, IU

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not carried, a pocket handkerchief, and he wore it circumambient — the cotton bandana going over one shoulder, and under the opposite arm, and then both ends met and were tied just above the os femoris. This luxury, however, was used as a 'sweat rag,' and not as a 'nose cloth.' "

True, Hall did award Maxwell some backhanded compliments, but in such a supercilious way as to make them useless.

The first Board of Trustees came in for their share of ridicule, too. After the publication of *The New Purchase* it must have been a favorite parlor game in Bloomington — that of guessing who Hall's characters really were. For example, it should have been pretty apparent who was "a fat, dull-headed and modest Englishman."

As for the backwoods Hoosier schoolboy, Hall described him as an "undisciplined chap" full of the crude jargon of the frontier. In a hypothetical classroom scene the ex IU professor's student said: "I allow, Mister, we've near on about as good a right to be larn'd what we wants, as them tother fellers on that bench, — it's a free school for all."

With Carleton (himself) as the hero, the author shamed his students into reporting for class

with not only their breeches, but shoes and coats as well. Hall's version of the President Wylie/Professor John Hopkins Harney controversy was somewhat damaging to the former's reputation.

Harney was already in disfavor for siding with a student in a complaint against Wylie. Considering that all of the principals involved were professional men, it is hard to understand how Harney and Wylie could have gotten into an argument about a knife and confronted each other on a fallen timber.

As IU historian Thomas D. Clark put it, "Harney had a habit of taking out a pocket knife and strapping it on his boot. Wylie saw this and dramatically accused the professor of threatening to attack him with a deadly weapon."

Had Wylie not already had reason to thoroughly dislike Hall before, their differences of opinion about teaching methods sealed the latter's fate as an educator of Hoosier youth. In 1831 he returned to the East, where his particular brand of sarcastic humor and wit were no doubt appreciated.

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