

Bloomington young ladies

(Continued from page 1)

"Louisa, thank God, is made of different materials. She is considerably younger than her sister, and has a hundred per cent more sense, good breeding, humor and all of the qualities which render young women 'so delightful.'"

THROUGHOUT JUNE OF 1836 Holman continued to admire Louisa Howe. He wrote, "Miss L. H. interesting as ever. I'm almost inclined to fall in love with her. I will not do, however — 'Let the aspiring youth beware of love of the soft smooth smile beware . . .'" A later entry says, "Spent the greater part of the evening in company of Miss Louisa J. Howe. Almost in love with her. A fine girl."

So enamoured of the "fine" girl's charms was Holman that he was not above cutting in on a fellow student, even at church. Wrote the diarist, "Went to church on the 29 and brought home Miss Louisa Howe. Daddy Campbell (Matthew M. Campbell, senior) took her there. It was prayer meeting and after night."

ONLY A FEW OTHER diary entries mention Louisa. Toward the end of June she was sandwiched between a notation about his supper being late at his boarding house ("Got a glimpse of Miss Louisa to day") and mention of the arrival of a letter from a former fellow student. On the 4th of July, Holman attended a celebration, spent some time with Louisa Howe and made a rash promise.

"I attended Miss L. H. during the day. 'I this day promise myself to abstain from the pleasure or dissipation of smoking, which I have for a considerable length of time yielded to . . .'"

Holman's resolve to quit smoking lasted about as long as his devotion to Miss Howe. His abstinence from tobacco was about two months in duration, while his affection for Louisa began to wane after he had met Miss Sarah Tupman.