

The Weekly Almanian

VOL. V, NO. 28.

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1912

PER COPY 5 CENTS

AMMI WILLARD WRIGHT

The Father and Benefactor of Alma College

HIS JUDGMENT WAS SOUND

His Wisdom and Council of Great Service to All

On May 5th, in the ninetieth year of his age, Ammi W. Wright, the father of Alma college, was lifted from the time life into that of eternity. He went to sleep the day before and awakened no more in this world. "He giveth His beloved sleep."

On Tuesday, May 7th, after impressive services at the home, the body was taken by the family and devoted friends to Vermont, the state of his birth. "There he was gathered to his fathers," to rest till the morning of the resurrection.

In his departure Alma college mourns the loss of her most munificent benefactor. He not only gave far more than any one else; but he was the great reason why others gave. He had the confidence of the world of money to such an extent that people wanted the college to succeed because Ammi W. Wright was associated with it. They were sure that money would be honestly and wisely administered because Ammi W. Wright had charge of it. For almost twenty years he was the treasurer of the college. It accounts in a large measure for the fact that Alma has always paid every dollar agreed upon on the day it became due. What other institution can say truthfully that it has never lost a penny—either through negligence or theft or unwise investment? Every threatened loss was made good by Mr. Wright; and every deficiency not otherwise provided for was met by him. So it still remains true as it did through all the early years of poverty and financial distress that "Alma owes no man anything."

It should, however, be remembered that Mr. Wright's greatest service to the college was in giving so freely of his wisdom in the councils of the Board of Trustees, and in his personal advice to the officers of the institution in every emergency. The president had frequent occasion to counsel with him; sometimes he had to consult him daily as unforeseen perplexities arose. When near the close of the last century, even the president of the Board of Trustees lost heart and thought it might be best to close the college. Mr. Wright said, with characteristic good-natured determination, "We will not close just yet." This spirit of courage and hopefulness based on a wise and sound judgment has been a great asset of Alma college. It has given the college its character and history and is an abiding inheritance to faculty and students. As all the children of faith are the children, so all the Alma children of courage and hope are the sons and daughters of Ammi W. Wright.

AGAIN ALMA MOURNS.

It was a sad message that reached Alma Tuesday evening announcing the death of Theresa Kirby caused by acute Bright's disease. She was a student in Alma for the years 1907-08, 1908-09, and formed a host of friends there, who will receive this news with saddened hearts.

She was in the music department of the college, a member of the church choir and a charter member of the Euterpe society. She used her gift of music cheerfully, readily responding to all requests for special occasions in college activities.

Her sunny disposition, her fund of humor and her Christian spirit made her an influence for good in the life of Wright Hall, which is still felt and



will be so long as her memory endures.

After leaving Alma she went with her parents to their new home in Detroit and there entered the Michigan Conservatory of Music, from which she was graduated in 1911. During the last year of her work she did some teaching and after her graduation she continued her teaching in the conservatory with brief interruptions until about three weeks before her death.

She had known for several months that recovery was doubtful, yet she maintained outwardly the same sunny manner, hiding her feeling of weakness from her mother because of her **loving desire not to add to her fears.** Thoughtful, loving, willing, she spent her brief life in service. The funeral was largely attended by old friends from her former home at Marlette, and by many friends from Alma. The pall bearers were from the alumni of Alma and former students and were Messrs. Graves, Thomas, Henderson, Locker, Eisman and Moon. The services were brief and impressive, the pastor of her church officiating and using as his thought the word, "Hope." Interment was made in the family lot in Evergreen cemetery. The floral tributes were especially beautiful, the room being literally banked with them.

In last week's Almanian mention was made of the death of Arthur J. Helmer, '03, at Grand Junction, Colorado.

Mr. Helmer entered Alma College in the autumn of 1899, a young man of nineteen, and was soon recognized

because of his ability in the classroom and his enthusiasm on the campus. From the very first he took rank as a student, and became a leader in many college activities. He was quarterback on Alma's second championship football team, that of 1902, and played in the first game on Davis Field. He was captain of the college baseball team in his senior year, a member of one of the college debating teams the same year, and went on a tour of the state with the first Gospel team which the Y. M. C. A. of the college has sent out, and yet, though taking part in so many college activities and being a leader in literary and religious work, his studies were never allowed to suffer, and he graduated second in a splendid class of eighteen members.

After graduation he became principal of the high school at St. Johns, and when his superintendent went to the schools of Holland, Mr. Helmer was taken along as principal of the high school at that place. While at Holland he married Miss Genevieve Weston of North Branch, one of the teachers in the Holland schools. In the autumn of 1909 he accepted the principalship of the high school at Pontiac, and remained there until he contracted the fatal disease which resulted in his death.

Mr. Helmer leaves a wife and little son, Hugh, a bright and attractive little fellow of two years, besides a father, mother, sister and brother.

These are a few of the facts in the life of Mr. Helmer since he entered college, but facts fail to reveal the full significance of a noble life. Only those who knew Mr. Helmer can fully appreciate him. He bound his friends to him "with hoops of steel." Even after his short stay at Grand Junction the Daily Sentinel of that place says of him and Mrs. Helmer: "They



made many friends and were regarded as valuable acquisitions to the best citizenship of the valley, and there is genuine sorrow among the large circle of acquaintances at the death of this splendid man—so rich in the qualities of heart and mind that make true friends and useful citizens."

The college mourns Mr. Helmer's death because it has lost one of its ablest and most devoted sons; the state, too, has reason to mourn because it has lost one of its keenest and most progressive school men; and all who knew him mourn because they have lost a true friend.

ALMA WINS TWO

Defeats Mt. Pleasant In a Show Game Wednesday

INTERCOLLEGIATE GAME WON

Goodrich Stars in Field and Myers Does the Receiving

Alma kept her slate clean for the State title by defeating Hillsdale college at the latter place last Friday, by 8-5. Both teams played steady ball, which was occasionally marked by some sensational fielding and a few drives at the crucial moment. Goodrich for Alma did some fast playing at short while Beal of the down state college also distinguished himself in the outer garden.

Several changes were made in the line up for Alma, Brilmyer taking Myers place on the mound and Pohly occupying the first sack. Myers was saved for the M. A. C. game on Saturday.

The score:

Alma	AB	H	O	A	E
Simeton, 3rd.....	4	1	2	2	1
Rogers, 2nd.....	4	0	3	2	0
Wood, 1st-rf.....	4	0	9	1	0
Vogt, rf-c.....	5	1	2	0	0
Myers, c-p.....	5	2	3	5	1
Goodrich, ss.....	4	1	2	4	2
Kitchen m.....	3	3	2	0	0
Pohly, lf.....	4	1	2	0	0
Brilmyer, p-lf.....	4	0	2	1	1
*McCloy.....	1	0	0	0	0

Totals38 9 27 15 5

Hillsdale	AB	H	O	A	E
Widen, rf.....	4	1	0	0	0
Jenkins, c.....	4	1	6	0	0
Scott, ss.....	3	0	1	4	1
Robertson, lf.....	4	0	13	0	1
Rosengrant, 2nd... 4	1	2	2	1	
Myers, m.....	1	0	0	0	0
Sawyer, 3rd.....	4	2	0	1	2
Beal, lf.....	3	1	4	0	0
Bach, p.....	4	0	0	6	2
Wallace, m.....	2	0	0	0	0

Totals33 6 *26 13 7

*Batted for Wood in the ninth inning.

**Vogt hit by batted ball.

Alma0 5 2 0 0 0 0 1-8
Hillsdale ...0 4 0 0 0 1 0 0-5

Runs—Simeton, Myers 2, Goodrich, Kitchen 2, Brilmyer 8, Robertson Rosengrant, Sawdey, Beal, Wallace 5.

Left on bases—Alma 7; Hillsdale 4.
Three-base hit—Pohly.

Two-base hits—Myers, Kitchen, Sawyer.

Struck out—By Bach, 7; by Brilmyer, 4; by Myers, 1.

Bases on balls—Off Bach, 2; off Brilmyer, 2.

Hit by pitcher—Myers (Simeton).
Sacrifice hits—Rogers, Beal.

Stolen bases—Myers, Sawyer, Beal, Wallace.

Umpire—Crume. Time—1:45.

After Alma, as it seemed, had sewed the game up in the eighth with a three point lead, the Mt. Pleasant Normals, last Wednesday afternoon, came back with blood in

Continued on page 3

...Cft?...

DEPUTATION TEAM

Wteklly JHmav n

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE
ALBANIAN PUBLISHING CO.
ALMA, MICH.

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Entered as Second Class Matter. Sept. 21, 1917.
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CORNER ON DATES.

Friday, May 17- M. A. C., M. S. X.
C, Alma Debates. Base Ball. Olivet
at Alma.

BACK FOR COMMENCEMENT.

Another month and the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration will be upon us. This will be the biggest commencement in the history of the first twenty-five years of the existence of Alma College. To begin with a larger percentage of the present student body, in fact every student should plan to remain. There will be something doing every minute and your four years of college life will be incomplete without it.

But better still a larger number of Alumni should be on hand than have ever found their way back to their Alma mater in years gone by, "come back for commencement, and enjoy the fellowship and program celebration will afford." that's the slogan. Drop your work and be on hand for the whole program. You know you will enjoy every minute of it, and we are all anxious to see you and get acquainted with you. The societies are planning on entertaining their old members, as far as rooms are concerned, and Wright Hall dining room will be the place to get your meals. We urge you then- COME BACK.

INHABIT THE LIBRARY - A PREACHMENT.

One of the things which attracts the attention of the casual observer is that our students do not spend enough time in the Library. This observation not only applies to us here at Alma college, but it is perhaps more or less true of every college in the land. President G. Stanley Hall of Clark University, said a few years ago that one of the greatest faults of our present day college education is that it makes us poor readers. But why "Inhabit the Library?" First, because there are many wonderful things to be found in it. It summing up the mistakes made in his college career, one alumnus of the college was heard to say that if he had his college life to live over again he would spend all the time available in the library, delving into the inexhaustible sources of learning to be found there. Second, because we do wish to fix the habit of reading for as Lord Bacon said. "Reading makes the full man." So, let us not neglect the opportunity now at hand to get acquainted with the valuable collection of books, magazines, papers, etc., that are in the library and can be had for the asking.

FURTHER HONORS FOR DR. MACCURDY.

Dr. MacCurdy has been appointed member of the summer staff of the Biological Laboratory of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

The first deputation team from Alma College, in several years went out last Friday afternoon to Ovid. The team was composed of A. C. E. Igerton, D. R. Marks, F. S. Johnson, C. E. Hyde, C. B. Butler and E. A. Thompson. These boys went to Ovid under the direction of the Clinton county Y. M. C. A. secretary, and the Ovid high school.

A big banquet was given Friday night which was attended by about fifty boys and business men of the city. Supt. G. E. Birdsall acted as toastmaster and called upon Hyde, Edgerton, Johnson, Marks, Thompson and several of the Ovid boys for toasts. This gave the College boys an opportunity to get acquainted with several of the Ovid citizens.

Although it rained all day Saturday a township track meet was pulled off with the fellows acting as officials. A boys meeting was held in the evening at the council room where all of the men spoke on different lines of College work,

Sunday was given over to work more along the spiritual line. Morning services were attended by the fellows at the different churches. Afternoon meetings were held for both the smaller and larger boys. The big round up, services came Sunday evening when a mass meeting was held in the M. E. church. D. R. Marks presided and after giving a review of the purpose and work of the Y. M. C. A. called upon Hyde for a discussion of the county work. Rutler then gave a solo and Thompson closed the work of the team by a discussion on "The Development of a Gentleman." The fellows all report a most excellent time and the Ovid boys and citizens as excellent entertainers.

QUARTETTE.

The Quartette with Miss Ainsbury as pianist journeyed to Alpena on May 14, giving their concert in that place before an enthusiastic audience of about seven hundred people. It was largely due to the untiring efforts of Mr. and Mrs. J. Earle Webber that the date was secured and the people of the city induced to turn out. Misses Hazel Frazer and Chrissie McDonald entertained the bunch at dinner on the night of their arrival and saw to it that no one had a dull moment during the entire stay, a long motor ride over the excellent roads of the surrounding country being a special feature.

To break up the long trip to the lake town, the quartette stopped off at Pinconning on the way up and gave their concert under the auspices of the Young People's Society.

On Wednesday evening, May 8th, they appeared for the second time in the Presbyterian church before a good sized audience of town and college people who scarcely recognized them as the same crowd which opened the season there in January.

SUPPORT NEEDED.

Alma meets M. A. C. for the first time in debate on the local floor next Friday night. Also meet M. S. C. at Ypsilanti. It is important that Alma will have the affirmative against M. A. C. at home, and will be represented by R. H. Cook, R. Marks and E. A. Thompson. While the negative team composed of K. W. Sehring, F. W. Rrhm and H. V. Wilcox will journey to Ypsilanti. F. C. Johnson and J. Kennedy are the alternates.

Show the real old "Alma spirit" and be out to help the boys win from the strong M. A. C. team. **EVERYBODY BE ON HAND.**

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NEWS ITEMS.

John Landon was called home on account of the death of his sister.

Bope Butler entertained his grandmother Wednesday and Thursday.

Miss Mahoney spent a few days at her home in St. Charles.

Reginald C. Burritt, baritone on the College Quartette, left Thursday morning for Rochester, N. Y., where he will hustle for news on the staff of the Democrat and Daily Chronicle.

Watch for the date of the Japanese entertainment given by the Froebel society.

Carrie Rowland and Jean McGill went to Detroit Thursday to attend the funeral of Miss Theresa Kirby, a music student at Alma three years ago.

Frank Hurst shook hands on the campus last week.

Mrs. Papworth spent Sunday in Alma visiting her son.

Oral Misener was called to home last week in East Jordan by the death of his father.

SENIORS OUT AGAIN.

Even though the mad ring of an alarm clock at 5:00 a. m. Friday morning was an unwelcome sound, yet it was not long before we were glad that we had heeded the call. With every spark of dignity gone, we all tramped through the wet grass to the favorite near-by haunt, the jungle, where a more ambitious member had already kindled a fire.

Soon the hunger, which is ever-present with all Wright Hall boarders, had a fair chance of being satisfied, when buns, bacon, eggs, real coffee, doughnuts and oranges were brought forth. After a good half hour this sumptuous breakfast had disappeared. We all felt far more capable of carrying on the strenuous duties of the day than when (break)fasting at our usual board. With only five short weeks left, it was decided that at least two such outings a week be the privilege of the class. By seven o'clock all signs of a breakfast had vanished and the day's work was well begun. Is that not a saving of time and health?

ALPHA THETA ENTERTAINS.

The Alpha Theta room on fourth floor of Wright Hall was the scene of a most pleasant occasion Thursday afternoon, May 9th. There were gathered about sixty girls representing the literary societies of the college who were guests of the Alpha Theta girls.

The first few moments were spent in observing the interesting and beautiful pictures that cover the walls of the room, at the same time all having a jolly chat together. Each guest next discovered that upon their back was something interesting to everyone else but puzzling to herself. "Guess the advertisement on your back and thou shalt be rewarded," came from the clever hostesses. Finally each who had been fortunate enough to guess "Fairy Soap," "Dutch Cleanser," or what not, was presented with a glass of punch and a wafer, I suppose, as a reward.

No time was lost, the room was cleared, and music put into motion those mischievous members of the body which are always eager for a chance. After several dizzy whirls about the room, the dinner-gong sounded, which so jarred upon the harmony of the occasion, that one by one the guests left, pronouncing that hour and a half most pleasantly spent. Alpha Theta's ability for entertainment is proven beyond question.

ALMA WINS TWO

Continued from page 1

their eye, made a shift in the men, connected with Myers for two healthy swats, tying up the score, thus forcing the locals to make good, which they did in the ninth winning by a score of 10-9.

From the first, the kites of both sides soared high. Numerous errors and lack of head work on the part of the teams suggested a choose-up game in the back lot instead of one with teams, one of which made the University bite the dust.

McCloy started the game for the Maroon Sox, but was replaced by Myers in the second, the latter being forced to do the "pitching stunt" the entire game. Whether the weather was cold or whether it was luck, Helmer's men certainly found Myers and landed on him for eight hits. There was a noticeable weakness on Alma's part in this direction, the Normalite, as he was in the previous game, being a puzzle for Alma. The base running of the Presbyterians was sensational, the men running wild around the circuit and making a record with 17 stolen bases.

The scrubs, continuing their schedule, journeyed to Ithaca Thursday and took the high school into camp to the tune of 10-5. With Roy Yerex on the mound pitching the steadiest game of the season and with Brinkman doing the receiving act in varsity form Alma had no fear of Ithaca in the hitting or on the bases.

SOPHS WIN MEET.

In one of the most closely contested class track meets ever run off on Davis Field the Sophomores carried away the honors with a total of 43 points. The Juniors landed second place with 39 points, while the Freshmen followed close with 37 to their credit. Marks, a sophomore, and Edgerton, a junior, were the heavy point winners of the day, getting 16 points apiece for their respective teams. Nothing startling in the shape of records was pulled off, but some material which has been lying dormant up to this time surprised the experienced men by making good.

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A VISIT TO POMONA COLLEGE

While making a visit recently to the vicinity of Los Angeles, I spent half a day in the town of Claremont, and obtained a glimpse, all too brief, of Pomona College. It occurred to me that readers of the Almanian might be interested in a short account of an institution that in very many ways reminded me of Alma. Though larger than Alma, it is distinctly a "small college" in a small town; it is thoroughly a Christian institution, but at the same time unsectarian, though founded by the Congregational church; and finally, in age it is close to Alma, being just one year younger.

Claremont is a town of twelve hundred people, thirty miles east of Los Angeles on the Santa Fe. It is attractively situated upon a gentle slope leading up to the base of a noble wall of mountains upon the north. The surrounding country is gorgeous with the green and gold of orange orchards. The town of Claremont followed the college, for the latter, founded in 1887 and named for the town of Pomona, was planted in the country four miles from that place, and Claremont has grown up around it. The first class was graduated in 1894, and the total enrollment at that time was forty-seven. In 1910-11 the senior class numbered forty-four and the regular students in the four college classes 304. At first there was also an academy, but this was discontinued a few years ago. The regular college faculty numbers twenty-nine, and there is a flourishing music department with a faculty of eight.

Several features that I noted at Pomona College made me envious for my Alma Mater. First of all there was the great campus of one hundred acres, not all improved, but much of it attractively laid out, with wide stretches of open ground between the buildings. The palms and eucalyptus trees were a decided contrast to our own oaks and maples. Then there was the inspiring mountain panorama, which we can't have in Michigan; but neither can Olivet nor Albion, so that need not grieve us. The equipment is in nearly every respect superior to ours, and I do not think I am wrong in saying that it is better than that of any of the small colleges of Michigan. A two-story Science building, with a whole floor devoted to biology, particularly attracted my attention. It was rather comforting to discover that they have no museum. But the library, given jointly to the college and town by the Scotch gentleman who is famous for such gifts, is perfection in its

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arrangements. There is plenty of room for everything, even corners sufficient for any number of pairs of "stiddies." Another feature that made me envious was the men's dormitory—a fine new building of attractive design overlooking the athletic field. It is divided into three separate "halls," each having its own social room on the first floor, with comfortable chairs, magazines, piano, and big stone fireplace. When Alma builds its new dormitory for men this plan might be considered. Of the women's dormitory I cannot speak so highly, after having frequented Wright Hall every Friday evening for four years. The gymnasium is large and well equipped, but they are talking of building a better one still.

The college "Commons" is an interesting feature managed upon a novel plan. A certain amount per month is paid for board which includes the solid and substantial items of the bill of fare. In addition to this the students may if they wish buy tickets marked off in denominations of a few cents, and with them they may spend as much as they desire for whatever extras are upon the menu for the day. In this way a student may economize and still be sure of plenty to eat, or may indulge in as many delicacies as he can afford. The catalogue states that the average cost of board is about \$16.50 per month. Managed in connection with the commons there is an attractive little hotel, the Claremont Inn, kept for the convenience of visitors to the college and town, and those of the faculty who prefer to live that way.

The Y. M. C. A. seems to be an aggressive organization including three-fourths of the men of the college in its membership. It maintains a comfortable reading and study room in the main recitation building. It was a matter of regret that I could not make closer acquaintance.

In the gymnasium a feature came to my attention that could be very easily adopted at Alma, and which I am sure would be an incentive and inspiration to the putting forth of every one's best efforts in athletics. Around the walls are hung wooden tablets upon which are inscribed the college records in each kind of athletic event—the record, by whom made, and in what year. Some tablets have but a single entry, others several, as the record has been successively bettered. The football scores for each year are similarly recorded.

After this hasty but thoroughly enjoyable visit to Pomona college I began to wonder why out here they can have buildings and equipment so much better than we at Alma can boast of, and not only Alma but any of the other small colleges of Michigan; and at the age of only twenty-four years. Neither is Pomona exceptional, for Occidental College, under Presbyterian control, is equally prosperous. It may be that the average of wealth in southern California is higher, and that the class that is actively interested in higher education is larger. Certainly that is the class that has come out from the east to settle in this prosperous community. Still, we cannot but be proud of what Alma has done under vastly greater difficulties I am sure than ever beset Pomona.

WILLIAM S. COOPER.
Carmel, California, April 27, 1912.

SCIENCE CLUB MEETING.

The regular meeting of the Science Club was held in the Biological laboratory on Saturday evening, April 27, 1912. The first paper of the evening was by Mrs. Sebring on the "Physical Basis on Heredity." It was followed by a few instructive remarks from Dr. MacCurdy on the same subject. Then came a lengthy but interesting discourse by Rex Van Duzen on the mammals of Gratiot County. To add to the interest of his discus-

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