

POWERS INSTITUTE.

On Thursday evening, the 17th of March, we had the pleasure of meeting the officers of this Institute, the officers of Instruction and Government, the pupils and many of the citizens of the beautiful town of Bernardston, at the recitation rooms and Hall of the Institute. L. F. WARD, A. M., is the Principal; Mrs. E. H. WARD, Preceptress, and teacher of the Ornamental Department; Miss S. L. LEACH, Preceptress; SERVIN SCHNELL, native of Germany, teacher of German and Librarian; C. F. SCHUSTER, teacher of Music; J. B. CANTEL, native of France, teacher of French; CHARLES G. ALLEN, teacher of Penmanship; EDWARD B. PHILLIPS, teacher of Vocal Music, and WILLIAM DWIGHT, M. D., lecturer on Physiology.

This Institute had its origin in the munificence of EDWARD EPPS POWERS, late of Columbus, Georgia. To his native town, Bernardston, he devised ten thousand dollars, the income of which is to be used for purposes of education in said town. To this bequest, the citizens have added liberal sums, so that they have constructed a fine building containing commodious rooms for recitation, library, philosophical apparatus, &c., and a large and beautiful Hall for declamation and lectures.

But what is more attractive to us than any of these, and gives this pioneer institution its crowning merit, is its *agricultural feature*. Before entering the Hall, we were invited into one of the recitation rooms, where Professor Ward introduced us to his class in agriculture. This class numbered seventy, about one-third being young women, and both sexes being of the ages of seventeen to twenty-two. A more gratifying spectacle than this we have rarely witnessed. Questions were put to them in relation to chemistry, plants and soils, which were answered promptly, intelligently, and with a most lively interest. While they understood the purport of the words they were uttering, they seemed to feel the importance to the world, of the noble ART whose mysteries they were exploring. From such a germ as this, what grand results may flow! What investigations, what intellectual labor and profits may result from this beginning! The establishing of such a class as this in so popular an institution, cannot fail to produce the most happy influences upon our rural population. It has our hearty sympathy, and warm wishes for success.

The pleasure of addressing this class, the other pupils of the institution, and the citizens generally, was reserved for us for the evening—this being the first lecture of a series, several of which are to be upon agricultural topics.

Our stay in town was made agreeable by kind attentions from all with whom we came in contact, and especially by the cheerful hospitalities of Gov. CUSHMAN and lady, whose guest we were during our brief, but highly interesting visit.