

The Acadia Athenaeum.

"Prodesse Quam Conspici."

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THE BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS, STATE MANUAL SCHOOL.

Since coming to Bridgewater, my preconceived ideas of a Normal School have radically changed for the better. It might be interesting to prospective teachers, at Acadia, to learn something about this School. It is a good type of the best Normal Schools, and is considered equal to the best, if not, to be the best in America.

I. A few facts, in general, regarding the school and its history. This school, one of the first three in America, was opened in 1840. Its first years were years of experiment by a doubtful public, but the school soon gained the State's confidence and has since steadily prospered. The buildings have constantly improved, the teaching staff has grown, the curriculum has broadened—all culminating in the school's splendid and growing prosperity of to-day.

The money value of the Institution is one quarter of a million dollars; and this value is represented by most efficient educational forces; healthful and quiet situation in old Plymouth County, commodious grounds and park; large and well equipped buildings; a strong staff of teachers. The school accommodates 250 students and is always full. In addition, 225 grammar pupils are enrolled in the attached Model School and several children in the Kindergarten. The Normal School has twelve teachers, the Model School five, the Kindergarten one, all experts in their departments. The practical character of the School is exemplified by its adaptation to the needs of the students. There are twelve large laboratories thoroughly equipped for *individual investigation*; two physical, two chemical, one mineralogical and geological, one zoological and physiological, one botanical, one for geography and astronomy, two for drawing, and one for manual training. There is also a Swedish Gymnasium, besides several classical, etc., class-rooms.

An appropriation from the State is now called for to largely add to these already great accommodations. The School has two regular Courses:—A two years' Course for Grammar School teachers, and a four years' Course for teachers of High Schools. There is also a special course—largely made up of options—followed this year by graduates of six different Colleges and by