

Lansing, introduced the theme of the evening, by reading a masterly paper on Evolution as scietifically understood. It was exceedingly interesting and was received with the most profound attention. After much hand-shaking and familiar congratulation, the first session of the society was brought to a close. The succeeding sessions were very admirably opened by delightful singing by the pupils of the High School, who came into the room *en mass* bringing their organ with them, and under the efficient leadership of Superintendent Gass, M.A., it was really very inspiring to hear those well trained young people sing so finely Longfellow's beautiful but earnest words:

"Life is earnest, life is real,  
And the grave is not its goal;  
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,  
Was not written of the soul."

The reading of the Scriptures and prayer was then done by one of the city clergy. This was really a fine opening for a fruit meeting and worthy of the highest commendation. The various topics brought up for discussion were introduced by a well written paper by a person previously notified and announced. After the readings the discussions were full, free and in the most friendly and agreeable tone, apparently no selfish ends or objects ruling. Indeed I may say, with great satisfaction, that the tone of all the sessions was one of extreme tenderness, and the interest in the meeting was constant and unabating. The presence, at the various sessions, of numerous ladies of apparently high standing in society added much to the interest and beauty of the meeting, and was a source of encouragement by their timely presence and assistance. The interest these seemed to take in the proceedings was earnest and untiring. In the case of one good lady who had duties to perform that required her

immediate and motherly care, but was more than a match for the difficulty by bringing her knitting to the meeting with her, and while her nimble fingers were faithfully plying the shining needles in the stitches, her attentive ear and her ever-watchful eye as carefully and untiringly followed the speakers on the theme of discussion. Oh, Hood! had you lived to see our day, how much would you have to modify the tone of your famous "*Song of the Shirt*." The final closing session on the evening of the third day was very grand indeed, and the like of it I had never before seen at a fruit meeting. I consider it was the finest and fullest exponent of the question, "How to make Horticultural meetings interesting to the public?" One of Steck's grand concert pianos was brought on the dais, and by the instrumentality of cultured and trained fingers was made to do most excellent service. The meeting was publicly announced to be free, and the citizens in great numbers came in and nearly filled the great hall. The programme for the evening was well arranged; short, pithy speeches of not more than five minutes in length by members of the society and distinguished guests who were present, interspersed at frequent intervals by choicest music. The programme was carried out in the happiest manner and with the most cheering results. Secretary Garfield, who is one of those who are ever ready for any work, and who happily always has just the right thing to say in the right time and place, was the very life and soul of the meeting and a large contributor to its success. Altogether these meetings will long be remembered for their friendly associations and for their tender and interesting tone.

The lessons to be learned from this interview are: 1st. How to get the popular interest at Horticultural meet-