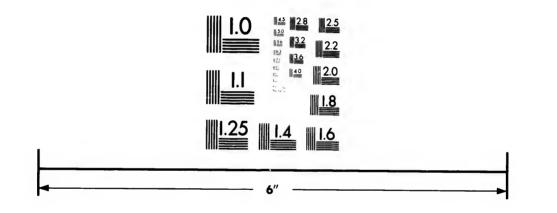
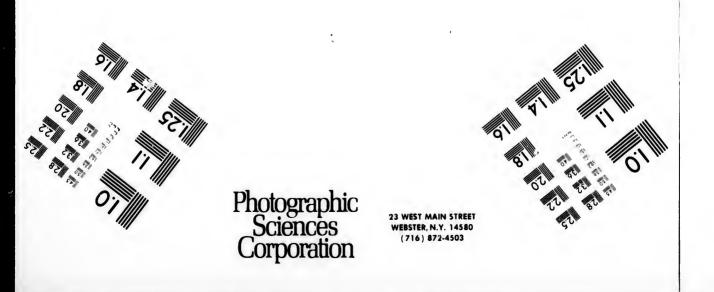
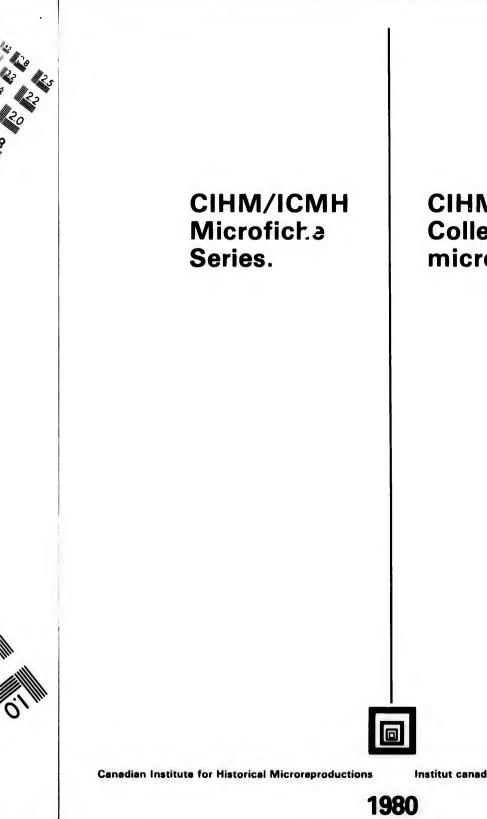


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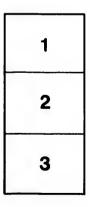
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The Pioneer School

"Shurtleff College, the oldest educational institution in the West, was founded in great faith and in great poverty; sustained for a generation by the unmeasured sacrifices of a few consecrated, cultured men: nourished for another generation by a slowly increasing body of supporters, ministering to a growing student constituency, sending out year by year young men who have since wrought largely in the world. Dr. de Blois, who was president of Shurtleff from 1894 to 1899, has rendered far more than a local or denominational service in preparing a history of the college. He has placed before the educational public of the day, busy with the pressing needs and problems of the present, a fair, unprejudiced story of educational beginnings in a typical western field. He has reminded those who might otherwise forget that there have been educated men and trained teachers in Illinois for more than a few years; that the growth of this great state from a horde of emigrants and traders to a splendid commonwealth was not wrought without the patient labors of godly men who early cast their lot in the river towns and the backwoods for the sake of God and truth. It is as "the pioneer school" that Shurtleff, with Dr. de Blois for her biographer, will appeal to many readers of this narrative. We venture to say that few who care for the records of early struggles for culture, with their humor and pathos and humble heroism, will fail to find this history absorbing, whether or not they have any personal interest in the particular institution concerned.

"Dr. de Blois must have delved deeply into the historical records, written and printed, of the college, and more than that, he must have spent much time in research of a more difficult sort-studying the local traditions of early times, the personal characteristics of leaders now deceased, the stories of antebellum days. From the late Dr. Justus Bulkley and other survivors of Shurtleff's early years he gained many facts that help to make the history complete. When one remembers how many of these pioneers have passed away within a decade, it is most gratifying that the preparation of this indispensable * * * The chronicle was not longer delayed. collection of materials for this narrative gives evi-

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dence of the industry and conscientious zeal of the author, to whom the work has been largely a labor of love. * * Altogether, the volume forms a complete narrative of the college down to 1899; carefully compiled, impartially written, handsomely printed, and illustrated with many portraits of former teachers and students; worthy of the subject, and in every way creditable to its author."—The Standard.

"These narratives are interwoven and related in his own gentle but straight-ahead way by Dr. de Blois, president of the college from 1894 to 1899, than whom no better chronicler could be found. Of peculiar interest to the denomination, the narrative is also in itself and to outsiders an attractive record of the historic conceptions, staving power and determined progress of men worthy alike to be called * * * Christians and pioneer Americans. The author is to be congratulated on the accuracy of his details; the manner of the narration, producing a continuous interest; and the fair fame of the school which he holds dear and has served so well."-The Baptist Union.

"A work of extraordinary interest. * * * Full of instances of foresight; public spirit, lofty patriotism, courag, patience, self-denial, heroism, romance and the victorious power of high ideals. * * * When any competent historian shall take in hand to tell what the small colleges of the country have done to preserve the Union, to insure freedom for all, and to lay the foundations of the various educational institutions of this country this eloquent history of Shurtleff College, by President de Blois, will furnish him with a goodly share of his best materials."—The Chicago Tribune.

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