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We meet to-day to commemorate the thirteenth anniversary of this Sunday School. Before proceeding to give an account of its formation at the time from which this anniversary dates, will be proper to ^{give} the reasons why we have fixed on this as the appropriate time to hold our anniversary meeting, and also to give a sketch of the early history of the school.

A Sunday School was first organized in connection with this society, then called the Second Universal Society of Danvers, during the time that it was in the charge of the Rev. John Moore, as pastor. Bro. Moore commenced his labors as pastor Feb. 24, 1833, and remained until January 1, 1835. The school was probably organized in the winter or spring of 1834. This is according to the recollection of those of the first teachers, but as no record exists the exact date cannot be determined.

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The school opened with about fifty scholars, a
 eight or ten teachers. Bro Moore acted as superintendent
 and had the general care of the school. Mrs. Walker,
 Reed and Mr Derby were among the number first
 pointed as teachers. Bro. Moore resigned his post
 as pastor a few months after the organization of
 school, and was succeed by the Rev. John M. Hill
 who commenced his settlement with the society
 Sunday March 29, 1835; and at once, by his ear-
 nest efforts in behalf of the school, gave new interest
 and welfare; adding largely to the number of pupils
 and teachers. The school soon became
 of the most active and flourishing in the vicin-
 ity and in the summer of 1838 numbered, included
 a Bible class of some fifteen adults, about one
 hundred scholars. A small library was obtained
 at this time, and your present superintendent
 appointed librarian, which place he continued
 to fill until the autumn of 1844. No man ever
 labored with more zeal and earnestness than did
 Mr Austin. For two years or more he acted as
 superintendent, and, so long as ^{he} continued pastor
 of the society was always present at the sessions of
 the school except when absent on exchange. His
 labors were largely shared ~~shared~~ by the teachers and
 Mr Sylvanus Dodge ^{was} elected superintendent in
 the year 1838. Mr. Dodge was a most excellent
 teacher for the place. Enthusiastic in the discharge of his

2004.200.5

every thing that could in any way contribute to the welfare or pleasure of the school received prompt attention. And, although much of his time being more than two miles from the school he was always present in his place.

Several times, during the pastorate of Mr Austin, the superintendence of Mr Dodge's exhibitions was given by the school, all of which were successful both in furnishing funds for the purchase of books, in renewing and keeping alive an interest in school. Several Pic Nic excursions were taken by school and society. These invariably engaged the attention of all, and it was seldom that two or three families would fail of attending; and of other societies frequently united with us; and one occasion at a Pic Nic at the given on land the late Hon. Daniel S. King, more than six hundred were present.

In June 1834 a "Ladies Social Circle" was formed for the purpose of aiding in the procuring of funds for the purchase of books. The following is the preamble to their constitution. "Impressed with the high importance of instructing children in the principles of morality and religion, and believing that Sabbath Schools afford the best means of imparting such instruction, we whose names are underwritten hereby form ourselves into a society for the promotion of the above object."

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This society continued to labor for this purpose the suspension of the meetings of the society, and of so great service as an auxiliary aid, that could almost with propriety be considered as one of the school.

With pastor, and superintendent and teachers thus zealously laboring, in every possible manner to promote its interests, each ready to contribute his part, whether it be in the regular routine of teaching the lessons of morality and christianity or, in the occasional turning aside from these, their important duties, to engage with equal zeal in the exhibition of Pic Nics with such zeal on the part of all the results could not be other than satisfactory. You are therefore prepared to learn that the school was eminently successful. Bro. Austin closed his connection with this society in September 1844 and at that time the school numbered 145 scholars and 24 teachers 13 females and 11 males. During his last year Mr. Austin formed an association, composed of the officers and teachers of the school. A Constitution and By Laws were adopted, requiring each teacher when absent to furnish a substitute and requiring of each officer faithful attention to his office.

Rev. John Prince commenced his labors as pastor in November 1844 and continued until February 1848. when, in consequence of a division in the society growing out of his preaching, he resigned, and the meetings of the society were suspended.

2004.200.5

During the ministry of Mr Prince the Sunday school continued to flourish, and until his last year a little change was perceivable either in interest or members. While he was pastor the school gave interest and engaged in two excursions. Mr Prince ^{was} faithful in the school and cooperated by his presence and advice. In consequence of the suspension of the meetings of the society, the Sunday school also scattered, some joined other societies as teachers or scholars, but the larger portion were deprived of Sunday school instruction and influence. For more than five years, from July 1848 to October 1853 no meetings of the society were held for religious worship. The better portion of the Sunday school Library, however, was sold to the Lawrence School just then organized. During this period of five years, there was apparently no sign of a reorganization of the society, although for a short period meetings were held in a hall in Allen's building. Some of the members had united with other societies, some patiently and hopefully waiting for a sign of renewal; and others still had no desire that the old society should live again. But the time arrived when a word was needed to call together the larger portion of these scattered members. In October 1853 Rev. J. called upon a former member, and after a few conversations upon the subject of reviving the old society

was referred to a few other members with the as-
surance that, if they would unite, he was ready and
then furnish the names of every family we
had formerly acted with the society. The result
of this interview was the appointment of a meeting
in the church on Sunday October 30, 1853 at which
time Mr Talbot preached his first sermon to the
and from that time to the present meetings have
been regularly held.

Steps were immediately taken for a reorganization
of the Sunday School; text books were purchased and
the first meeting of the school was held on the
Sunday in November following. The school then
gathered numbered about 125 pupils; suitable
teachers were appointed, and on the next Sunday
library having been purchased the scholars were
equipped with books. Mr Dodge was again appointed
superintendent and entered upon his duties, but being
to leave town resigned in a few weeks and your
present superintendent was appointed in his place.

From the impossibility of ascertaining the
date of the first organization of this school, and for the reason
of its being suspended for so long a period from
1848 to 1853, we have deemed the time of its reorganiza-
tion on the fourth Sunday in November 1853 as the proper time
from which to date our anniversary. It is for
purpose that we are met together; to recall the incidents
and history of our school since its reorganization.

2004.200.5

The reorganization of the school in so successful a manner is due chiefly to the efforts of bro Talbot who remained with the society as pastor one year. During this time the school gave one exhibition, engaged in one excursion, and the ladies of the society held a fair at the Vestry for its benefit. After the close of bro Talbot's ^{labors} the society remained one year without a pastor the pulpit was regularly supplied, and the sessions of the school continued without any diminution of interest. In November 1835 the Rev. Orville Bray commenced his labors as pastor and continued until September 1839 nearly four years. In November following the Rev. A. C. Gordon began his ministry and continued one year. The society ^{was} supplied its pulpit with two preachers until May 1st 1862 at which time bro U. F. Safford commenced his settlement. He continued the pastor of the society three years, until May 1st 1865. The society was again without a pastor until May 1st 1866 at which time bro Harvey began his pastorate. It will be seen that of the 16 years since the reorganization of the school the society has been without a settled pastor 3 1/2 years. Through the whole of this period the school continued without any apparent change, and cannot be doubted however that if the society had so fortunate after the close of bro Talbot's labors as to secure a pastor in whom they could have confidently united, and who could have remained with the

working in the school and endeavoring to promote its prosperity that a much greater degree would have attended it. We are happy in being able to state that from the reorganization ^{to the time} the teachers and officers of the school have worked together in spirit of harmony, each striving to do his part to promote the general good. Bro. Gordon, while he was pastor, was always ready to render his aid and to the school the benefit of his presence; and you remember how interested bro. Safford was in every effort made in behalf of the school and how faithfully he was at the regular sessions of the school, always ready with words of encouragement and advice.

A Bible class has been sustained in connection with the school during most of the time since its reorganization. Bro. Hervey is now endeavoring to organize a class. He is zealously engaged in promoting the interests of the school both by his presence and influence, and has already rendered efficient service in suggesting improvements and in stimulating others to greater efforts.

While we have sometimes desired and do desire that more of the male members of the society would join us as teachers, yet we have generally supplied with competent, earnest and faithful teachers. And, whatever other influences may be brought to contribute to the advancement of a Sunday School is chiefly upon the work done by them that we must depend to promote its real and permanent welfare.

They better understand the real wants of the people and can, better than all others, except their parents, appreciate the advice and instruction which they give. Had it not been for the faithfulness of our teachers during the whole period of our history, as a school should sometimes have languished, and perhaps ceased to do our work.

We commenced about eight years since to hold concerts, and, departing from the usual methods pursued in other churches, were among the first to make our services attractive by introducing select pieces and dialogues. And although we sometimes desire that the boys be more ready to do their part, yet this school is a source of great credit for the faithful and earnest manner in which they have rendered their aid both in speaking and singing; and it is to them which is chiefly due the interest which is taken in our concerts by the parents and friends of the school. In our services we have been greatly assisted by Mr Clark and Mr Mackintire to whom our thanks are due.

The Society has at all times heartily cooperated with the school in whatever measure has been proposed for its benefit. The Ladies Social Committee revived in 1853 has continued to contribute funds for our benefit. For the last three years besides providing text books, and other things needful for the use of the school, it has furnished a copy of

Myrtle for each family. Through the aid of father and Lewis they have furnished a fine Piano. have several times assisted in replenishing the library.

The school now numbers ^{86 girls and 52 boys} pupils, one superintendent, 18 teachers, 3 librarians and has a library of 630 volumes.

Such is a brief sketch of the history of this school. In looking back over the first ten years of its existence during the ministry of bro Austin to recall the names and faces of those who were with us either as teachers or scholars, we find but few who are with us now. Some, who were once earnest and faithful workers, now far away in distant states. Our old superintendent bro Dodge once so active here is now a citizen of the state of Iowa, his son, once a pupil here, valiantly served in the defence of his country in time of trial, after rising to the rank of Major General has just been elected to represent his district in the 40. Congress. Our old pastor bro Austin after years service as preacher and editor in the Empire state now preaching in the capital of Indiana. Many have gone to other towns and states, some having finished their work here have gone to ^{their} final home. A few are members of the society, and fewer still are with us now. Our list of teachers and scholars in the school 20 years ago I find the names of three who were teachers then, we have classes, one, a scholar then, a teacher now, a one, then a teacher now librarian the latter, Mrs. has been in the school almost from the beginning.

And may I not say better still I find the name
 one, who was a pupil 20 years ago who is still a

Of those who responded to the call of the
 country and did good service in suppressing
 Rebellion the names of forty are remembered as
 belonging to this school and perhaps as many
 could be given if their history could be traced. Of
 number twenty five have been members of the school
 since its reorganization; three of whom Charles
 Charles Dearborn and Frank Gardner gave their lives
 in the cause.

While the destroying angel
 has seldom entered our ranks, yet he has not
 to give us warning of the brevity of life and the
 certainty of death. Miss Hannah Linda, a young
 lady greatly interested in every thing relating
 to the school and Carrie Thomas a girl of 18 years
 stricken down by consumption and one boy of
 Sammy Plummer have been taken from us to their
 home.

A few of you who are now scholars were with
 at the beginning of the present organization. Six
 young ladies now members of the first class of
 are a portion of a class formed at the commencement
 of the school 18 years ago, and have remained
 members of the same class to this time; always present
 in all the exercises of the school, their example is
 of the imitation of all

Four or five others, equally deserving of commendation
 joined the school at the start and are still pupils.
 Four others pupils then are now teachers, and
 the 125 pupils who were gathered here 18 years
 this day only these, some twelve in all are now
 us either as scholars or teachers. Twenty more
 may be found as members of the society. The
 constant change of location so peculiar to all
 our New England towns will account for this.
 And although we may regret that so many
 in our school, should so soon leave for other
 yet we may rejoice to see the good seed sown
 so widely scattered, and if our work has been
 and faithfully performed, may confidently believe
 that it will yield an abundant harvest.

Rejoicing, as we do in the success
 which has hitherto attended our labors, we
 feel that more and better work should be ac-
 plished. Our numbers both of teachers and scholars
 should be doubled. Our scholars especially
 boys should be retained longer in the school; so
 not only the moral precepts, could be more firmly
 fixed, but the principles of faith we cherish might
 be more deeply rooted in their minds, and enter
 more largely into the conduct and life of those
 who are soon to take our places and carry
 forward our work. To do this work as we ought
 of the parents must give not only their good will

but their actual presence in the school as to
 Twenty years ago we had ten male teachers to-day
 have five. Why can we not have as many now
 We ought to attain to a much greater degree
 prosperity in ^{the} future; this is our duty, whether or
 we shall perform it is for you parents and friends
 to determine. If you desire to extend your influence
 as a society, to increase your numbers and
 to your usefulness; if you desire more and better
 work in the school, come and help us; and
 greater prosperity for you and for us shall be
 result of our united efforts

Anniversary of School the fourth Sunday of Nov 1861

had the 5th Sunday
of November 1866