

THE EMERSON INSTITUTE.

A Short Sketch of Another Mandan Institution.

Many Easterners labor under the impression that while the west offers unusual advantages for making an independent fortune in a comparatively short time, they must live in the meantime like savages, with no social pleasures and no opportunity for mental recreation. It is a mistaken idea. The average westerner in a growing town thinks as much of education in social life as his brothers in the large eastern cities.

The Emerson Institute had its origin in a debating society which was conducted for the mental recreation and improvement of the first settlers of the town. The organizers of the society were Frank J. Mead, a gentleman who has been conspicuously in the front rank of Mandan's supporters, Michael Lang, now a prosperous merchant; B. L. Winston and P. O. Chilstrom, all of whom agreed to pay a stated sum of money for the purchase of the ground for a suitable building. Through the liberality of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, three lots, viz: 7, 8 and 9, in block 24, were secured, the purchasers agreeing to erect a building thereon inside of twelve months. A subscription paper was circulated among the citizens, which was liberally signed and the result was that in the fall of 1882 work was begun on a building 36 by 80 feet in dimensions, which when completed cost \$3,000.

The interior of the hall has been supplied with all the modern improvements, tastefully painted and finished. A large ticket office is provided on the right hand as one enters from the street, and a commodious waiting room opposite provides ample space for a ladies dressing room.

The object of the Institute was to furnish a suitable place for lectures, concerts, dramatic entertainments, etc., and a stage large enough for all ordinary purposes was erected in the rear end of the room, being provided with scenery, foot-lights, and in fact all the accessories that go to make up a first-class proscenium.

The institution has met the needs of the community and has been in constant demand since its erection. Dramatic entertainments of a high order have been given there by our young people, concerts by the most famous artists, and entertainments of all kinds in profusion. The institution is in the hands of some of our best citizens who are determined to look closely after its welfare. Few towns of the size and age of Mandan can boast of such an institution and it demonstrates the fact that her citizens are not only looking after their own interests but the higher education of her people.