

WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

The Excellent Work It Has Done in the Past School Year.

Last week the first year's work of the Western university, of this city, closed in a very satisfactory manner and with much credit to the managers.

Without any flourish of trumpets or display the work has been carried on during the past year under the care and direction of Rev. George C. Booth. Between forty and fifty pupils have been enrolled and connected with the school during the year since it opened October 14, 1892. Many more would have been enrolled, but owing to the crowded condition of the rooms it was impossible to admit them. Many applications from abroad the manager was forced to absolutely refuse.

The pupils were given instruction in the grammar school grades. Instruction in physiology, anatomy and hygiene were given by Dr. G. H. Brown, of Howard university, Washington, D. C., and in civil government, considered in its bearing on the duties and privileges of citizenship, by Brown S. Smith, of the University of Michigan. Both are well known citizens and both rendered able assistance to Rev. Booth in his work in starting the school.

As is well known the Western university is a school for the education of the colored people. The university owns a beautiful tract of land at Quindaro, and a magnificent stone building is being erected and is now up to the third story, and will be ready for occupancy next fall. The school so far has been held at Fourth and Walker avenue.

A special feature of the work proposed to be done is the industrial part, and since the first work was done this feature has been kept prominent, and the managers have done all in their power to find out all the strong points in the system and equip the school in the very best manner possible. Mr. Booth has visited and personally inspected many of the leading industrial schools of the country and secured many valuable suggestions and become well informed on the aims, methods and appliances employed. He has received much encouragement, especially from Dr. Bellfield, of the Chicago manual training school, of which Marshal Field and George M. Pullman are backers and trustees. Dr. Bellfield has sent to Mr. Booth a complete set of specimens of work done in wood, iron and brass by pupils.

Rev. Mr. Booth had expected in the early spring to open the manual training department of the university and form classes for the boys in brickmaking, bricklaying, stonecutting, and a class for girls in cooking and sewing, but owing to the lateness of the season the president of the board of trustees, Bishop Handy, advised the postponement until fall, when the building at Quindaro will be occupied and the work more easily done. Names are being taken and classes will be formed at the opening of the school.

In speaking of the construction of the building at Quindaro, Mr. Booth stated yesterday to a JOURNAL reporter: "If we have been slow in the erection of our building, it is because what has been done has been done wholly by ourselves, and because we have paid for everything when it was done. We expect help from the public when we have proven by our efforts and sacrifice that we have worked in earnest and that we are here to stay."

The university board is composed of men who are honest, able and well and widely known. At the head stands the president, Bishop James A. Handy, a man of ability, and acknowledged to be a strong financier. Associated with him are men well known not only in Kansas and Missouri but all over the land, men who have method in their work and who are too prudent and far seeing to fail. The university owes much to such men as Rev. J. C. C. Owens, Rev. J. W. Braxton, Rev. B. F. Watson, Rev. P. A. Hubbard, Rev. G. W. Gray, Rev. J. H. Jenkins, and many others. They are in earnest and intend to have the university win. For that purpose they are at work, they are happy over what they have done and live in high hopes of soon witnessing an opening that will mark a final and complete triumph over difficulty."

Rev. Mr. Booth left yesterday for Chicago, where he will remain for a time in the interests of the school.

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