My name on the programme was called. When I gained the floor, I was conscious that my cheeks were burning and my knees trembling. As I began to speak my voice began to falter; but I managed to get through somehow. The other boys followed. Then came the decision of the committee appointed to award the prize. Every one sat with death-like stillness as the chairman of the committee arose to render the decision. After commenting on the excellent speeches and good impression made by the contestants he declared the young man sitting opposite me to be the winner. The successful contestant had used for his declamation, "The Deathbed of Benedict Arnold." I suppose I wished at that moment Arnold had never had a deathbed. In the eyes of the audience I was defeated, but I knew better than the audience how hard I had striven for success and I felt then as I feel now, that there can be no defeat when a person puts his best self and most conscientious work into his undertakings.

Commencement now being over, I returned home and spent the summer. But the opening of school at J—— in October found me a student again. My experiences this year were very nearly like those of the previous year, except that they were on a larger scale. Miss Parks having returned to her home in Georgia after commencement did not return when school reopened. This, however, did not have the effect on me that the reader might suspect; for there soon entered school another girl, Miss May Benthon, who was destined to exert a far greater influence on my life than Miss Parks. How shall I describe Miss May Benthon? I wonder if there are not others who know her, who acquiesce in my description of her? In the words of the poet she was a girl—

"To whom the better elements
And kindly stars have given
A form so fair
That, like the air, 'tiss less of
Earth than heaven."

She was just blossoming into womanhood and her cheeks were blooming with the first roses of the summer.

"Her every tone was music's own,
And something more than
Melody dwelt ever in her words."

Between her and me there sprang up a feeling such as only young hearts like ours could feel and understand. An hour in her presence seemed to pass as quickly as a fleeting arrow. The memory of many happy hours spent in the company of this charming young lady still lingers in my mind.

Before I was aware, so quickly had time flown while I was under the charm of Miss May Benthon's lovely presence and musical words, autumn had ripened into winter and winter was budding into spring. May, the month of flowers, had come, and the girl of that name seemed blooming too. Commencement day was drawing near. My career as a student at J—— was nearing an end. I had been in school there for nearly two years; and though I had had sentimental feelings at times which are calculated to be detrimental to a schoolboy's best interest, I had made much progress as a student. The commencement exercises of this term of school were held in the latter part of May, 1909. I occupied the same place on the commencement programme as of the previous year—that is, as a contestant for the declamation prize. Again I failed to be the successful contestant, but had worked even harder for success this time than before.

Commencement was over. I began to tell my friends and schoolmates good-bye. But the one from whom it was harder to part was Miss Benthon. Never shall I forget that parting! It would not be of interest to the reader to know what I said at that parting, but I will give the young lady's parting words. They were: "I shall think of you often; my love for you will never wax cold." I believed it then. I heard from her occasionally during the summer. At first her letters were filled with warmth and affection. But a cloud was rising in the horizon. A change was coming. One day I received a letter from her which contained these words: "I feel it my duty to tell you we can no longer be more than friends. You have probably known of the feeling that has long existed between Mr. Wilson and me. However much I love you I cannot throw away my love for him. Six months will not have glided by before I shall see that happy day that shall bind us hand to hand and heart to heart;—etc."

Kind and sympathetic reader, if such I am honored with, that was the end of the romantic side of my school life. I will now give you a short account of my last year in the high school.

Prof. Yol had decided not to teach in J—— the coming year but to move to the village of F——, and take charge of the high school there. I had become so strongly attached to Prof. Yol that I decided to go with him to F——. Most of my time at F—— was taken up with my school work and in keeping bachelor's hall. In the latter occupation I was by no means an adept as the scorched rice, the crusted biscuits, the browned meat, and the burned fingers could have testified.

At the beginning of the school term the trustees of the school offered a scholarship medal. I determined to bend every energy in an attempt to win this prize. I set this up as my ideal and marked the letter "S" over my room door as a constant reminder of my resolve. I worked steadily on through the year with this one aim in view little dreaming that if I should succeed it would mean far more to me than a medal.

Commencement had again arrived. The exercises were all over. The teacher mounted the rostrum to make the concluding speech, and to award the various prizes. I sat in breathless silence, waiting to know whether or not I should be one of the winners. In a short time, which, however, seemed like hours, the scholarship medal was awarded to me as the successful contestant. This was joy to one who had labored so persistently for success.

Later in the summer I received a letter from Prof. Harper stating that, having made the highest grades in school under Prof. M. H. Yol, a graduate of Elon, I was entitled to a scholarship in Elon. I accepted this generous offer. What Elon will be to me the future must decide.

In the above short sketch I have endeavored to give some of the more important events of my life, especially those happenings in my school life which have made the deepest impressions.

William Stanton.

## BEGINNINGS OF CHEMISTRY.

(Continued from Last week.)

### The Ultimate Constituents of Matter Among the Ancients.

In one respect the chemical speculations of the ancient philosophers demand our attention. They sought the ultimate constituents of bodies,—the original material of which the world was built up. Thales in the sixth century took water as his ground material; Anaximenes and Heraclitus air and fire; Democritus took as his ground material the atom. He imagined these atoms to be of different shape and size but the same nature as to substance. All the changes in the world consisted, according to him, in the separation and recombination of these atoms, which were supposed to be in continual motion. This doctrine, which at first sight appears to accord with our modern atomic theory, but which in reality has nothing in common with the latter, was further developed by Epicurus.

Empedocles about 440 B. C. gave utterance to the so-called four-element theory. He took as the ultimate basis of the world Fire, Air, Water and Earth. Aristotle adopts this view into his system of natural philosophy; but neither he nor Empedocles regards these elements as different kinds of matter, but as different properties carried about by one original matter. By the combination of these four elements the most various products could be formed. For example, flesh and blood consist of equal parts of all four elements, while bones are one half fire, one quarter earth and one quarter water.

### Metallurgy Among the Ancients.

As has already been mentioned, the ancients were acquainted with seven metals, gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, tin, quicksilver. These are mentioned by Homer. The first six also occur in the Bible, being recorded in the order just named. Of these gold, silver and copper are found to a small extent in the free state, the other would have to be extracted from their ores; the ancients must have been acquainted with the metallurgical processes necessary for this. The name metal came from "metalla." It is supposd to have originated from the fact that metals occur together in veins. Herodotus called a mine "metallon." This being derived from "metallou," "to search after." The ancients believed, on the ground of Aristotle's testimony, that the metals were produced by the penetration of the air into the vitals of the earth. On account of this they supposed the amount of metal increased as the mine procceeded inward. Gold was the first known of metals. Its occurrence in pure form in nature, together with its color, luster, and malleability, attracted the attention of the early nations. The Egyptians were very skillful workers in gold. They made wire and leaf, fine inlaid work, and many beautiful ornaments. Early vessels were made of it, and it was used for coating or plating, over wood and other materials. Silver seems to have been found at an early date also. Occurring free in nature, together with its being easily made ready for use, made it a desirable metal. Then follow copper, iron, tin and lead; and later mercury. The Egyptians attributed the discovery of the metals to their sovereigns; the Phoenicians and Greeks to their gods.

The cupellation process by which gold is freed from its impurities is first met with in the second century B. C., but there was no means by which gold could be separated from silver. The alloy of the two metals was supposed to be a peculiar metal itself, and was called "electrum." The oldest coins are made of electrum or pale gold.

Copper has been known from time immemorial, being first found in the Neolithic Stone age. It was found native in many places. Homer called it "chalkos." From this we get the word chalcopyrite. It was obtained by the Romans from the Island of Cyprus and was called by them "aes cyprium," later "cuprum" and in English, copper. Its main use was as an alloy. Aurichalcum, or brass, was made from copper and zinc ore, metallic zinc not being known to the ancients. Bronze, an alloy of copper, zinc and tin, was known before metallic tin. This was very strong and much easier to work into shape than iron. It found extensive use in the manufacture of weapons, ornaments and utensils.

According to Lepsius iron has been in