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History of the Rise And Progress of Penmanship

Writing is the art of expressing ideas by visible signs or characters on some material. The origin of this art is not positively known. The Egyptians ascribed it to Goth, the Greeks to Mercury, and the Scandinavians to Odin.

The first step toward writing was probably the rude pictorial representation of objects, without any indication of the accessories of time or place. Pictures, abbreviated for convenience, gradually became conventional signs, and these signs were made to stand for the sound of spoken language.

The various systems of writing of the ancient world had probably at least three different sources, the Egyptian, the Assyrian and the Chinese systems, all of which were originally hieroglyphic.

Roman letters were used in Italy until the latter part of the sixth century, when the Lombardic style was introduced; this continued in use until the thirteenth century.

The Visigothic style, carried into Spain by the Visigoths, was legally abolished in 1901, and Latin letters were adopted for all public instruments. In France, the Merovingian style prevailed from the close of the sixth century to the end of the eighth. Charlemagne introduced the Caroline, which, having degenerated before the close of the tenth century, was restored by Hugh Capet, and was subsequently called Capetian. It was in use in England, France and Germany till the middle of the twelfth century, when the modern Gothic spread all over Europe. The present German alphabet is a modification of this.

The modern Gothic dates in England from the twelfth century, the old English from the middle of the Fifteenth. The English court had a barbarous corruption of Norman, which was contrived by the lawyers



WHAT IS A TRUE FRIEND?

A friend may be a boy or girl. If he is a real friend he will do what he can for you at all times. In short, he will stick with you through thick and thin, help you in your troubles, and not because of any gain to himself. "A friend in need is a friend indeed." This means that if you are in need, and he helps you he is a real friend. If you are going to be a friend of some one, help him at all times. If you can't say something nice about him, say nothing. If your buddy does or says something that you don't like, keep it to yourself.

Don't stop at trying to be a friend to several. Be a friend of everyone, of all classes. The best rule given us for friendship is "As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them." Keep this in mind and practice it. That is the rule of our fore-fathers. The maxim of today is, "Do others before they do you." A fellow who practices this will have very few friends, and will miss some of the greatest joys of life.

HAZEL LANCASTER, '25.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

The readers of the Lexhipep are asked to carefully look through our advertising columns. Here are found only the most enterprising and reliable business establishments, and it will pay you to do business with them. We could not publish our paper without their cooperation. By trading with them you will help them, our paper and yourself.

of the tenth century, and lasted till the reign of George II, when it was abolished by law.

The utmost diversity exists among different nations in the manner or direction of writing, but in general, the Semitic races wrote from right to left, and the Aryan from left to right.

CLARA TAYLOE, '25.

The Boy Scout Movement Its Aims and Purposes

The Boy Scouts were organized in America on February 8, 1908, so they are now thirteen years old.

The organization was formed by Mr. Powell, of England, and now the Scout organizations have spread all over the world.

There are five hundred and twenty-four thousand Boy Scouts in America, more than there are men in the navy and army combined. Nobody under the age of twelve can become a member.

The Scout's motto is "Be prepared." If you are prepared, you will succeed in life. The Scouts do a good turn daily, that is, they help somebody, each day. The Scout oath is, "On my honor, I will do my duty, to God and my country, and to obey the Scout's laws, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

The Scout laws are, that a scout must be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous kind, obedient, cheerful thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

A troop is composed of thirty-two members, one scout master, an assistant scout master, and a senior patrol leader.

The Scouts have a meeting once a week and after the meetings they play games and take exercise. Scouts go on hikes, and camping trips.

The Scouts were formed to train boys to be better men, both physically and mentally, and the boys are trained to live healthful lives in the out of doors.

Lexington has at present two troops of Boy Scouts, and each scout is trying hard to be worthy of the name. We hope that we may be able to prove that we are not scouts in name only, but that we live up to our pledges and are developing into good and useful citizens.

NAT HUNT, '26.