

**ALBERT GARDNER BOYDEN
AND THE BRIDGEWATER
STATE NORMAL SCHOOL:
A MEMORIAL VOLUME**

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Albert Gardner Boyden and the Bridgewater State Normal School: A Memorial Volume by
Arthur Clarke Boyden

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ARTHUR CLARKE BOYDEN

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BRIDGEWATER STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
A MEMORIAL VOLUME

BY
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Graduate, 1871. Instructor, 1879.
Vice Principal, 1896. Principal, 1906.

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1919



Albert G. Boydson

PREFACE.

The identification of Albert Gardner Boyden with the Bridgewater Normal School, practically from 1848 until 1915, makes it possible to write a history of the school largely in his own words. Selections have been made from a great variety of sources, and organized in a running narrative. The purpose has been to give vivid word pictures of the school from period to period as it developed under his leadership. The continuity of ideals from the earliest years to the present time is a feature of this school that is unique. It is hoped that the personal touch will add to its value among the graduates. Certain characteristics of Mr. Boyden will be apparent in the narrative,—his strong personal interest in his students and their success; the gradual development of his ideas of teaching into a definite and logical philosophy; his persistent efforts to build up the material interests of the school in spite of repeated failures with reluctant Legislatures; the fixed purpose to prove all things and hold fast to that which he so sincerely believed to be true; the consistency with which he lived out his beliefs.

The pen pictures in the last chapter give the reflection of this life from the eyes of the graduates of different periods, and thus complete the picture of the history of the school.

This work has been done in loving memory of an honored father.

ALBERT GARDNER BOYDEN
AND THE
BRIDGEWATER STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

CHAPTER I

Inception of the Bridgewater School

One of the contributions to education by Albert G. Boyden was the collection and organization of the data regarding the first steps in the establishment of Normal Schools in Massachusetts. Short selections have been made from this material in so far as it relates to the Bridgewater School.

James G. Carter, of Lancaster, was the first to call public attention in Massachusetts to the necessity and advantages of Normal Schools, by a series of articles published in the Boston Patriot, in the winter of 1824-5, with the signature of "Franklin." In these he maintained that "the first step toward a reform in our system of popular education, is the scientific preparation of teachers for the free schools. And the only measure that will insure to the public the attainment of the object, is to establish an institution for the very purpose." He then describes the leading features of an institution for the education of teachers.

In 1830 the American Institute of Instruction was organized. The professional education of teachers was a constant theme of discussion in the annual meetings of the Institute, and these discussions had great influence in arousing public sentiment to the