ardson's buildings, of course "Dicky Bird" was present, and kept the company in a roar of laughter with his puns and stories, which he had heard when "I was at Richardson's office last summer." All told, we were fourteen; and a jollier party never set out on a sketching tour.

"Bound Off" the scout had brought his camera; but, strange to say, he preferred the wet plate to the dry process, especially while developing on the way home. The car was extremely hot and close, so much so, that, as morning air was cool and refreshing, several preferred riding on the platform, thus getting a more extended view of the rocks and rye fields through which we passed.

On our arrival at North Easton we put ourselves under the guidance of "Dicky Bird," who of course knew more about such "way stations" than we did, and immediately started off for the library. Here we were informed by the white-haired librarian that, it being a public library, no visitors were allowed; but, nothing daunted, we wended our way towards the Ames Memorial Hall, now followed by a score or so of hoodoos.

"Dicky" was despatched for the janitor, and meanwhile we posed for a photograph on the hall steps; but just at the critical moment we were charged by the hoodoos, and so the picture was spoilt. Soon the janitor appeared and took us over the building, the main hall of which is used for dramatic entertainments, and for dances, etc. On the floor above is a smaller room, used by the Freemasons; but we did not make a long stay here, for the janitor seemed afraid that the students would rag the insignia which were scattered around.

Out of doors once more, we began sketching, some in color, others in pencil. This of course attracted more spectators; and even the editor of the village paper interviewed us, and actually enticed one poor innocent into walking three miles to see "The finest view in Ameriky, and which as I showed Hunt the artist when he come on here to paint."

The sketches finished, we passed through the town to the Ames gate lodge, which certainly is very picturesque and original in design; but the contrast of the large, light-colored, weather-beaten stones which compose the body of the house, with the bright tile roof, is a little too marked in color; but in time the stones will be covered with moss and vines, and enhance the effect. Under the archway of the lodge we all posed, and our photographer succeeded in getting a very good negative, the proofs of which have already appeared.

After making a few hasty sketches of the lodge and surroundings, the party divided, the majority leaving for home on the noon train, while some few enthusiasts stayed to make more elaborate sketches.

On the way back, the weary hour was somewhat enlivened by an attempt of one of the party to sell some of the sketches to passengers; but, even with the price at twenty-five cents apiece, no one seemed willing to invest.

When the train left North Easton it was cold and chilly, but for some reason it seemed to grow warmer as we approached Boston, and with this increase in warmth, our spirits rose, and when we bade each other good-by in the depot, each one went home thinking that few days had been spent in a pleasanter manner than the one in which "he went sketching at North Easton."

The Minstrels.

THE theatrical world of the Hub has not lacked astonishing attractions during the present season. Many and varied have been the performances which have called forth the thunders of applause in our finest theatres. The renowned Howard, the elegant and inexpensive Boylston, the palatial Windsor, and the fragrant National, have each and all been nightly crowded with immense and most fashionable audiences, whose admiring plaudits have awakened the echoes and electrified the performers.

We have had minstrels, Mammoth minstrels, Mastodon minstrels, Gigantean minstrels; we have had dances, songs, sketches, varieties,