

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Interesting Exercises Witnessed By a Large Audience.

FREDERICK J. WAUGH VALEDICTORIAN

One of the Largest Lists of Graduates in the History of the Plattsmouth Schools.

The Harnele Theatre last night was filled to overflowing with parents and friends of the graduating class to witness the program of exercises prepared for the event. These annual events are always looked forward to with great interest by the friends of education, and especially by the fathers and mothers who have daughters and sons that have attained the highest round in the ladder of education in the Plattsmouth high school; and while parents and friends feel proud of the class of thirty-two who take their departure from that institution of learning for all time to come, perhaps no one feels more justly proud of the work than Superintendent E. L. Rouse, than whom no city of Plattsmouth's size, can boast of a more genial, painstaking and thorough gentleman and scholar. The program of the evening was as follows:

PROGRAM:	Within
"The Weight an' Ribbin'":	Wilhelm
Invocantion:	Senior German Clerics.
Rev. D. A. Voutay:	
Prayer:	"The Prostrate" (Verdell Mellette)
Misses Hazel Jovey and Della Venner:	
Solitary:	"The Holy Grail"
Nora May Larson:	
Flourish:	"Valse Brillante" (Chopin)
Gertrude L. Porter:	
Valedictory:	"Up From Slavery"
Frederick James Waugh:	
Vocal Solo:	"L'Arlette" (Lugi Arrilli)
Wilhelmus Horat:	
Address:	Hon. William K. Fowler.
Presentation of Diplomas:	President D. C. Morgan.

The program was carried out to perfection in fact every one acquitted themselves with great credit. The valedictory by Miss Larson was delivered in a most admirable manner, and reflected great credit upon that young lady. The Journal would have been pleased to have published this article in full, but we were for some reason unable to secure a copy. The valedictory was more than could have been expected by one so young as Fred Waugh. He is a most ambitious, energetic young man, and the Journal bespeaks for him a bright future, which he undoubtedly deserves, and which he is sure of as time rolls on, and he keeps up the pace as he has started out from the high school. The valedictory address which follows is entitled:

UP FROM SLAVERY.

From the historic state of Virginia have come many noted men, men of birth and education who have filled the highest stations of life and have added fame to the place of their birth. Washington, Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Robert E. Lee, what a long roll of illustrious names we could call? It is not of these men I will tell you tonight, but of a little slave boy, born in the mountains of Virginia amidst the most miserable, desolate and discouraging surroundings. His home, a log cabin; his bed, a bundle of rags; and his food given him much as the dumb animals were fed. For seven years this boy lived under such conditions; he received no home training, for his mother was cook in the great house and had little time to devote to her children, and his only knowledge that there was such a thing as education was a glimpse through the school house door as he carried his little mistress's books to school. When on that memorable 1st of January, 1863, the liberty bells rang throughout that fair southland, darkened so long by the blot of slavery, this boy was free. Free! Yes, free from the shackles of slavery, but bound by the chains of ignorance and superstition. But deep in the heart of this ignorant boy was an intense desire for knowledge, and the story of the next seven years of his life is but the repetition of struggles to free himself from this unhappy heritage. In some way he managed to obtain a primer, but when he had learned his letters there was no one of his race to teach him to read. Later, when a small school was established for colored boys and girls, he was not able to attend, as his step-father needed the wages this eight-year old boy earned in the salt mines. Finally he received permission to go to school on condition that he work from four o'clock in the morning until nine, and from four until six after school. Here a serious difficulty presented itself. He was obliged to work until 9 o'clock and school began at the same time, so, as he had some distance to go, he was always late, and often missed an entire recitation. Knowing that when the clock at the nine struck nine it was nine at school, he conceived the idea of moving the clock hands from eight thirty to nine, thereby giving himself ample time in which to reach school. However well this worked for him, it did not suit the boss, and afterwards the clock was locked up in a glass case. Getting to school was not the end of his troubles, for on entering two other difficulties confronted him.

In the first place he had never possessed a hat or cap, while all the other children had head coverings; second was in regard to his name, or rather a name. From earliest childhood he had been called simply "Booker," but noting at roll call each child pronounced at least two names, he was in deep perplexity as to what he should do when his turn came. Foreshadowing the future he was equal to the situation, and when the teacher called upon him for his full name, he calmly responded "Booker Washington." About this time "Booker" heard of a school for colored boys and girls at Hampton, and at once resolved to attend, although he had no idea where it was, how far away or how to reach it, and during the years of hard work and scanty remuneration stretched themselves between him and his heart's desire, his industry never flagged nor did his courage waver. When fourteen years old, with little money and few clothes, he started on his long journey, 300 miles. By walking, begging rides in wagons and cars he finally reached Richmond, eighty-two miles from Hampton, dirty, tired, hungry and penniless, in fact devoid of everything except courage.

Knowing nothing better to do he walked the streets until midnight, then utterly worn out he crept under the sidewalk and went to sleep. The morning brought work and a renewal of hope, and after a short time spent at Richmond working by day and, to save his scanty funds, sleeping under the sidewalk at night, he again resumed his weary road to learning. Upon his arrival at Hampton the sight of the buildings, to him so large and beautiful, seemed a glimpse into the promised land, and he felt that life for him had just begun. Having been so long without proper food and clothing he presented a most unprepossessing appearance, and the head teacher hesitated about admitting him to the school. Finally she gave him sweeping and dusting to do while she thought the matter over. Here was Booker T. Washington's opportunity, and he was well prepared to take advantage of it, even though his weapons were only a broom, a dust pan and a dust cloth. His characteristic perseverance and industry and his well established habit of doing his best in everything won the victory, and so well was his menial task performed that it served him not only as a successful entrance examination, but also secured for him the janitorship to help him through his financial difficulties. His subsequent career is well known. In three years he completed the course at Hampton; four years later, when he was but twenty-one, he again entered Hampton college, this time as a teacher. And in 1881 he was called to take charge of a school in Alabama. Today that school, Tuskegee, is the largest and best school for the colored race, and the name of its famous president is known throughout the land.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

To the Class: I have told you of the boyhood of this man tonight because to me it is a wonderful example. We who have had every opportunity for obtaining an education given us—thanks to the generosity of the people of Nebraska and the patience and wisdom of those who have had charge of our schools—can scarcely realize the difficulties that stood in his way. Here was a boy handicapped on all sides, by birth, color and surroundings. He surmounts or sweeps away every obstacle. Why was this possible? Because in his character were combined so many of the qualities that make boys and girls successful men and women. He was steadfast. He set his eyes toward the goal and his glance never wavered. He was persevering; the way was long and weary, yet his steps never faltered. He was industrious; many hard and unpleasant tasks were given him, yet his industry never flagged. He was thorough; what he did was well done, the minor tasks as well as the greater. Cannot each of us apply this lesson to each day of our lives? Thoroughness, perseverance and industry, linked with ambition and education, form a combination that will surely unlock the doors of success. Let us not measure success alone by wealth or fame, but strive to live for the uplifting and betterment of others as well as ourselves. Let us consider no task too small to be well done; in our work, whatever it may be, let us be faithful. At all times may we devote our energies to help fulfill our part of God's great plan. Tonight is probably the last time that we, who have been classmates for so many years, will all be together; tomorrow our ways part. What the future holds for us we know not, the tangled skeins the Fates have won for us, each must unravel for himself; but no matter where we are called, or what our life is to be, if we remember and exercise the qualities that transformed the life of that slave boy, we will surely receive our portion of the happiness of life.

As a representative of the class of 1904, I wish to thank our teachers, both past and present, for the personal interest they have taken in us; the principal and the school board, whose labors for our good we sincerely appreciate; and our friends, whose presence here tonight is expressive of their cordial feelings toward the school as well as their friendship for us. In bidding

you farewell as a class, we wish you to know that whatever we may accomplish in the future will be largely due to the training we have received in the schools of Plattsmouth.

The address of State Superintendent Fowler was very timely, and interspersed with witticisms which kept a broad smile on the countenances of his hearers. Prof. Fowler is the present state superintendent of schools of Nebraska, and from his interesting talk to the young graduates, it was very easily discerned that his great delight is in the success of the public schools of the state, and that ever since his installment in office he has ever had his mind on their betterment. The attention given the superintendent was very marked by all present.

D. C. Morgan, president of the board of education, presented the diplomas in a most agreeable and happy manner. In his everyday life Chief's affability and generosity is so well known, that it would be impossible for him to appear otherwise no matter where placed, and on this occasion he was in one of his happiest moods, and performed his duty most creditably.

This is the largest class of graduates from the Plattsmouth high school in the history of the city, with perhaps the single exception of that of three years ago, at which time they numbered thirty-six.

In a class of thirty-two members Miss Emma H. Roessler won the class honor by having the best average in scholarship, which entitles her to a free scholarship in any college or university in this state. She has decided to attend the Bellevue college.

The Journal joins with the many friends of the class in wishing each of the class of 1904 long life and a most prosperous and useful career through life—and, by all means, let that career be one that in after years your friends can point to with pride and say, "He graduated from the Plattsmouth high school in the class of 1904."

"THE SILVER SHIELD."

Ten of the High School Graduates Represent Characters in the Play.

The custom in recent years of presenting dramatic representations by the pupils of public schools, while an innovation, is entirely in harmony with a system long in vogue among the old universities for the development of not only memory but histrionic talent.

In conformity with this custom there was presented to our people last Friday evening "The Silver Shield," by members of the senior class of 1904. The comedy, while not deserving of much commendation as a dramatic creation of any particular merit, was a happy medium through which no inconsiderable talent was displayed. It was interesting and apparently enjoyed by the large audience present, more perhaps on account of the personnel of the cast than for any literary or other merit of its own. The casting of the characters was admirably done and it is doubtful if any improvement in that regard, with the material, could have been made. To single out any particular characterization would hardly be justified by the performance as a whole, as each one had within itself an importance exceeded very little by any other. The stage fright and awkwardness, always an incident to an amateur performance, although apparent in the first act, was pleasingly absent in the last, and if the play had been repeated it is our firm conviction that a marked improvement would have been observed. In the second, and particularly in the third act, the players seemed much freer, easier and more graceful than in the first, and their formance, articulation and elocution was indeed creditable.

This improvement was very marked in "Dodson Dick" and "Lucy Preston." There was in the former, in the third act, a refreshing, easy abandon so characteristic of the manager of a refractory and chargeable prima donna, while the latter lost much of the amateurishness so noticeable in the first act. The makeup and acting of Eugene Tighe as "Doctor Dozy" was very commendable, and exhibited considerable talent. There was at times, however, a disposition to over act, and become grotesque. The "Tom Potter" of Homer Sanders was really a manly performance and showed an absorption of the individual by the character. The other characters were all well taken and many professional performances have been heard in our opera house that did not equal this one.

An Alarm Clock For 25c.

If you want to get up early and feel good all day take a Little Early Riser or two at bed time. These famous little pills relax the nerves, give quiet rest and refreshing sleep, with a gentle movement of the bowels about breakfast time. W. H. Howell, Houston, Tex., says, "Early Risers are the best pill made for constipation, sick headache, biliousness, etc." Sold by F. G. Fricke & Co.

For sale—good eight-room modern residence, (new) situated in one of the most desirable locations in the city of Plattsmouth. ALBERT HELMS.

CHICAGO GRAIN AND PROVISIONS

Features of the Day's Trading and Closing Quotations.

Chicago, May 31.—A break of 4¢ today in the price of May wheat, due to collapse of the theory that there was an outstanding short interest, caused weakness in other options. The July option closed with a loss of 3¢. Corn was up 3¢. Oats showed a gain of 1/4¢ and provisions 1 1/2¢. Closing prices:
Wheat—May, 126; July, 87 1/2; Sept., 87 1/2.
Corn—May, 47; July, 47 1/2; Sept., 47 1/2.
Oats—May, 40 1/2; July, 39 1/2; Sept., 39 1/2.
Pork—July, \$11.75; Sept., \$11.50.
Lard—July, 30.00; Sept., 29.75.
Ribs—July, 36.75; Sept., 36.50.
Chicago Cash Prices—No. 2 red wheat, \$1.03 1/2; No. 3 red wheat, \$1.02 1/2; No. 2 hard wheat, \$0.97 1/2; No. 3 hard wheat, \$1.00; No. 2 cash corn, 48 1/2; No. 3 cash corn, 47 1/2; No. 2 yellow corn, 49 1/2; No. 3 yellow corn, 48 1/2; No. 2 cash oats, 36 1/2; No. 3 white oats, 35 1/2; No. 3 white oats, 35 1/2.

Omaha Grain Market.

Omaha, May 31.—Closing prices on the Omaha Grain exchange:
Wheat—May, 126; July, 82 1/2; Sept., 72 1/2.
Corn—May, 47; July, 48; Sept., 48 1/2.
Oats—May, 41 1/2; July, 38; Sept., 38 1/2.
Omaha Cash Prices—No. 2 hard wheat, \$0.97 1/2; No. 3 hard wheat, \$0.95 1/2; No. 2 cash corn, 47 1/2; No. 3 cash corn, 46 1/2; No. 2 yellow corn, 47 1/2; No. 3 yellow corn, 46 1/2; No. 2 white oats, 36 1/2; No. 3 white oats, 35 1/2; standard oats, 35 1/2, nominal.

Kansas City Live Stock.

Kansas City, May 31.—Cattle—Receipts, 500; strong; export and dressed beef steers, \$3.25@3.75; fair to good, \$4.00@5.10; western fed steers, \$3.75@5.00; stockers and feeders, \$3.75@4.25; southern steers, \$3.50@5.00; southern cows, \$2.50@4.00; native cows, \$2.50@4.00; native heifers, \$3.75@5.00; bulls, \$2.75@3.25; calves, \$3.75@4.75.
Hogs—Receipts, 5,000; steady to 5¢ lower; top, \$4.35; bulk, \$4.20@4.50; heavy, \$4.00; 500 lbs. packers, \$4.00@4.25; pigs and light, \$4.00@4.50. Sheep—Receipts, 8,000; 10¢ lower; lambs, \$3.25@7.00; fed ewes, \$4.00@5.25; Texas clipped yearlings, \$4.75@5.75; Texas clipped sheep, \$4.00@4.50; stockers and feeders, \$3.50@4.50.

South Omaha Live Stock.

South Omaha, May 31.—Cattle—Receipts, 4,000; steady to strong; native steers, \$4.25@5.75; cows and heifers, \$3.50@4.50; calves, \$3.00@3.50; stockers and feeders, \$3.00@3.50; hogs, \$4.00@4.50; pigs, \$3.00@3.50; sheep, \$4.00@4.50; lambs, \$3.00@3.50; mixed, \$3.00@3.50; bulk of sales, \$4.00@4.50. Sheep—Receipts, 700; steady; clipped lambs, \$6.75@9.00; western yearlings, \$5.00@5.50; native lambs, \$3.00@3.50; common and stockers, \$3.00@3.25; lambs, woolled, \$3.00@3.50.

Chicago Live Stock.

Chicago, May 31.—Cattle—Receipts, 3,000; steady; good to prime steers, \$5.00@5.50; poor to medium, \$4.00@4.50; stockers and feeders, \$3.25@4.00; cows, \$3.75@4.50; heifers, \$2.50@3.00; calves, \$3.75@4.50; Texas fed steers, \$3.50@4.15. Hogs—Receipts today, 22,000; to-morrow, 40,000; weak and mixed and butchers, \$4.00@4.75; good to choice heavy, \$4.70@4.80; rough heavy, \$4.50@4.80; light, \$4.50@4.65; bulk of sales, \$4.00@4.70. Sheep—Receipts, 12,000; steady; good to choice lambs, \$5.25@5.50; fair to choice mixed, \$3.75@4.00; western sheep, \$2.75@3.50; native lambs, \$3.00@3.50; western lambs, \$3.00@3.50; spring lambs, \$3.50@4.50.

Driven to Desperation.

Living at an out of the way place, remote from civilization, a family is often driven to desperation in case of accident, resulting in burns, cuts, wounds, ulcers, etc. Lay in a supply of Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It's the best on earth. 25c at F. G. Fricke & Co.'s drug store.

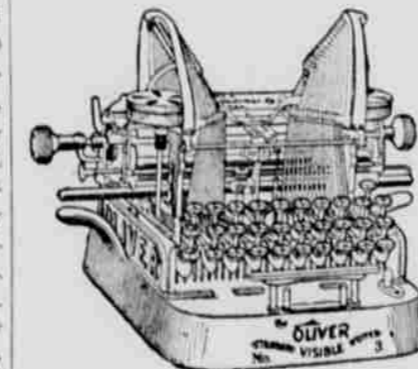
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