

Morgan, for the study of Shakespeare. The plays of the great English poet are studied as to their plot and the skill in its execution, history, language and so on. Suffice it to say we are constantly gaining insight to new beauties. Prof. Nichols meets the B Preparatories on Thursday evenings and is reading with them that interesting and instructive book, "Wm. H. Seward's Travels Round the World." The principal of the Model School and assistant devote a portion of time to reading to the pupils from books suited to their years. Another class has devoted some time to the study of Chaucer. They read The Prologue to the Canterbury Tales, and The Knight's Tale. Any of the class can now, notwithstanding the "awful spelling," read with ease (e's) the quaint writings of "the great father of English literature."

The Virgil class after finishing the Aeneid read Conington's translation of that poem, the Earl of Derby's translation of Homer's Iliad and are now reading Pope's Homer's Odyssey. The most of the advanced pupils have done a fair amount of

#### MISCELLANEOUS READING.

Some have read all of Macaulay's essays, a portion of Carlyle's and of Bacon's and have tasted of Dante, Spencer and other early poets. Another feature of our work is

#### THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE FOR ITS LITERARY MERITS.

To illustrate the method of study, the book of Job was read in the morning devotional exercises and attention directed to some of the peculiar features of the book. Essays have since been prepared upon the following topics and read before the school on Friday afternoons: The Plot of the Book of Job, The Argument, The Character of Job, The Personifications, The figures, The Natural History, The Scenery of the Country Where Written, The Manners and Customs of the People. All this literary work is prosecuted independently of the regular work of the school.

Many of the pupils evince a fond appreciation for good literature, and an unceasing interest in the events daily transpiring in the social, political and religious world. By reading and criticism many are acquiring a clearness and beauty of style and a command of language which is very valuable. In the study of Shakespeare we find Hudson's edition very useful because of its copious notes. We have used for reference, Craik's English of Shakespeare, Abbott's Shakespearean Grammar, Hudson's Life, Art and Characters of Shakespeare, and Whipple's English of the Age of Elizabeth. In the Chaucer class we used Carpenter's English of the XIV Century, and Morris's Chaucer.

W. S. BLACK.

(The above article was probably the last production from the pen of Mr. W. S. Black before his death.)

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#### The Life Boat.

The following poem was read by the author, a student of the High School, at the June commencement.

Another boat launched on the heaving tide,  
A tiny, frail barque in the sea of strife,  
One more to try for the far-away goal,  
One more to fight in the battle of life;  
And which shall it be then to win or to lose?  
I've pondered the question o'er and again.  
Shall his name be high on the "Record of good?"  
Or numbered with either the "wounded" or  
"slain?"

He can choose for his pilot whoever he will,  
So many apply for the station you know.  
There is Truth, who will lead to the "Pastures  
of Life."

Or Pleasure whose goal is the "Valley of Woe;"  
Hope smiles on the path-way of life just begun,  
Her laughing eyes shine from every flower,  
She is ready to cherish this fresh, new life,  
And to strengthen his faith in the darkest hour.

He passes the straits of infancy soon,  
Shielded from peril by dear, loving hands,  
He watches all day the fair, far sky,  
Or plays at eve-time with the golden sands;  
The islands of boyhood are passed swiftly by,  
And scarce has he entered the role of his youth,  
Ere he leaves the home-nest to sail out alone,  
And takes for his pilot the foe of brave Truth.

Silent, his guardian angel stands,  
With saddened brow and tear-dimmed eyes,  
She breathes a prayer o'er the erring boy,  
Then wings her flight to the starlit skies;  
And there is weeping in Heaven to night,  
O'er one frail barque that is gone astray.

Around the youth fair scenes are portrayed,  
The softest winds play with wandering breath,  
The flowerets blossom in shaded nooks,  
But their subtle odors waft poison and death;  
The shades in the deep fairy-haunted glen  
Are gathering since twilight's dim haziness fell,  
And up from the South-land thro' the clear space,  
Floats the musical chime of a silver-voiced bell.

And there are low banks where fringed willows  
lean,

Far o'er the gliding waters so fair,  
To catch if they can a swift fleeting glance  
Of their lithe graceful forms and loveliness rare;  
Meadows sweet with the breath of new-mown  
hay,

And cool, dark woods where from tamarac trees,  
The song of the red-breasted robin so gay,  
One long stream of melody swells on the breeze.

Back of the youth lies a sun-gilded stream,  
Whose bright waters bring sorrow to many a  
heart;

The green banks are dotted with pale lily-  
blooms,

In the waves the moss grows, and the shy dol-  
phins dart;

While dreamy, low-toned through the dusk-  
purple air,

The light rippling waves go hurrying by,  
Fair castles loom up in the distance blue,  
Their turrets stand clear against the pale even-  
ing sky.

But this far-famed river is treacherous and deep,  
When once it is touched by the boat of man,  
And the current will bear him onward and o'er,  
Till he reaches a dark and gloomy land;  
Before and around lies the ocean restless,  
Strewn with the wrecks that are bound for the  
grave;

'Tis a wild place! with whirl-pools and breakers,  
And mortals that writhe in the seething waves.

In the midst of the sea yawns a great black gulf,  
"The gulf of temptation," filled with despair.  
His barque nears the chasm, slowly, slowly,  
He feels his face burn with the hot, stifling air;  
A moment he stands on the dark verge of ruin,  
A moment he pauses to note the wild wave,  
When a voice, sweet and clear, breaks the still-  
ness around,

And his good angel whispers, "Come hasten  
away."

He turns with a shudder to mark whence it comes  
The voice, so like music, that falls on his ear,  
He sees not around, but a hand strong and sure,  
Grasps the helm and leads to waves that are  
clear;

The mad dream of passion has faded away,  
The struggle was hard, but the victory gained,  
Shall his name be high on the "Record of Good,"  
Or numbered with either the "wounded" or  
"slain?"

When his heart grows faint, and his hand grows  
weak,

And he nearly succumbs to the demon of yore,

His guardian angel, with hand strong and steady,  
Leads him out from the shadows to sunshine  
once more;

Now he peacefully glides down the river of  
years,

Perfect love in his soul, perfect truth on his  
brow,

And his heart grows young in the late years of  
life,

Though his dark locks are turned to the white-  
ness of snow.

Silent, his guardian angel stands,  
With thoughtful brow and lustrous eyes,  
She breathes a blessing so tender and true,  
Then wings her flight to the star-lit skies;  
And there is rejoicing in Heaven to-night,  
O'er a boat that has crossed the yellow strand,  
It had well-nigh sunk, but at last is safe  
On the golden shore of the Sunlit Land.

LIZZIE T. WILSON.

#### Commencement Week.

The second commencement exercises of our University are now past. All the friends of the institution had looked forward to this event with unusual interest—perhaps, on the part of a few, with anxiety. But we are proud to say, that the result has gratified the most sanguine expectations. All the exercises have met with favor in the eyes of the citizens. Never before have the people shown so lively an interest in the welfare of their State institution of learning. Never before have the entertainments been so well patronized.

#### THE BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS.

On Sabbath afternoon, the occasion of the Chancellor's address, the atmosphere was very oppressive, yet a splendid audience, consisting of the talent and *dite* of the city, filled the chapel. Our Chancellor, of whom we are justly proud, was equal to the occasion and delighted his hearers with far the most scholarly literary feast we have lately enjoyed. The Dr. was truly eloquent, his address abounding in finely wrought figures and true pathos.

The following abstract of the address, presents some of its salient points:

As the father sends from his threshold his child, concerned for his health, fortune and moral condition, so to-day, with a few public parting words we are almost to dismiss with kindly concern a class from the University to enter the arena of citizen life. The earnest inquiry is like that of Saul of Tarsus, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

There is a calling to do something; secondly WHAT are we to do; and finally God the Source of the call.

The word "calling" is used in regard to our secular and religious life, and shows a principle common to both.

Hence a man engaged in his ordinary vocation is doing the errand of God, as well as he who sings psalms. If work is to be done at all, it should be elevated from drudgery to a *calling*—the divine calling to work. Every man of commanding force has believed himself impelled by an irresistible force, an uncontrollable destiny, and this gives rise to the popular fascination by which the world's heroes have been looked up to with idolatrous regard.

It is a law of our nature that happiness can only be found in well directed activity; hence no affluence of wealth should give any one exemption from a business in life. Unlike the zoophyte rooted to a reef in the sea, swaying to and fro, twisting its tentacula, courtesying to the waves and vibrating its arms to catch an unwary fly, or dainty medusa, without progress or improvement, man is filled with mighty hopes, towering aspirations and activities of infinite versatility. With his varied

gifts he is an intelligent and divinely called worker, and subordinately a creator of the good, the beautiful and the true.

#### II. What should a man's calling be?

Every one, as soon as may be, should find his proper place and calling—that for which his education and aptitude particularly fit him.

How is this to be found? In general a man's intellectual bias, and moral wants will guide him safely in selecting a calling.

1st. Every calling is open to a man, which will not injure his moral or religious character; but every profession or business is not equally eligible. Thus to one man a business might be the means of constant elevation, while to another it would present peculiar temptations and moral hazards. There is danger that a profession or business will become mechanical, and so all life, freshness, and even sincerity may be sacrificed to professional routine.

2nd. Besides in choosing a business, temporary advantages should not have too much weight. No young person should go into a business simply because it is easy to get into it. The important question here is, not what is most convenient, but in what can I get on most satisfactorily and honorably. Do not then drop into the first position that offers. Be content to live on a little rather than to sacrifice your future with all its prospects of usefulness and happiness.

3d. In the selection of a calling, intellectual aptitude and natural taste should have a leading influence. It would be impossible to become a painter, poet or sculptor without a bias, or genius in one of those directions. Whenever an aptitude for any calling is clearly pronounced it is unwise perhaps impious to contravene it. This is the voice of God, speaking in a man's nature, which he has no right to disregard.

But in the majority of cases there is no such decisive predilection. Here the indications are more obscure, but the danger of going wrong is less; for man is a creature of adaptabilities as well as of adaptations. There is a flexibility of average manhood that enables a man to acquit himself creditably in nearly every position. Like the late Edward Everett, the poise and versatility of faculties may be such as to adapt one to every career. He at first as a college student bore off the highest honors; then a boy preacher of rare and tender eloquence; a Greek professor of erudition; then entering on political life as a legislator, governor, ambassador, and secretary of state, he illustrated the wondrous capacity and versatility of cultured men, inspiring the hope of reasonable success in any department of human industry.

The personal qualities of self-poise, will, force of character, and determination, will do more and better for one, than a mere inclination for a profession. Inclination or genius is only a promise, but the former are guarantys of success.

4th. Besides the moral wants of the man must be considered in the selection of a business. While doing good to others we must do ourselves no harm. It is hardly to be supposed that a liberally educated young man will deliberately take into his plan a success to be purchased at the price of integrity and honor. Hence a business should be selected which will help, not hurt you. The consequence of selecting one business or profession over another may be the difference to you be