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Editorial.

COMMENCEMENT ORATORY.

We have good reason to be proud of the class of '80. Without any detriment whatever to the preceding classes all will agree with us in saying it is on an average the best class ever graduated from the University. Space will not allow us to make a review of all the orations, which we would be glad to do, although we could do little else than reiterate the praises with which the state papers have been profuse. There was nothing tedious in the exercises; the orations were brief and spirited, the music excellent, the floral offerings which attested the appreciation of the numerous friends of the class were many and beautiful. We deplore the near approach of the time when the size of the classes will necessitate a change from the requirement of orations from each graduate. The election of the orators from the class to appear on the commencement programme would be attended with many difficulties, and the omission of them altogether would be unsatisfactory.

Many remarks were made on the similarity of thought in each of the productions. Does it indicate a moulding influence resulting from the nature of the studies pursued? We think not. Does it indicate an influence of the current of thought at the present time, derived from an impartial reading of the thinkers and philosophers of the day? We think it does. We find pleasure in the conclusion. There is a conflict of opinions in our day, the broadest and deepest the world has ever known. To say that we do not feel the effects of this, would be to admit ourselves to be laggards in the progress of thought. Each oration on Commencement day attested a full appreciation of the attitude of the leading minds of the day, yet an individuality of expression that shows independent thought.

A graduating oration is expected to indicate something of what the mental work has been, hence it is natural that the fundamental line of thought based upon gen-

eral reading and observation would be similar among the members of the same class. Instead, therefore, of its being an adverse criticism that the exercises were without exception devoted to the different tendencies of modern thought, it speaks well for the untrammelled spirit of education at the University of which the state may well approve.

That a want of elocutionary discipline was manifest in the class cannot be denied. Yet there was scarcely one prominent fault in the delivery of any of the graduates that careful training would not have removed. Oratory is an art and ought to be cultivated more carefully than as yet we have any means of doing.

We shall miss the class of '80 deeply; yet we bid them God speed in whatever way they may severally direct their labors and will rejoice at each new success which attends them.

CLASS DISTINCTION.

We observe with pleasure that class distinction is beginning to awaken among us. It will be a new tie that shall bind together more closely, those who are associated directly in their work. It will often serve as an incentive to stronger exertion in keeping up the regular studies in one of the regular courses. It is not necessary that there should be incessant warfare among the different classes, but the word *classmate* should be the "Open Sesame" to the inner chambers of the heart, and guarantee mutual assistance among those who bear it in common.

The junioric Senior class seemed to be entirely ignorant of what was due from them to the graduating class. We hope hereafter that the Senior class will not be obliged to decorate the hall for Commencement exercises, black their own boots etc., which according to all precedent is work that belongs to the Juniors.

PROPRIETY.

The person who supposes gross immorality to be hidden under every form of social relation that does not chance to meet his approval, will almost invariably be found to be a living example of his own creed. The *Democrat* breaks forth with a remonstrance against the ladies of the University attending society exhibitions with their *beaux* as it chooses to call the gentlemen who attend them. It is more proper, as that worthy thinks, for young ladies to attend such places with their parents. But let it be remembered that most of the students are away from their parents, and that they are not children but men and women who know how to think and act for themselves. No one can point to a community of people among whom there is a higher standard of morality than among the students of the University. The cause of this is perfect freedom of thought and action, and the higher idea of what is due to true manhood and womanhood prevalent among the students. When the one is hampered the other will be lost. We hope therefore that when the Chancellor needs advice in regard to the best method of managing the students, he will not seek it at the hands of the *State Democrat*.

Commencement.

BACCALAUREATE SERMON.

The first exercise of Commencement was the Baccalaureate discourse by the Chancellor, Sabbath evening. The subject was "The wise man is strong." Chancellor Fairfield possesses in a remarkable degree the gift for apt quotation. The address abounded in good advice to the graduating class and the expression of an opinion in regard to many of the vital questions which have shaken the world during this and preceding centuries.

PALLADIAN EXHIBITION.

Monday evening, June 7, at an early hour, the Opera House was crowded with an intelligent and appreciative audience intent upon listening to the wit and wisdom of the representatives of the Palladian society. Space does not permit any but a bare mention of each production.

The Overture by the University Band was well received. Next came the Invocation by Rev. A. C. Williams. Eugene Montgomery then appeared with a criticism entitled "Edgar Poe and his Critics." It abounded in much strong argument to show that Poe has been a much wronged man. He paid a fine tribute to the incorruptible character of his writings, showing that he never was actuated, as his contemporaries, by mere venal gain. The gentleman is a fine writer, one of the best on the programme.

"Policy and Positiveness" by Miss May B. Fairfield showed that its author is very free from the former but imbued with the latter. It was Miss F.'s masterpiece. "She thinks that 'positiveness' is fast giving way to 'policy'."

The vocal solo "Once Again" by Miss Lillie Peck was so highly appreciated by the musical that she was loudly *encored*.

Ed. Rich then made his first appearance before a Lincoln audience with an essay, "Disraeli—An unpopular view," which merited and received high praise.

Miss Emma Smith's oration, "Social Inequality *versus* Progress," was quite short and to the point. She came to the conclusion that the present is the period of greatest social equality. The lady did credit to herself and to the society she represented.

The duet by Miss Gerrans and Mr. Smith retained the high musical reputation which they have justly earned.

The eulogy on the "Good old Times" by Miss Florence N. Jones abounded, from beginning to end, in most sparkling and original wit. It was a delightful change from the usual affected style of college pieces. She said that the only thing she wondered at was that the good little children of the "good old times" who learned their catechism and were so good did not die young as the Sunday School books dispose of children who are too good for this life. Miss Jones appeared to be the favorite with the audience.

The oration, "History a physical, not a moral science," by E. P. Unangst was a strong argument to disprove the theory that divine intervention changes the world's history. He held that physical discoveries are the great stepping stones to a higher civilization.

The audience then greeted one of Lincoln's favorite songsters with great applause. Mrs. Bates rendered a solo with her usual pleasing style both of voice and manner. She deserved and received a hearty *encore*.

"The Legend of the Organ Builder" was rendered by Miss Lola Williams in a faultless manner. The lady possesses in addition to her natural fine voice and queenly bearing the advantage of having received a most thorough elocutionary training. It seldom falls to our lot to hear even a professional elocutionist enter so fully into the soul of her piece.

The exhibition was one of the best which has ever been given by the Palladian society, and she may well feel proud of the literary merits of the participants.

UNION EXHIBITION.

The Unions should have held their exhibition Saturday evening, but on account of the heavy wind and rain storm it had to be postponed until Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock. But notwithstanding this drawback the Opera House was tolerably well filled by a choice collection of the *elite* of the city.

The Invocation was offered by Rev. Lewis Gregory.

Miss Sophie Schwab, Lincoln's favorite instrumental soloist, then gave one of her most charming performances.

An essay entitled "The Nation, its future" was then read by Wm. A. Hackney. The author showed that he had given the subject much earnest thought. He held that Republicanism is the motor power which is to make our nation supreme. He attacked the theory that climatic influences affect character and mind.

Will N. Hawley delivered an oration entitled "The strife between the living and the dead." It was finely written and showed the eminent practical sense of its author. He held that the true principles of every art should be known but that our knowledge should go farther than mere theory. The gentleman had a very pleasing appearance on the stage and in every way conducted himself with credit.

The question for debate was "Resolved, That the thinker is as practical as the actor." Miss Jessie Parker championed the aff., and in every way proved a worthy champion. Her arguments were brought forth with clearness and force. She showed conclusively that all our advancement is due to the thinker's brain, and that the actor is a mere tool in the hands of the thinker. Miss Parker fully sustained her reputation as a writer.

S. V. Mallory, who championed the neg., labored under a great disadvantage in coming directly after such a masterly debater. But he did great credit to himself, notwithstanding. He held that men who live by their wits are too numerous, ignoring the fact that only actors can live by their wits. He unquestionably had the unpopular side of the question, but most of his arguments were sound and logical.

"The mission of Genius" by Miss Mattie Hawley was a thoughtful and beautifully worded essay marking out what is the true end and aim of genius. "The power of acquiring what others have evolved, is talent. Genius cannot be trained." This was the ground taken.