

must have a reformation if not a revolution, and both may be necessary. Other nations saw the light and profited by their experience; but Spain failed to step into the pool when the angel moved the waters and she still waits for his reappearance.

Mr. Polk appeared unwell, caused by overwork, but he plunged into his speech and delivered it with his usual vigor. The subject was a fortunate one for his purpose, and the treatment was skillful and strong.

Miss Edith Doolittle, one of Lincoln's most accomplished pianists, then rendered Rubinstein's polonaise, "Le Bal," to the evident enjoyment of the audience. The subject chosen by the next speaker, Miss Jesse Wolfe, was,

THE MARTYR OF THE SOUDAN.

The late war in the Soudan was an important one. But its political results will be uppermost in making its recollection imperishable. General Gordon, was the heroic soul, the solitary defender of Khartoum, and it is his association with the struggle which will be the most lasting. To him was due, entirely, the success of crushing the Rebellion in China some years before, and his career in the Soudan is not less marvelous. His stroke against slavery, the curse of the Nile country, is one whose force will be finally felt in that worthy struggle. The crisis came and General Gordon was the only man in all Britain deemed competent to successfully meet it. General Gordon alone had misgivings about the final result, as he only fully comprehended that complex situation. His defense of Khartoum was indeed gallant; and those pathetic appeals for aid will forever ring reproachfully in the ears of his countrymen, exciting the sympathy and admiration of humanity. Escape would have been easy but he was faithful to the end. Defeat was grander for him than victory could have been. His life was brightest in its departure, and found its greatest success in failure. His great sacrifice for them has served to invest him in the eyes of the English, with a sort of grandeur. They recognize in him the glamour and brightness of the Heroic Age, for never was soldier truer to his flag, or Christian to his faith.

Miss Wolfe could not have selected a more happy subject, and her treatment of it showed much ability. It was cut after no conventional pattern, and possessed an originality of style that was refreshing. A little hesitation in an otherwise pleasing delivery was the only thing that made her friends fear that her effort would not be granted first honor.

ERASMUS.

Contemporary with Luther was Erasmus. They were similar yet unlike. The essential of Luther's character was force; for him, to think was to believe; his faith turned inevitably to creed. To Erasmus, dogma was impossible. He had an element of weak subservience that, until we study the man, makes us despise him. Luther's Bible and hymns touched the German heart; Erasmus' Greek and Latin reached only the learned few. Erasmus was no reformer. He did not strike at the root of the matter. He would retain monasticism and Papacy, not perceiving that one must be dethroned, the other destroyed, that reform might come and education do its work. But Erasmus was a scholar. From his youth he pursued learning with unflagging zeal. Death found him working at his books. His work was to strike a priestly supremacy by cultivating a spirit of literary criticism, and, by editions of classic authors, to spread through the upper classes of society a generous humanism. His work was preparatory, but it is not too much to say that Luther would not have succeeded had not Erasmus and his fellows done their part. Though Erasmus and Luther failed to understand each other, our privilege is to appreciate both and hail them co-workers.

Mr. Barrett speaks with deliberation, for an orator and had a production that was too heavy to make a typical oration. It was a strong, condensed article, adorned by no superfluous

words and no flowers of rhetoric. It was successful simply because it was strong in thought and unassuming in delivery.

This was the last oration on the programme, and at its conclusion the judges, Professors L. A. Sherman, G. E. Barber, and A. H. Edgren retired to prepare the decision. Miss Clara Stevenson delighted the audience with a vocal solo, "The Maiden's Secret." She was tumultuously applauded, and compelled to give another selection, which she rendered in a captivating manner.

After a short delay the decision was announced, giving first honors to Mr. H. P. Barrett, second honors to Mr. C. S. Polk. Applause greeted the decision, and the audience retired, evidently in good humor with themselves and the society that had furnished the entertainment. The contest was an unusually close one, making the work of the judges extremely difficult. Every speaker won adherents in the audience, and had the matter been put to popular vote each oration would have had a goodly number of votes for first place.

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