

features. The speaker subordinated manner to matter throughout. He pleased the ear rather than the eye. His deliberate earnestness, perfect enunciation, and above all his utter disregard for artificial elocution were particularly effective and enjoyable.

The orator began with a brief, comprehensive sketch of the development of universities, starting with the universities of Paris and Bologna, and speaking quite extensively of English and German university systems, explaining the differences in their organization and methods. Passing then to the universities of America, he spoke of their history and growth, and particularly of how we might make the American university the ideal one. American institutions must be able to provide for Americans what, at present, they must go to Germany to obtain. Johns Hopkins is trying to supply this need. The speaker thought we had great reason to be proud of the fact that in all the period of wonderful growth in higher education, in this country, where immense sums of money have been handled for university work there has not been a single betrayal of trust.

President Low talked for an hour and a half, brightening his solid thoughts with occasional flashes of wit. When he had finished, and the benediction had been pronounced by Rev. Hewitt, Charter Day was over, and the universal verdict was, "The Best Yet."

Prof. Lees' class in *Antigone* has just completed some interesting work. After critically reading the tragedy in the class, each member was assigned 150 lines of the text to turn into good smooth English. At a meeting of the class last week these translations were read, thus presenting the play intelligently as a whole. This sort of thing is splendid, especially in the classics, where for lack of some such connected presentation the true beauty and value of what is read is often missed entirely.

Literary.

Messrs. E. P. Dutton & Co. announce that a memoir of the late Bishop Brooks, made up largely from his papers and letters, will be published in due course by arrangements with the family of the bishop.

John Brisben Walker has laid aside his literary work on account of ill health, and will travel in foreign lands for a year. Arthur Sherburne Hardy will edit the *Cosmopolitan* during Mr. Walker's absence.

Professor George E. Woodbury has undertaken to write for the "American Men of Letters" series the life of James Russell Lowell. It is hardly necessary to say that no more thoroughly equipped man could have been selected for that work.

The young women of Vassar college are preparing to present the *Antigone* of Sophocles. It is a sort of offset to the *Elektra* which the students of Smiths' college gave a year or two ago. Apropos of this subject of Greek plays, we wish to mention the etchings of Mr. R. Farress, illustrating the *Oidipous*, which was rendered by the men at Cambridge University. The etchings are exquisite, and express more than pages of description could.

Easterners still maintain that there is no true culture in the West. It is possible that this is so and that this want of culture is responsible for our lack of appreciation for some eastern work. To most westerners a large part of the poetry, which eastern magazines are permitting "poets" to inflict on their readers, seems a mere waste of pen and ink and space. Women, unless geniuses, run to fashions in literature almost as much as in clothing. The present literary fashion corresponds somewhat to the spasms of "æsthetic" dressing which the appearance of Oscar Wilde caused in this country some years ago. The preponderance of sickly greens and dirty pinks, the absence of distinct outlines and the attempted *deshabille* of the dresses of those days are often brought to