

was given, and the Military cadets executed it in their best style. The boys raised their caps in respect to the procession as it filed through the arch way and entered the building.

Every seat in the parquet, dress circle and gallery was quickly taken, and but little standing room was to be had. The exercises were opened with a prayer by Rev. L. Gregory, after which Lincoln's unexcelled Glee Club sang "Far Away," Miss Sophia Schwab as pianist. This quartette was rendered in the ablest manner and elicited loud applause. The Chancellor then announced as the first speaker

MISS ADA J. IRWIN,

of Lincoln. As she appeared upon the platform she was received with round applause by her many admirers. She was dressed in an elegant suit of black grenadine, trimmed with lace and ornamented with sprays of flowers and sprigs of green leaves. The subject of her essay was "Bubbles," and the originality and ingeniousness of its composition is a fair index of her mental powers. She described in choicest language the different bubbles that allure mankind, cautioned the too credulous public against the financial and social bubbles that now and then appear upon the surface and threaten the nation's prosperity. She alluded, with scathing sarcasm, to our large corporations as so many bubbles, which are liable to burst with a crash at any moment. The lady's witty thrust at the Democratic Congress brought down the house. Miss Irwin's delivery was exceptionally good. She spoke in a clear ringing tone, so that the most distant listener could hear with perfect ease. Her graceful position upon the stage also added much to her complete success. She retired amid a shower of bouquets. The Palladian Society remembered her with floral tributes and a handsome design.

The next speaker was

MR. C. S. LITTLE,

of Lewis, Iowa, and his subject "National Debts." The young gentleman is not ac-

customed to public speaking, but in this effort he met the expectations of his most sanguine friends. He had a clear understanding of his subject, and the ability with which he handled so important and difficult a question is deserving of much praise. He had thoroughly prepared himself upon all phases of the subject and logically reasoned from thoughtfully defined premises. He considered the question of the utmost importance to this country and thought that it needed the closest examination of every American statesman. Mr Little argued in favor of paying national debts as soon as possible; and claimed that they were one of the greatest causes of the increase of Communism and Socialism. He said: "The only way to prevent the increase of a public debt is to pay it;" and concluded in the following words: "If we continue in the way we have so wisely chosen," that is to pay our debts as soon as possible, "we shall soon wrest from England's unwilling grasp the commercial primacy of the world and take the place, to which our resources entitle us, of the richest nation on the globe." He received his full quota of designs and floral tributes. This oration was followed by a solo entitled, "Hast thou e'er seen the land," by Mrs. Mollie E. Raymond, which was rendered in her usual praiseworthy style.

MR. O. F. MORTON,

of Mainland, on "Utility and Progress" was next announced. Mr. Morton is known as one of the best writers in the University; but as a public speaker he has not had much experience. The STUDENT has often published his able productions, and as its Editor, he gained an enviable reputation. On this occasion Mr. Morton surprised every one by his quiet and deliberate manner of delivery. He never appeared to better advantage before a public audience than on this occasion. Mr. Morton argued for the useful and the practical. The present age, he characterised as one of confusion, and said that amid the confusion, speculation