

*Commencement.*

Nebraska University's Commencement '82 opened last Wednesday evening with the first anniversary of the College Young Men's Christian Association. This meeting was held in the Congregational church of the city. Although hastily gotten up and not well announced, the occasion was a very pleasant one. Rev. Louis Gregory, the principal speaker of the evening, made a strong and earnest plea for moral and religious influences in the college. An address before the Y. M. C. A. is an appropriate opening for commencement week, and, we are glad to learn, will be a regular part of our exercises in the future.

Thursday evening was devoted to the exhibition of the literary society of the agricultural college. The first venture of the granger boys hardly met with the success they had anticipated. Their productions bore evidence of earnest and enthusiastic study, but the similarity of subjects made the whole rather monotonous. Agriculture was the theme, and this single chord with few or no variations was sounded during the whole evening. Greater variety would doubtless be more pleasing to an audience, and if the farm boys desire to have as popular exhibitions as the other University societies they should have a varied programme. A popular programme is not necessarily a superficial one as many seem to think. That there is talent in the Agricultural society is generally conceded, and future exhibitions promise to be as successful as could be wished.

Although to introduce in a literary entertainment the questions which underlie the present University crisis was in bad taste, it nevertheless made the Palladian programme of Friday evening one of unusual vivacity. Aside from the subjects of one or two essays this eleventh annual exhibition outshines previous years.—In her essay on "Art as Art" Miss Clara Parks referred to Shakespeare, Michael Angelo and Longfellow to show how art made many compromises with nature, and thought that an artist's true genius is seen in his choice of natural subjects which he does not follow too closely but depicts in broad and rapid sketches.—Ralph Weston claimed for the "Intellectual Integrity of the Thinker," that it was necessary for progress, especially when colleges attempt to force students to accept predetermined theories. Thinkers are made to suffer, for society resents nothing more than unlikeness to itself. Darwin, who considered all questions investigable, almost changed the face of science and philosophy. Loyalty

to the truth is the bond that unites all thinkers, for it is the religion of their life.—John Dryden told why David Swing gave up his church and henceforth knew no theology but humanity, loving God not less but mankind more. He is now the champion of the free thought of such as Longfellow, Bryant and Whittier; he comes from the clouds of theology to teach kindly to the multitude; by making his mind national he has become the herald of a new faith, an American Christianity.—That Cromwell did more to overthrow the divine right of kings than Luther did to overthrow the power of the popes, was the question for debate, D. T. Smith maintaining that the popes were overthrown by the centering of power in kings. Cromwell broke chains, Luther only removed those already broken. D. L. Clark, on the other side, said that Luther founded a new religion by daring to condemn religious abuses, while Cromwell acted merely as the agent of a bad parliament.—Oscar Wilde was handled roughly by Miss Mary Campbell in an essay on "Modern Aestheticism." She called his poetry sheerest nonsense and himself the superficial apostle of the small in art. She thought we should study the expression of the infinite to arrive at true aestheticism.—R. L. Marsh took up the question of College vs. University, urging the "paternal" system of Yale against that of Harvard, modeled on the German idea. He also objected to the elective system in schools that are not true universities, and thought, also, that as our national character is controlled by Christian institutions so should be our college character.—Miss Cora Doolittle's recitation of "The Diver" closed the literary part of the programme. It was effectively rendered, but the translation sounds weak to those who had read the German original.—The Palladians had their usual good fortune in securing music, an instrumental duet by Misses Richardson and Gillette, a new song by the ever-obliging Apollo Club, a song by Mrs. A. W. Jansen, *La Stella*, and piano solos by Miss Potvin and Prof. Behan. Mrs. Jansen is a visitor to Lincoln who kindly consented to assist the programme. Miss Potvin plays with surprising ease and spirit, and her selections are always in good taste.

The audience which attended the Union exhibition Saturday evening was about the same as that of the evening before, and many and various were the comparisons made between the two performances. The boquets were perhaps a little more numerous at the Unions and they had the benefit of an invocation.—Miss Snell, in her essay on "Hawthorne" placed the "Marble Faun" as the best work of this natural, yet artistic author. If Hawthorne

had a fault it was that of leaving too much unfinished, permitting his readers to draw their own conclusions. A short review was given of each of his four great novels.—Mr. Pierce on "Darwin" declared that future generations would consider him the central figure of the 19th century. That his views lack universal acceptance detracts nothing; theories that have made men think have been most unpopular. True religion should not be afraid of truth. Darwin pursued in retirement his life of research and lived to see his work appreciated and accepted.—Mr. Botsford reviewed "Wordsworth" in a finished essay. In country he life formed a habit of reflection and a love of beauty, so that his imaginative mind exalted the humblest creatures. He led a revolution against false poetry and made a wide departure from worldly usage by relieving poetry from arbitrary rule.—Miss Frost's essay "Three Iconoclasts," brought in Luther, Cromwell and Rousseau, the preeminent reformers of the last four centuries. If Luther could have foreseen the result of his movement he would have recoiled in horror; recoiled from the execution of kings in the English and French revolutions and the excesses of the reign of terror; but the excellent republic of the French stands as a monument to Rousseau.—The "Evils versus the Benefits of the Feudal System" were debated by Messrs Holmes and Sullivan, the first showing how wars, executions and insecurity brutalized the peasants and destroyed letters and art; the latter claiming that it elevated woman from a slave to a companion, gave protection to the country, and instituted domestic life by means of the castles.—Miss Coddling delivered a peculiar oration on "Why?" and showed why that little monosyllable has been the spur of so many wonderful discoveries and achievements. When men began to ask questions the time of revival came, and this word, though so small, has opened up facts and principles of life and driven away doubt.—The audience was hushed and most sharply attentive while Miss Nellie Lett recited "The Fall of the Pemberton Mill." Her voice was pathetic and in full keeping with the tragedy she related.—The music of the evening was a piano duet by Misses Edith Doolittle and Cora Fisher, a very sweet song by Miss Eva Miller, an Apollo Club quartette and piano solos by Misses Ware and Potvin.

Sunday evening the old Opera House contained the large crowd which always comes together when Chancellor Fairfield speaks. His Baccalaureate sermon was on this occasion devoted to the University and the necessity of maintaining it on a Christian basis, the Chancellor arguing that education could not, or should not,