

and characters already proved, but these comic characters were Shakespeare's own creation. His variety of imagination has given him his superhuman excellence. His genius has painted alike truly, the gentle and the simple—made of them one united whole, an entire world. The recitation of Absalom by Miss Alice Tuttle came next. This was effectively rendered and commanded in the audience profound silence and attention. That Miss Tuttle possesses a clear conception of the sad circumstances giving rise to this poem was clearly evinced in her tender, pathetic quality of voice. "That the best interests of the Country demand Free Trade" was the subject for debate. Mr. J. H. Mockett Jr. maintained that Free Trade is not trade wholly unrestrained by the laws of countries, but that it imposes taxes on goods of home manufacture the same as on imported goods; that tariff raises the price of those articles upon which it is imposed. This is its object and it cannot make them cheaper. Mr. C. T. Brown, in his speech on the negative, said that if all nations were equally advanced in wealth and civilization, if they could start on a basis of absolute equality in all their developments, if universal benevolence could take the place of universal selfishness and nations could live together in peace, Free Trade would follow as naturally as commercial intercourse. But it will be the effect rather than the cause of such a state. While the main object of taxes on imported goods is to furnish a revenue, yet, in levying them, care should be taken to foster, build and protect such manufactures and occupations as are best suited to our climate and people, with the view of securing to her citizens fair wages for a day's labor, for our farmers a home market, and to our country strength, wealth and independence. Miss Anna Saunders eulogized Longfellow. Miss Saunders believes that the realistic school in modern fiction is suicidal in its tendency. In accepting it we are precipitated from Shelley's height of "awful loveliness" to a depth of awful ugliness. Literature should be something that lifts up to a higher plane; something that gives us noble impulses. Such poems as Longfellow's "Psalm of Life" have saved men from suicide. Mr. Longfellow mastered all the languages of Northern Europe. As a translator he is unsurpassed if not unequalled. He was a good man; a Christian faith breathes through all his writings. He was an American—preeminently an American. His writings have laid the foundation for a genuine American Literature; they hold the balance even between the "realistic" and "romantic." He swept every string of truth, beauty and tenderness; he keenly comprehends the hopes and fears common to humanity and glorifies them by the touch of genius. Let us rejoice that America has given to the world this masterpiece of scholarship, combined with simplicity of diction, the best loved poet of the nineteenth century. The programme closed with an oration by Clement Chase, on "John Howard Payne," preceded very appropriately by a piano duet, "Home, Sweet Home," with variations, by Misses Cora Fisher and Edith Doolittle, in which the full expression of Payne's masterpiece was exquisitely and sympathetically produced. Mr. Chase introduced his subject by referring to the poet-actor, and then proceeded to give a sketch of his melancholy and lonely life, with a history of the famous song, of his residence in Tunis, his death and the late return to his native land. The reason why the simple

"Home, Sweet Home," has found so warm a place in the hearts of all humanity, were enumerated, and the oration closed with a beautiful tribute to home and mother, which we would like to give but lack of space prevents.

The music of the Palladian exhibition, which was wholly society talent, consisted of a grand "Overture to Ruy Blas," by Miss Mamie Hitchcock, Mr. Frank Wheeler, Mr. Geo. Hitchcock, and Miss Anna Hawkins; Song, "Departed Days," by Dan. Wheeler Jr.; Vocal Solo, "A te o cara," by Miss Mary Leonard and an Instrumental duet, "Home, Sweet Home," by Misses Cora Fisher and Edith Doolittle. Lack of space prevents mention of each piece severally, but speaking of the music as a whole, it was excellent and we rejoice in the fact the more it having been the effort of home talent.

#### GRADUATING EXERCISES.

This morning at 8:30 sharp, the regents, faculty cadets and students generally, formed the procession on the campus. Headed by the cadet band and commanded by Lieut. Townley the column marched two by two to the opera house where the parquet was as usual reserved for the students. This year for variety some attention had been paid to the decoration of the opera house. Pictures had been brought down from the society halls and the columns were draped with many colored tarletan. Where the old proscenium fly had always greeted the eyes of the audience the enterprising class of '83, had placed their motto "*Molem mens movet*" in letters of gold on black background. After the invocation the crowded house listened to the orations of the graduates.

Miss Chapman in speaking of the possibilities and probabilities of American Literature, said that literary work in America had received little attention before the beginning of the present half century, but the advancement which has been made in late years proves that it is not improbable that Americans may become distinguished through their authors. Since the literature of English speaking people is not complete, why may not others speak with loftier inspiration than even a Shakespeare or Milton? America has great advantages which no other nation ever possessed, and is better fitted to produce men who will imitate that which has been done. That Americans are not wanting in genius and industry is proved by the enormous increase of patents in Washington. The great and only critic today is the reading public; and public taste has triumphed over old time standards. The people have asked for natural truth and thought apart from artificiality, and they are bound to have it. The literary work of America has been largely imitative and, though becoming more characteristic, the influence of English writers is still strongly felt. The peculiar views of Burns and Shelly found a ready welcome in republican America. Their love of humanity and generosity were strong appeals to American hearts. Our Literature, the strongest band of society, the powerful support of a representative system, which says, the public shall be enlightened. Whatever may befall other institutions, our Literature will always remain an object of common interest, said Herbert Spencer, "Americans may reasonably look forward to a time when they will have