

## MISCELLANY.

## COMMENCEMENT WEEK.

## PHILODICEAN EXHIBITION.

Owing to some previous arrangements the Opera House could not be had either Thursday or Friday evening, and so the Philodicean exhibition was given Wednesday evening, June 9th. An excellent literary program had been prepared and, inspired by the sight of a good audience, the members of the class did themselves and their society ample justice.

The following is a short resume of the evening's entertainment.

A piano duet by Misses Cochran and Stetson of the musical department was followed by an essay by Miss Laura Roberts on

## INTOLERANCE

She stated that there was an inherent desire in every body to worship something tangible or intangible, and that there never has been a race of people without some kind of religion. In primitive times this religion was without form, but as nations grew it spread and formed codes and rituals. As each religion increased it became jealous of the others and the spirit of intolerance grew. She gave illustrations from Greek and Roman history and especially cited the Inquisition where the idea of intolerance took visible form. She showed the glaring evils of the Inquisition and how it affected trade, and hindered education, and spoke of the bigotry of the church till the Reformation, then of how Catholics preyed on Protestants and Protestants on Catholics, of how intolerance spread to all soils and all countries, even America. She then spoke of toleration and its happy effect, especially in Russia and England. She claimed that all governments, laws, languages and religions pass through three stages, viz: growth, increase and decay. Intolerance has passed through them and the last period was ushered in with the nineteenth century. She claimed that while these persecutions were bad their effect has been good; that religion like gold, has to go through through the refiner's fire, and that after each persecution it has come out with a purer conception of the Deity.

A vocal solo, "Come where the Lindens Bloom," was rendered by Mr. Eddy in his usual agreeable manner.

The first oration of the evening, "A plea for Science," was given by Mr. Fulmer. Mr. Fulmer rather surpassed his previous efforts and is an earnest speaker.

## A PLEA FOR SCIENCE.

A few miles from Glasgow there is a spot where if a bar of music be played upon the bugle its notes will be repeated by an echo, but a third lower; after a short pause another echo is heard still in a lower tone; then after another pause a third repetition follows still in a lower key.

Scarcely three generations ago, the faint murmurs of true science were heard as echoes from the ideas of an alchemistic philosophy. A few years more, and in an order the reverse of the echoes from the Scottish hills, these murmurs were intensified. As the years passed by, this sound increased in strength and pitch until the world was compelled to listen to it.

The development of science was very slow until the eighteenth century. Its beginnings were found in the philosophy of the ancient alchemists and false theorists. When its foundations were laid, it began a very rapid development and has continued it to the present time. It now stands upon a firm basis after having passed through severe struggles; but its efforts are still hampered by lack of means and encouragement,

and the suspicions and jealousies of the people. It cannot do its work in an open manner as scientific work for this reason. The danger arising from such a state lies in the tendency towards superficiality and intellectual fraudulence. The opportunities science presents for this, are improved by unscrupulous men. People are imposed upon by them, and then science is denounced. The people are at fault in this matter. Proper means should be provided for the pursuit of scientific work. Methods and means are necessary. Science will provide methods. Let the state provide means. Do away with personal jealousies. Support and encourage science in every possible manner and thus inspire men to a more thorough study of it. In view of what science has done, and is doing, it deserves a better lot than it now enjoys. It is destined to be an important factor in the future history of our nation. Its entire work has been for the upbuilding of mankind and of government; its universal tendency is for good, and it should receive more faith, support and encouragement.

The flute solo which followed was a treat to the audience, except that it was too long, intruding upon time allotted to other parts of the entertainment.

"Shall our National Banking System be Abolished?" was the question for discussion by Mr. Wheeler and Miss Fisher. The debate was good; and Miss Fisher, especially, spoke well in favor of the banking system.

## SHALL OUR NATIONAL BANKING SYSTEM BE ABOLISHED?

Mr. Wheeler took up the affirmative and said

The word "national" in connection with our banks deceives many. From it we are apt to infer that they are agents of the government and are owned and controlled by the government of the United States. They are not, however, but are private monopolies. The principle upon which the system is founded is dangerous to the stability of business and steadiness of values. It is a stimulus to speculation and inflation at one time and contributes to the paralysis of business at another. During a time of prosperity they flood the country with currency, but when a business collapse comes they invariably take up their circulation, thus making the reaction more disastrous. It is a dangerous political power, and the unity of its interests threatens the corruption and control of the machinery of political parties. There is not a dollar, today, on which the people have not paid a tax for the privilege of having it put into circulation. The bond holder has become the banker of the country and he is banking on the interest bearing debt of the people. The system is founded upon the national debt, and a perpetual debt is necessary to make our banking system permanent. If the banks are a blessing then our public debt is a blessing, for the debt supports the banks. The national bank is the middle-man between the government and the people, and is enormously paid for doing what the government ought to do.

The best substitute for our present system is the English Bank. It has been a successful agent for the enormous financial transactions of England for 170 years and England has not suffered as many business prostrations in that period as we have in the twenty-three years existence of ours. In England the issuance of notes is in the hands of the government, and is administered for the good of all her people. Our government has always favored monopolies, as shown in the large grants of land to railroads. The financial policy of our government should be framed permanently in the interests of the people. The greatest step towards this would be to take our banking system out of the hands of monopolists. Then we would return to the principles upon which the government was founded and have once more a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.