

only for specific purposes, and education is without its province.

Both speakers felt what they said. The delivery of both, though somewhat rapid, was sufficiently loud and distinct.

Following the debate was a piano quartette, "Polacca," by Misses Edith Doolittle and Minnie Cochran and Mesdames Raymond and Hartley. Too much praise cannot well be given both for the selection and the rendition of this piece. All the ladies are accomplished players and the Palladians should consider themselves fortunate in securing their services.

An essay, "Virgilia," was then read by Miss Harris. Miss Harris was evidently under some embarrassment which rendered her reading unsatisfactory, but her article was deserving of high praise for its literary worth.

VIRGILIA.

Shakespeare was able through the power of sympathy to present many a type which he had never seen. Virgilia is a most striking example of this virtue in Shakespeare. The court of this time was filled with women of the Cleopatra stamp. She is a silent, effectual force in the life of Coriolanus—an imperial autocrat. Her character is understood principally by realizing her relations to, and influence over, Coriolanus, and the strong contrasts of Valeria and Voluminia. Her character is inferred not affirmed, and, after all, this is the most trustworthy manner of expression. Hamlet soliloquized a great deal, yet essayists are not over confident of his character. Virgilia's part contains scarcely twenty-three lines but the student of Shakespeare feels the dynamic force of her character through the exercise of that same quality which forms so important an element in the cast of Shakespeare.

Mr. C. S. Lobingier, the orator of the evening, spoke on
THE BATTLE OF TOURS.

The recent events of the Soudan have riveted the gaze of the civilized world. In the track of the Madhi's army lie despair and destruction. At the battle of Tours, eleven centuries ago, a fate was averted from Europe similar to that which awaits now the land of the Nile. In that battle the Saracen race with its brilliant past and the Teuton with its grand future met in mortal combat. The time was a critical one for Europe. Only the germs of modern civilization were in existence and the ruthless hand of the Arab might have crushed them with ease. A Saracen Europe at that time also would have prepared the way for a Saracen America. The conquest of the Teutonic race by the Arab meant change in the entire course of human history. The Saracen race was not without its virtues but these were over balanced by the religious faith which they had embraced. In the Middle Ages, it is true, they reached a high state of civilization, but their system was an ephemeral one and its subsequent rapid decay proved its instability. The civilization which the Arabs would have brought into Europe was not the hardy oak which afterwards flourished there, but a system freighted with the germs of decay and bearing the means of its own destruction. Syria and North Africa today, sunk in the depths of ignorance and sensuality, offer a constant reminder of our own happy deliverance. On the whole the battle of Tours affords important lessons. It teaches us how slight are the causes that shape the destinies of the world, how much we are indebted to those who lived centuries ago, and how impossible it is to understand the Present without a knowledge of the Past. The battle of Tours was no slight encounter of Saracens and Franks; it was a decisive conflict between two civilizations. It was Aryan progress against Semitic stagnation. It was Christianity, as it then existed, as opposed to Islam. It was a struggle not for a single nation, but for humanity—not for an age alone, but for an eternity.

Mr. Lobingier has an excellent delivery and evidently has much natural talent in the oratorical line. He writes a bold but easy and graceful style and is possessed of a more than ordinarily strong voice.

Mrs. Adolphe Weber then sang a soprano solo "Bird Song," which was executed in her usual happy and skillful manner. She responded to an encore with a selection which, if not more difficult, was even more pleasing to many.

The recitation of the evening was given by Miss Grace Pershing. The selection, "The Hero of St Michael's," was rendered in a manner which fully satisfied the expectations and hopes of friends. Miss Pershing is new to Lincoln audiences but it is to be hoped she will not remain long a stranger.

The program closed with a song by a male quartette, Messrs. Jones, Camp, Churchill and Harmer. These gentlemen are well known to Lincoln musicians and their singing elicited the heartiest applause.

COMMENCEMENT ORATIONS.

An invocation was offered by the Rev. A. F. Sherrill, pastor of the Congregational church at Omaha.

The first speaker was George Bell Frankforter, an extract of whose oration is here given.

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE.

The present age is characterized by the earnest demands for practical and useful applications. The first tendency, however, toward the practical and useful began centuries ago and gradually developed, each century bringing something which helped to span the difficulties and lessen the weariness of human life.

In order to understand the process of this development it is only necessary to compare the several branches of industry at the present time with those of the past. Before the time of Watt and Stephenson transportation between Liverpool and Manchester could be carried on by a half dozen pack mules. Now it exceeds a million tons annually. Railroads, then unknown, now bind state to state and nation to nation with bands of steel. In fact, there is no end to the varied forms of industrial art to which the energies of steam have been applied. While it has snatched the oars from the sluggish barge and torn the white sails from the kissing breeze it has filled the seas with quicker and surer messengers of trade, whose speed no current can arrest and scarce wind and tide delay. So it is in manufacturing, its whole nature being changed by inventions which accomplish the work of the weary horse and far more weary man.

Immense as appear the present applications of every branch of scientific research yet still greater achievements are waiting to be accomplished in the future. Scarce a decade has elapsed since the destruction of our forests and the draining of our coal fields filled with consternation the minds of the heavy consumers. A substitute was sought for and found in natural gas. By this discovery 500,000 tons of coal are saved daily in the city of Pittsburg alone. Although this fact is impressive it is made even more so when we consider that probably one hundred and fifty years at the present rate will consume our forests and drain our coal fields.

Such are the questions which stare the nation in the face; such the demands for the practical and useful, and such the problems to be solved in the immediate future. Is it not time then that the people were awakened from the sleep of centuries and made to hear the summons of this spirit which in the future will rule the world. The past has sown what we are reaping and we must sow, else the future will cease to reap. Fold our hands and disaster will surely follow but apply what