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LOCAL AFFAIRS.

TRENTON ACADEMY.

The annual commencement of the Trenton Academy took place yesterday morning. A large audience of ladies and gentlemen had assembled in the school to witness the interesting exercises which had been arranged for the occasion.

A choir of thirty or forty boys opened the exercises, by singing in fine musical style, the opening song, commencing—

"From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise,
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue."

The speaking exercises by the boys then followed.

- G. Allen Anderson—"Spirits of the age averse to War."
William B. Bodne—"Hour of Destiny."
Anderson L. Beatty—"Freedom and Patriotism."
Richard McC. Cadwallader—"Visions of Joan of Arc and Robert of Beausemiers."
Charles N. Carter—"Northern Laborers."
William K. Wilmer—"French, Napoleon."
Singing—"A call to Kansas."
Edward W. Evans—"Visions of 1849."
Otis Fisher—"The Student."
Charles F. Oliver—"Hope for Italy."
Charles E. Green—"Pursuit and Spartan Heroism."
William Green—"How to gain an honored name."
William H. Hughes—"Nobility of Labor."
William E. Hoy—"Justice to Frontier Men."
Singing—"In the Rocky Light."
Edwin R. Hutchinson—"The Human Mind"—Original.
George T. Jughan—"Missionary Objects."
Joseph C. P. Lloyd—"Injustice the cause of National Ruin."
Ray D. L. McIntosh—"Enmity towards Great Britain."
William H. McPherson—"The Militia General and Forces."
Ios. Hantoni Pedicaris—"Utility of Beauty."
Joseph F. Rand, Jr.—"Futility of Efforts to stay Reform."
Singing—"Boat Song."
Peter V. Schneck—"Spirit of Association"—Original.
J. Fletcher Street—"Future Age of Literature."
Edwin C. Vanclive—"Washington and Napoleon"—Original.
William K. Wilmer—"Sorrow for the Dead."
Charles N. Carter, }
William L. Dayton, Jr. } Dialogue, French.
Charles E. Green, }

We shall not set ourselves up as critics, although we attempted in private notes to distinguish between those who did well and those who excelled.

The speaking, taken all together, was much better than last year. One point seems to have been attained to a great degree,—the natural use of voice and gesture. There was much less "raining" than last year, and an excellent judgment seems to have dictated the selections. There was a marked appropriateness in the sentiment of the speakers. It was more lofty, less grovelling and tragic, than the displays usual upon such occasions.

Every person present was forcibly struck with the evidences of genius, and its variety, as each speaker mounted the rostrum and proceeded to "emit the word to the action and the action to the word." There were twenty-five separate orations and a dialogue, and the audience during the whole time evinced the greatest delight, and approved the efforts sometimes with prolonged applause.

We felt proud of the young men, and proud of the institution, and had we the riches of some men (with our present good intentions) we should endow the institution with whatever more it might need to put it a notch even higher than it is.

After the speaking by the young men, Mr. Edward W. Scudder pronounced a very appropriate address.

He commenced by a touching allusion to the time when he occupied a place in the Academy as a pupil. Spoke of the changes in the buildings, in the Faculty, and then touchingly alluded to the companions of former times.

This pleasant allusion to the early days of the Trenton Academy was concluded in the language of Cowper:

"Be it weakness, it deserves some praise,
We love the play-place of our early days;
The scene is touching, and th' heart is stone
That looks not at the sight, and feels at none.
The way on which we tread our graving skill,
The very name we carv'd subsisting still;
The bench on which we sat while deep employ'd,
Too mangled, lacerated, and be-w'd, not yet destroy'd;
The little ones, unbottom'd glowing hot,
Playing our games, and on the very spot;
As happy as we once, to kneel and draw,
The chalky egg, and the knuckle-down at law,
To pitch the ball into the grounded hat,
Or drive it devious with a six-trove pat;
The passing spectacle at once excites
Such recollection of our own delights,
That, viewing it, we seem almost to obtain
Our innocent, sweet years again.
This fond attachment to the well-known place,
Where first we started into life's long race,
Maintains its hold with such unfeeling sway,
We feel it even in age, and at our latest day."

Mr. Scudder then spoke of the importance of education—of the development of the human soul—as the most ennobling employment that could engage the mind.

He gave some lessons of experience to the youth, which he had picked up in life. Education was preparation for life—for its active and string duties—for its cares and vicissitudes.

He urged upon the youth not to be too eager to be called men. Care must be taken to have a good foundation. One false step in the beginning may involve you in ruin. In your preparations collect from books the experience of wise men—study their history. But more than all, study yourselves—"know thyself."

He pointed out the difficulties which we constantly meet with owing to a neglect of

this important point—a thorough preparation, a knowledge of ourselves. We are constantly meeting with great minds and great bodies wasting their time and strength upon trifles—great little men and little great men.

He urged them to follow nature—to rely upon themselves. Self-reliance was one of the most important qualities in a young man. If we are induced to rely on influential friends or wealth, we are not so apt to succeed. It has been the secret of success in many of the great men of the world.

Make yourselves a character, was another point which the speaker urged with much force. Always do right no matter what the consequences. Aim to be honest, though thereby you may be impoverished. [A beautiful sentiment which deserves to be placed in letters of gold on the City Hall.]

Mr. Scudder concluded by an allusion to the choice of Hercules, and urged the youth to emulate him.

The address was highly applauded.

The award of prizes for composition had been assigned to James Wilson, Esq. Mr. Wilson said the compositions had been submitted to him without any knowledge of the authors. He had examined them carefully and with much pleasure. In all of them he saw much to commend.

They reflected great credit upon pupils and teachers. Before distributing the prizes he particularly commended the boys for the neatness of their composition books, their correct spelling, and their good writing.

Mr. W. said that the compositions had been divided into five classes—A, B, C, D and E. There was but one award to each class, which were distributed as follows:

- Class A, To Edwin R. Hutchinson.
" B, " Wm. R. Wilmer.
" C, " Wm. H. Higbee.
" D, " Peter V. Schneck.
" E, " Samuel S. Stryker.

Each of the above persons were rewarded by the present of a book.

In regard to other compositions, Mr. Wilson pronounced a very high commendation on the compositions by Wm. S. Stryker, and Ion Haaford Pedicaris, which he said contained evidences of genius, of a high order—a proper conception of the beauties of nature and art; excellent power of description, &c.

To all who had written compositions, he spoke in terms of commendation. Many of the pieces would have done honor to riper years. It was not because they were entitled to merit that they had not been rewarded, but because the rewards were confined to five persons or classes. He encouraged them to perseverance, assuring them that they had laid a good foundation.

As each boy received his prize, his companions applauded.

The Validictory address was pronounced in Latin by William L. Dayton Jr., and did honor to the youth.

A song by the Choir was announced by Mr. Cole, but previous to singing, he referred to the pleasures with which teachers and pupils were about to separate,—and also alluded touchingly to the sad accident by which, Mr. Richardson, the principal of the Freehold Seminary, had lost his sight.

The song was then sung,
"When shall we meet Again,"
and the interesting ceremonies closed.

Pensington Correspondence.

JULY 18th, 1855.

DEAR FRANK: I promised yesterday to keep you posted up as to the remainder of the Commencement services.

This morning the Aonatal Address was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Tunison, one of the Trenton boys, which, however, I did not hear, but it is represented to me as an able appeal on the acquirement of mental and physical culture.

In the afternoon the young men had their display of oratory and eloquence, as per programme.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

- MUSIC.
Prayer.
MUSIC.
Latin Salutatory—J. A. Lippencott—Vincentown.
English Salutatory—G. P. Jaquet—Salem.
MUSIC.
Memory—W. Antrem—Pemberton.
Mortality—W. W. Wheaton—Mays Landing.
MUSIC.
Sauer Kraut, (German)—J. W. Young—New Brunswick.
Self-Government—W. H. Sutton—Philadelphia.
MUSIC.
"Knowledge is Power?"—T. M. Moore—Odessa, Del.
Spirit of Progress—J. W. Edwards—Barnegat.
MUSIC.
Triumphs of Liberty—Charles DeCamp—Cookestown.
Youthful Aspirations—A. S. McGuire—Goshen.
MUSIC.
Ambition—W. H. Wardell—Eatontown.
Les Avantages d'Education—W. S. Fort—Gloucester City.
MUSIC.
The Bible—J. M. Buckley—Mt. Holly.
Webster—P. T. Coombes—Philadelphia.
MUSIC.
* Honorary Oration, The Fate of Genius—A. H. Slape—Salem.
MUSIC.
* Spirit and Policy of America, Valedictory—C. S. Stockton—Mt. Holly.
MUSIC.
BENEDICTION.
* Equal in rank.

The music presented a new feature in this part of the exercises. The old idea of a base-

drum and brass horn accompaniment, was done away with and instead of head aching and ear splitting noise, we had sweet quartettes, duets and solos by the students of both sexes, with piano and melodeon accompaniment. This I think a great improvement especially as the Church is quite small. There was as usual a great crowd and the heat intense, and I felt that the reporter's situation was not at all an enviable one, as I perspired as much in making out this sketch for you, as I did this morning at work in the hay field.

Intense as was the heat and listless as one would naturally become, yet all my energies, feelings and tastes were aroused by the dish of Sauer Kraut served up by Mr. Young, as per programme; and although I can't talk dutch, yet I fully understood his address, especially the sauer kraut and spicy dutchman parts, but after all sauer kraut swallowed up all. I was much amused with a part of the Latin Salutatory, in which the speaker gave us to understand that from the mutability of all things, Know Nothingism was fast dying out, and that whiggery and democracy, must of necessity soon follow. Well the boy was nearly right; the first are fast going, the second have gone, but Democracy, the old fashioned Jefferson and Jackson democracy is increasing and gaining all the best particles of both the former, while the baser parts are sinking into oblivion.

There was a great deal of hail Columbia in several of the speeches, as all young men are more or less filled with patriotism. Taken as a whole, the compositions reflected great credit on the young men, and were at least equal to any former graduating class.

But I must be indulged in giving the palm to the young ladies, not from mere gallantry, but from their real merit.

Thus has closed another academical year of this excellent and constantly improving Institution, which has thus far met with constantly increasing success. As an institution it is second to none in the country of its kind, either in location, or the talent of its Faculty.

Yours, &c.,

HOPWELL.