The Press and Banner.

By Hugh Wilson.

Wednesday, July 6, 1883.

The Florence Times.

Our friend Prince, of the *Florence Times* publishes a splendid paper, and his success has warranted him in enlarging his paper to an eight page paper, which is filled with excellent editorial and local matter. Mr. Prince is a worthy gentleman, and deserves the great success which has crowned his honest merit. No man in South Carolina is glad to note the advancement of a printer boy than ourselves. We are proud of Prince's success.

What the Railroad Commission Has Done.

[News and Courier.]

The first step in the work of the South Carolina Railroad Commission has at last come to end, and the result is given to the public in the Standard schedule of passenger and freight rates, and other regulations which are printed to-day. The numerous exceptions and modifications which will be found appended to the schedule, are not published at this time, as they do not differ materially from the schedule given in general terms. The schedule has been sent to each Railroad Company doing business in the State, accompanied by the following Circular:

CIRCULAR.

"In accordance with the requirements of the General Railroad Act, this Commission has prepared for the railroads of this State rules and regulations and a standard schedule of rates and classifications which will be found enclosed with this. This standard schedule will be varied in proper cases and special tariffs in the section, condition and business of any road that may appear to the Commission to be necessary, especially by allowing the railroads entitled thereto a definite percentage of variation from the rate of the standard schedule. In order that the Commission may be in possession of full information as to the cases in which special adjustments should be made as to the percentage of variation to be allowed in each case, this Commission invites and requests such facts and observations as your company may desire to furnish with a view to the equitable adjustment of rates. Such communications should be placed with the secretary of the Commission not later than the 20th instant.

The classification of freight in Class A is substantially the same as that of the Southern Railway and Steamship Association, and most, if not all, of our railroads, some changes of a reduction in rates have been made, but, in general, the business of a year of that classification can ascertain the saving on any class of goods by applying the difference in the tariff, which is printed elsewhere in to-day's paper.

It is difficult to compare the tariff with that of the railroads generally. They vary more, and few show even the average rate, where different classes of freight then a heavier or lighter charge according to the circumstances of the line and many local differences. But it will be found that the average rate of freight by this standard tariff is much lower than those now in accordance by local authority.

It is almost as difficult to compare it with the tariff of the Georgia Railroad Commission. There are differences in the classification created by the differing industrial interests of the States and the extent to which they need the protection of local rates. The adoption of a common system of classification of freight, so far, over a little higher in this tariff than in that of Georgia. On cotton and some other heavy kinds of freight our rates are lower than those of Georgia, and the reduction on cotton, where they are lower, our roads are disposed in condition to haul freight as cheap as those of Georgia, for they are shorter routes and with cotton and heavy freight a greater tonnage. For these reasons the average rates are, as we have said, somewhat higher, but the rates on freight that are lower than those of Georgia, and the tariff is adapted closely to the rates established in Georgia.

This tariff is not, of course, final. The railroads will make their criticisms, and the Commission, after a time, may be some changes. They probably will be advantage made to the weaker lines, but we are satisfied that this standard tariff is in effect to be much enjoyed. The Commission have taken a long time to do the work, because they meant to do it thoroughly, and having so done it, it is not their purpose to change it except in the light of experience. The Commission are now ready to hear the railroads, and this will be a great boon to the public, and will, it is hoped, soon prove to be one of the reforms likely to last. Increased travel is sure to show the reduction. The rate on the same as those established in Georgia and are thought to be justified by the experience. It is even said that experiment on roads as pleased with the experiment of low passenger rates that they contemplate extending their rates to two and a half cents a mile. This is less than the Commissioner's figure. Of course roads can change, if they like, lower rates for passengers and freights than those, which are maximum rates only. The only limitation is that they are not discriminate against any person or locality in so doing.

The rules outlined by the Commission have, we are sure, been framed with an earnest and patriotic desire to be fair alike to the Railroads and to the public. Time will be the only proof and sufficient test of the degree in which they are just and wise.

Infant Mortality.

[Augusta Chronicle.]

The *New York Herald* quoting editorially from *Science*, in its last issue, states on the authority of a Philadelphia physician that bad milk prevails by what is known to chemists as Scheiff's process possesses certain qualities which make it exceptionally useful for sick infants. The process consists in simply putting new milk without any addition into glass bottles, stoppering and then heating by steam for one or two hours in temperature from 212 to 218 degrees, under a pressure of from five to four atmospheres. The *London Chemical News*, in announcing last year Martiny's examination of the milk thus treated, said: "The milk is thus not merely rendered capable of preservation, but the casein is peptonized, so that in contrast with fresh cow's juice it is converted into fine, easily divisible and digestible flocks, as is the milk of a nursing mother or animal. Another excellence of Scheiff's milk is that the virus of foot-and-mouth disease and tuberculosis, with all germs, infectious by the feeding.

Any decoction to furnish the consumption a food that will nourishes an infant's stomach, in the heated term of the year, is necessarily a life preserver, for thousands of babies die annually from the effects of cow's milk and the impurity of the milk. Parents should try this recipe, and so render harmless what is normally a fruitful source of mortality. We are satisfied that many a little cherub could have been saved by this precaution, and that many a cow will die this summer because of its neglect. It may be better for the baby to pass away, in its infancy, than some good mothers will ever believe that fully. Wherefore, in order to add one thing to the stock of saving information on such a subject, the *Chronicle* consider it only right to give what *Herald* has so prominently recommend from the best medical authorities. Ignorance has been the cause of myriads of infants dying in summer complaint. We can all do saving the lives of many children by furnishing a little timely knowledge.

C. C. G. & C. Railroad.

[Rough Ready Monitor.]

The projectors of the Carolina, Cumberland Gap and Chicago Railroad appear to be all in a row, as regard the practicability of the road will take, while the friends of the enterprise are beginning to doubt that the road will ever take any route, or even exist at all, beyond the imaginary and romantic land of Utopia, which no longer cheers, but which serves to remind them many of hopes deferred and promises broken. One proposed change in the route is to go direct from Cecil's Mill to Mount Augusta, giving Aiken the go by. Many changes are proposed between Edgefield and Greenville. These changes are suggested perhaps with a view of building, as it were, the towns and communities along the old route into more liberal subscriptions, but whether or not it will have the desired effect remains to be seen. Meantime the people are becoming disheartened and almost disgusted. The fact is, if the road is ever built the people along the line will have to move in the matter and at least complete the grading. Capitalists do not invest in railroads that exist only on paper. Poor people must build the road and then the money king will step in and sope it up. This is the way it has been heretofore and this is the way it will ever be. There was much talk not long ago about calling English capital in this great enterprise, but English capital evidently does not "enlist" to any extent. The people along the line must do as Edgefield Court House does—one between that and Aiken—and Aiken must do the same. Turn it over to the company. When they do this they will get the road, but until they do we fear disappointment and not the locomotive's whistle awaks them.

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[Edgefield Monitor.]

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The New Railroad Commissioner.

[Aiken Recorder.]

His Excellency Gov. Hugh S. Thompson has appointed Col. D. P. Duncan of Union, to the vacancy on the Railroad Commission, caused by the death of the industrious and indefatigable Capt. Alexander Haskell. Among the *appointment* &c., arises around the political after, and the long list of disappointed applicants retire with rueful faces to pack their trunks and wait for the next appearance of issues. We wish we could join with those who chaunt the chorus of approval, but as our vision is too limited to read the notes of the music, we can only hope for a pleasant tune, and what we can learn Col. D. P. Duncan, has had some experience as a railroad man, and some as an agricultural, and by virtue of his position as President of the Agricultural and Mechanical Society is an ex-officio member of the Board of Agriculture. These doubtless may be regarded by some as special recommendations for the responsible position of Railroad Commissioner; but for ourselves we do not hesitate to say, that the recent action of the Agricultural Board, whereby the State was throttled, hurled backwards in her triumphal career of progress, and forbidden to display her wonderful mineral, manufacturing and agricultural resources at the mammoth Industrial Exposition of 1883, stamps the actors in this suicidal programme, as men not sufficiently imbued with an enlightened appreciation of the exigencies of the age, and grand industrial race, which the civilized peoples of the earth are now utilizing all their powers and energies to run with credit to themselves and their posterity.

The Cool Snap.

Augusta Chronicle and Constitutionalist.

The wearing of overcoats in the Northwest, this week, and the mountain temperature experienced in the Savannah River Valley furnish the *New York Herald* with an excellent theme for one of its celebrated meteorological articles. It makes comparisons between this year and other years as follows: "On June 29, 1874, a minimum temperature of 41 was reported in the Upper Lake Region; there was a similar reading June 29, 1877, and as late as June 27 and 28, 1876. Even in July, 1880, a slightly lower temperature was recorded in this section, and once in August of the same year 39 degrees."

These cool waves it calls anticyclones and quotes from Mr. Ley, an English weather observer, that "brilliant weather accompanies the anti-cyclonic circulations, the dry atmosphere permitting the sun's rays to exercise their full heating power on the stratum of air near the earth's surface." No special disease to crops is appended.

The mountain and seaside resorts are consoled with the statement that this cool wave is probably the last of the series before September, but the people who cannot go to the Highlands or to the ocean trust that there will be several returns of the anti-cyclonic visitation. The chances are that after the passage of the cool wave there will come torrid seasons of heat, when the mosquito is jubilant, the shirt collar a disagreeable adjunct, and the refrigerator a necessity. Well, let us we belong to the Can't-Get-Away Club prepare to grin and bear it.

It is reported that the Fork Shoals Cotton Factory would suspend operations this week. The suspension will probably be temporary and entirely voluntary, and its cause is probably the present low and unremunerative prices of cotton goods.

Due West Commencements

The Colleges Reach the Highest Degree of Excellence.

THE ATHENS OF ABBEVILLE IN ALL ITS SPLENDOR.

Intellectual Scintillations — Beautiful Expressions—Oratorical Powers — Female Beauty.

MAN'S ACQUIREMENTS — WOMAN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Long and Most Interesting Programme of Beautiful Exercises.

THE COLLEGES PREPARING TO CLOSE.

Owing to the fact that we were unable to attend the exercises preliminary to the Commencements we take the liberty of adopting the following accounts of the same as our own, though taken from the *Associate Reformed Presbyterian* and the *Erskine Student*, according to announcement, the exercises incident to the close of the term, began in both of the colleges here, on the 19th inst. The first and most important of these exercises are the

Examinations.

The patrons and friends of the colleges are always sufficiently interested in these, and with good reason. Examinations, when faithfully conducted, are the most trustworthy criteria by which to judge of the work done by a school. Examinations, when faithfully conducted, are the most trustworthy criteria by which to judge of the work done by a school. In the opinion of disinterested and competent observers, the examinations in both of the institutions here are examinations of a high order. They have, for years, been as rigid as they can well be made.

In Erskine College, the drill, this time, has, from the Freshmen to the Seniors, been thorough and searching. The attendance of the young men have been fairly disciplined and the standing of each laid bare. The process is not quite completed, at the time we write, but from general report we feel safe in anticipating and we think it not too much to say that it will not be disheartening to the church or the patrons of the college. No man can have been over-worked—as we have been, for days, to the work—and not have been impressed with the fact that, to rise from a lower to a higher class in Erskine, is no pastime; and that the step to the Senior class must in the most flagrant case, be taken by pupils who have fairly earned it.

The examinations in the Female College are being conducted with just as much faithfulness and thoroughness. The success of many ladies and gentlemen the committee and other friends, the young ladies have been tried in every branch of study, with both oral and blackboard exercises, and the results are gratifying. The examinations have all been the test admirably and with real credit to themselves and their teachers. We have seen the work done in many classes, which so nearly all the members were of high standing and evidently earnest and studious pupils, in the movement toward a high standard, and we feel safe in saying that Due West Female College has never been better fitted and will manifestly, under its present management, still keep its place. The President and Professors are hard at work, which, with long experience and never-waning delight in the work; and the other instructors are each in her department, worthy coadjutors. The performance of the college, for the term now closing, has been fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Grier.

The debate showed much close thought and masterly reasoning. From what we heard we were satisfied that the young men represented all that their hearts could possibly desire.

At the conclusion of the debate the President with some degree of hesitancy gave his decision in favor of the negative.

Next in order was the delivery of the diplomas to the graduating class, by J. T. Henry, Chester, S. C.

The valedictory, by W. L. McDonald, of Winnsboro, S. C., was really beautiful and touching.

But the most important exercise of the evening was the Address of J. E. McDonald, of Winnsboro, S. C. With a soul full of enthusiasm, Mr. McDonald could not fail to arouse attention and awaken the most lively interest.

The following prizes were awarded: Best extract reader in the Preparatory Department, S. E. Brown, Newberry, S. C.; best Declaimer in Freshman Class, H. L. Grier, Due West, S. C.; best Essayist in Sophomore Class, Thomas Boyce, King's Mt, N. C.; honorable mention, Robert Brice, Due West, S. C.; best Debater in Junior Class, P. L. Grier, Due West, S. C.

Tuesday Evening.

These exercises were held in the Chapel of the Female College, which was filled to overflowing. We are sure we are not exaggerating when we say that there were in the large audience as many as could comfortably be seated, while a number sufficient to have filled the Hall remained outside. The writer, not having been recognized as a reporter of the occasion, was forced to paddle his own canoe, and soon he landed on the shore, (or rather against the wall, where he was allowed about three inches on the end of a bench with a young man on his lap who from his laudness might justly be styled rock.

Perhaps we should remark in this connection that the exercises of the evening were intended primarily for the benefit of the parents and relations of the children, and no special invitation had been extended to the public generally. It was, however, as though the most urgent invitation had been sent forth.

Master Fitz Hood was the Salutatorian of the evening and acquitted himself nicely. Then followed a series of recitations which ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous, consisting of recitations, singing, dialogues, etc. The most interesting exercise of the evening, to us at least, was the catechism by a number of the little girls of the Primary Department. Their performances would have reflected credit on young ladies much older than themselves.

The successful competitors for the prizes offered by Miss Maggie Hood last October were as follows: Misses Zula Brock, Daisy Kittrell, and Master McLills, for general excellence; Misses Lizzie Grier and Master Albert Power, for excellence in spelling; and Miss Lillian McDavid, for the best penmanship. These young persons seemed to appreciate the honors conferred on them, and we trust that they may be equally successful when they enter the regular classes of the two colleges. It will be seen that girls were the largest sharers in the prizes, which is another argument in favor of "the power of woman's intellect." The delivery of these prizes was the closing exercise of the evening, and Prof. Kennedy very pertinaciously dismissed the spectators by expressing the wish that each one might get a long train of good, good air.

The exercises of the evening reflected great credit on Misses Maggie Hood and Effie Press, who have had charge of this Department in the College year just closing.

Spelling Match.

The principal feature of Friday afternoon preceding Commencement week is the spelling match at the Female College. This exercise, however, was preceded by some recitations and reading of extracts by the young ladies, which to us was more entertaining than even the spelling.

Extracts were read by Misses Mary Miller, Jessie Kennedy, and Annie Lathan, and recitations by Misses Jennie Townsend and Lila Penick recited pieces. The reading could scarcely have been improved, and the recitations being semi-comical drew the attention of the audience, and the manner in which they were recited reflected great praise on the young ladies—and demonstrated that the teachers had faithfully performed their duty during the past year.

Misses Jennie Grier and Jennie Edwards had chosen sides, and as soon as the reading and recitations were over the spelling began. The young ladies exhibited their familiarity with the vocabulary of their mother tongue, and when they had finished the amount assigned them for the set reason, the large majority of the young ladies were left standing. Some of the young ladies were a little excited and to this cause can be attributed some of the failures. Twenty-five in number who had not missed a word during the entire year were forced to take their seats on the final test.

At the close of the spelling it was announced that Jennie Grier, and Jennie Edwards had defied and afraid to proceed lest the other might win the laurels.

The faculty of the Female college had the thanks of the Senior class for their kind invitation to these exercises. R. Y. M.

The Amelian Celebration.

Four years ago the members of the Amelian Society of the Due West Female College became more interested in Society work than for several years past, this interest took a practical shape, and, as a result, on the last Friday night of the session a few friends were invited to attend the celebration of the Amelian Literary Society. Since, these celebrations have been regularly held, and those who have been so fortunate as to receive an invitation, one of the most enjoyable features of Commencement. In obedience to this custom preparations were made, invitations were sent out, and on the evening of June 22d, the young ladies of the Society, with their guests, met in their quite attractive Hall in the College building to enjoy together their Fourth Celebration.

After the officers and participants had been escorted in, Miss Mary Miller, President for the occasion, arose, and with much ease and grace bade them welcome to the Hall and the pleasures of the occasion. She expressed gladness that the exercises had attracted such an audience of refinement and culture. Those who have before attended knew that the admonition, "be to their faults a little blind," was unnecessary. They were before her a sympathizing not a criticizing audience.

In language chaste, the Valedictorian, Miss Jennie Edwards, desired that those who would still be members of the Society should increase their interest in its welfare and keep its record as bright as ever. She would have their emulation freedy and pleasant, and let grim visaged discord forever be banished from their portals.

The Junior's reply was made by Miss Susie Calhoun. In beautiful and well chosen words she conveyed the last parting of the Sophs to the graduating class. Those that will have their places to fill may find it difficult, but they have before them the example of the Senior Class to cancer them in their work.

The most important event of the evening next upon the programme was the delivery of the medals. This was done by Miss Jennie Grier, in a forcible yet elegant manner, and taking "*Per aspera ad augusta*" as her theme, she gave words of encouragement both to the successful and unsuccessful. The following young ladies were the fortunate competitors for the medals: Best debater in the Junior Class, Miss Eunice Bell; honorable mention, Misses Mattie Strong and Lutie Brice; best essayist in the Sophmore Class, Miss Maggie Caldwell; honorable mention, Misses Jessie Bell and Alice Pruitt; best extract reader, Miss Susie Lee; honorable mention, Miss Alice Elms.

These exercises were not only well written but well read; and, as one of the young ladies said, they showed there, as well as in the exercises, the results of the ripe and thorough training they were receiving in recitation rooms below. R.

The Baccalaureate Sermon.

A very large audience was gathered, on Sabbath morning, to hear the Baccalaureate of the graduating classes of both Colleges, by Rev. William Adams, D.D., of the First Presbyterian Church, Augusta, Georgia. Dr. Adams selected as his text, the 45th verse of the 4th Psalm, "The King's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is of wrought gold." Showing that "the King" of this Psalm is Christ and the Kings' daughter" the church or the individual believer, he presented, as the theme of his discourse, the glory of true Christian character. (1) The *inward* character of the Christian is glorious. There is in it the fourfold glory of *light, life, love* and *purity*. (2) The Christian's *outward* character is glorious as well. All glorious within, the King's daughter has her *clothing*, also, of God and that wrought gold. Sending forth the fragrance of a Christian character, he closed with a most earnest and tender appeal to the young men and ladies that they would enjoy of them, and make sure of having this character. The sermon was full of fine thought, enforced by apt and striking illustrations, and delivered in a manner it once enchanted and energized. Adams had manifestly come out to exhibit his eloquence, nor simply to entertain the masses, but to speak to their hearts of Christ, in Christ's stead. The young ladies and gentlemen were gratified and all who heard him would be glad to listen to him again.

The Examinations.

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Tuesday Evening.

The exercises of this evening have been somewhat changed from the old routine. Heretofore we have had a continuous stream of solid meat which was to be given for the best orator in the Senior Class, the Faculty decided to substitute instead of the debate a contest in oratory.

We quote in subjoin the programme of the occasion, which itself speaks the praise of the literary feasts which we that evening enjoyed. But as these contests put on trial the Literary Societies as well as the individual members, we refrain from making remarks upon the exercise of any individual member. The contests in Declamation and Essay Reading and Oratory were decided by a committee of seven:

Prayer.
Sacred Music.
Sophomores in Declamation:
Republicans, H. L. Brice, Due West, S. C.
The Roman Sentinel.—J. P. Kennedy, Due West, S. C.
Essays by Juniors:
Complete Character.—P. L. Grier, Due West, S. C.
The Spirit of Protection in Literature.—B. M. Miller, Camden, Ala.
Seniors in Oratory:
The Dead Sovereign.—O. Y. Bonner, Due West, S. C.
A Peace Policy the Safeguard of Political Liberty.—R. A. Harris, Charlotte, N. C.
The Monuments of the Lost Cause.—W. L. McDonald, Winnsboro, S. C.
The Idols of Yesterday.—C. D. Waller, Selma, Ala.

WEDNESDAY.

Oratory, Literature and Science.

Commencement Day in Erskine.

Knowing the difficulty which the great throng of people who go from Abbeville to the Due West Commencements annually experience in obtaining conveyances, we made suitable arrangements for ourself some three months ago. On Wednesday morning, seated in one of Messrs. A. M. Hill & Son's newest and best vehicles, and behind one of their fastest trotters, we were soon safely beneath the shade of the grove which surrounds Lindsay Hall.

At ten o'clock the exercises were commenced.

President Grier welcomed the audience in a few graceful and cordial words, and hoped that the exercises would be a pleasant episode in the daily pursuits of the life of those who had assembled here to-day.

He then announced that the Rev. Dr. Adams would open the exercises with prayer. Dr. Adams said:

Almighty God, we would invoke Thy presence and blessing at this time. We would pray for the assistance of Thy Holy Spirit that we may be endowed with that reverence of mind, that purity of heart, and that earnestness of purpose which shall be acceptable and pleasing in Thy sight.

We ask Thee to aid the work of education in this village, and to grant a blessing to those who have undertaken the discharge of that high and responsible duty.

We would beseech Thee O Lord our God to look with loving favor upon this assembled audience, while we would ask a blessing for each one of us, as we may individually need.

We would pray Thee our Father, especially to bless the students in these Colleges, and we would look to Thee to guide and direct all persons entrusted with the education of the young.

We look to Thee for every blessing. We wait for Thy presence. We acknowledge our indebtedness to Thee for all the good that is within us, and we thank Thee for Thy grace as manifested in Thy son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

After a piece of sacred music, the following named young gentlemen, graduates of the College, spoke as follows. After each speech the Cornet Band furnished music:

Adversity's Rewards.—H. B. Blakely, Laurens, S. C.

Our Bleeding Fatherland.—J. S. Brice, Chester, S. C.

The New South.—P. M. Brice, Winnsboro, S. C.

The Spirit of the Times.—R. Y. Mills, Blackstocks, S. C.

Vestiges of Primeval Perfection.—E. W. Pressly, Due West, S. C.

WORDS OF WISDOM AND ADMONITION.

The Diplomas and the Baccalaureate Address.

President Grier now announced that he would deliver the Diplomas which had been awarded to the graduates by the Faculty and the Board of Trustees. Each of the young men came forward as his name was called, received his parchment, bowed his thanks, and withdrew to his seat. President Grier, then read:

Young Gentlemen: Old chroniclers tell us that every Anglo-Saxon youth on reaching his manhood received, with something of ceremony, a spear and shield. These were his significant heirlooms. These were the symbols of his full equipment for the work of life. This ancient ceremony of a race, whose blood flows in our veins, reveals the lead of that rugged age with its fierce and savage struggles, with its right of might and its sovereignty of brute force. This scene of to day marks the wide interval in time and the equally wide interval in progress between us and our early ancestors. The former scene is typical of the iron age, this latter of the golden period when swords are beaten into plough-shares and spears into pruning hooks. We have now pieced into your hands these last testimonials. They bear upon them the names of the Professors and the seal of the College. What is the significance of this act? Is this mere pageantry? Is it a mere ceremony with which we hope to entertain this audience? Or, more than that, is it simply an expression of kind regards and good wishes? What, we repeat, is the significance by the presentation of Diplomas?

It does not signify that you are finished scholars. The range of your investigation has been limited by the very necessities of the case. The study of a few years devoted to various branches does not contemplate extensive and thorough acquaintance with those details which are the special distinction of eminent scholarship. Take the single department of natural science. When you remember how vast this field is, what wonders of chemistry, Geology and Botany lie concealed in every shell, rock and flower, when you remember that eminent specialists have devoted a life time of unremitting study to a single one of these departments it is certainly nothing to your discredit to say that you have just learned the alphabet of these and other sciences. That itself is no small attainment. He who knows thoroughly the alphabet of the English language may revel in the vast treasures of its literature, and hold communion with those master spirits that still rule us from their urns. So he who has mastered the first principles, the great underlying truths of our College course, while far from being a finished scholar has the materials at hand which he may use for the grandest, noblest ends.

However high may be the opinion which you entertain of your own attainments, whatever may be the expectation of friends who rejoice this day in your deserved honors, one of the first lessons you will certainly learn when you pass out of these halls will be the emptiness of your knowledge. A painful sense of this deficiency is one of the freshest, keenest feelings of a modest graduate. Only sublime ignorance and invincible indolence delude themselves with the idea that a Diploma is the happy finale of hard study and mental toil. The wise student whether of secular or divine things "knows always that there is another world of magnificent splendor lying still outside the utmost discernible star," and that in the great school of truth there is no such thing as graduation. Every step forward only widens the grand prospect and discovers vast stretches of landscape which no mortal vision can sweep.

Again: A Diploma is not a passport to position, nor the pledge of a livelihood. Parchment is too cheap and idle graduates are too numerous to command either place or pelf. Society has learned that there is no magic in the mere *sesamum Doctoris*.

You may lament the cold, calculating, practical spirit of our times, but be sure there is no disparagement so sharp and so merited as that which judges of our capacity to do the work which the world asks to be done. Your scholarship, your habits of industry and carefulness in study will prove the task assigned, all these are not matters of sentiment. No testimonials of individuals or corporations can substitute real strength of character and the solid virtues of honesty, fidelity and truthfulness. He therefore who makes his Diploma his reliance will find no place open to him in the active competitions of trade and industry. He will never be called to office, and all his solicitations will fall on ears that are closed.

But these testimonials are not without their value and significance. They announce a termination to a period of privilege and special opportunity. You are reminded not only that your days of leisure are over for you, but that they were freighted with richest treasure. It is solemn enough to sober the most thoughtless to hold in your hands a trust so precious and so influential in shaping and moulding character. You may have seen somewhere that splendid passage of Burke in which he speaks of the old Greek colonies as "colonies burnt out, on the lava and ashes and squalid science of old eruptions grow the peaceful olive, the cheering vine and the sovereign palm." If we may continue the image, we may say to you, let there grow out of the dead past, with its remembered failures and its partial successes such a handsome growth and purpose as shall beautify and bless that new life upon which you this day enter. And thus that old riddle which so puzzled the Philistines shall receive another fulfillment for out of the strong there shall come forth the sweetness of honey.

Another thought: These Diplomas are something more than a reward of merit. They are something more than a mere ceremony by which we dismiss you from the last time. They look forward as well as backward. They are your high commission as apostles of truth, virtue and excellence. They are your credentials to the great republic of letters. While you are no Knights-errant, making war upon imaginary wrongs, you are pledged by all the advantages which you have enjoyed and which the diplomas now have made, to a resolute regard for whatever helps humanity in its fierce battle with sin and mi-ery. This is the great practical business of every man, but especially of those who are educated. This is something as much above the sentimentality of the cheap reformer as the personal labors of a Howard in filthy prisons and pest houses is above the rhetoric of those who sit in slipper and gown, behind silk curtains, resting in an easy chair, describes scenes of suffering with which he has no personal contact. In fulfilling this high commission you will need to cultivate the quiet virtues of patient continuance in well-doing and a ready sympathy with the weary and heavy-laden. Above all you will need that strength found alone in the everlasting arms. "There may yet be for you struggle and suffering, the darkness and the storm, there may be toiling and weary endeavor for a night, but strong in a divine might joy shall come in the morning a morning without clouds, the morning of an eternal day." Commend you to that Almighty Father and congratulating you upon that wide and varied field of usefulness which lies before you, we bid you a "farewell" of earth, with the earnest hope of being of one fold and one shepherd, a "welcome" in that city which hath foundations.

When he had concluded his speech, President Grier announced that the exercises were now finished until after a recess of two hours. As had been customary on such occasions, the best was saved to the last. The anniversary oration would be delivered in this Hall, upon the re-assembling of the audience, two hours from that time. President Grier then paid a nice compliment to the orator the Hon. W. M. Robbins, of North Carolina, and time was called for the recess.

Afternoon.

In lieu of anything that we might say of the anniversary oration, we copy the following from the *Erskine Student:*

Hon W. M. Robbins was felicitously introduced by Dr. Grier. The orator spoke upon the work to be done by Southern young men. He noticed the good and the bad of our former condition and civilization. He spoke of our present and future. He inspired hope, while he dwelt at some length over the dark features of old days. He spoke too of the glories of young America. He chiefly pointed out the many felicitous illustrations the duty of educated youth. He closed with the grand wish that each one might develop into a man—a true man.

The orator made a lasting impression, and we regret that we have not space enough to attempt a synopsis of his speech. We were sorry to see him sit down, and we shall long remember his genial face and bright, winning smile.

Evening.

Greatly to the regret of all parties the Alumni Orator, Rev. D. G. Caldwell, was unable to be present, and hence the exercises consisted in the distribution of Medals only. The Miller Medal, for the best Orator of the Senior class, was awarded to C. D. Waller, of Selma, Ala. The honor of the best Declaimer in Sophomore Class to J. P. Kennedy, and of Best Essayist in Junior Class to B. M. Miller. The Mathematical Gold Medal was given to P. L. Grier. The College awards were as follows: Astronomy—First Distinction divided between H. B. Blakely and R. Y. Mills; honorable mention, E. W. Pressly. Metaphysics—First Distinction divided between H. B. Blakely and E. W. Pressly; honorable mention, R. Y. Mills. Chemistry and Geology—First Distinction, H. B. Blakely; honorable mention, E. W. Pressly and R. Y. Mills. French—First Distinction, E. W. Pressly and R. Y. Mills; honorable mention, H. B. Blakely and J. S. Brice. German—First Distinction, R. Y. Mills and E. W. Pressly; honorable mention, H. B. Blakely.

In the Junior Class the first distinction was given to P. L. Grier, and the second to T. H. White. This closed Commencement in Erskine. E. W. P.

THURSDAY.

Refined Taste, Cultivated Intellect Modest Beauty.

Commencement Day of the Due West Female College.

Promptly at ten o'clock the young ladies of the Female College were seated on the rostrum, when President Kennedy, announced that the exercises would be commenced by prayer from the Rev. Dr. Sloan. Our notes being so imperfect,—we are unable to reproduce his prayer.

The following programme of the exercises was then carried out in every particular:

Anthem—"Lift Thine Eyes."—Mendelsshon.
Music—Quartette—Piano—Overture—Zampa—Herold.
Salutatory—Miss Jennie Edwards, Due West, S. C. Solo and Quartette—Vocal—Love Sighs, Tenderly Sighing Winds, Kennedy, Haddon, and Mr. Wideman. Solo and Duett—Piano—Caprice Hongrois.—Ketterer, Misses Miller and Penick.
Essay—"The Close of the Nineteenth Century."—Miss Lizzie L. McElvy, Whigham, Ga. Solo—Vocal—Magnetic Waltz.—Arditi, Miss Lelia Cowan. Quartette—Piano—Mattie Sharp, Miss Lelia LeGal, Miss Blake, Woodson, and Sims. Laughing Chorus.—Martini. Misses Penick, Edwards, Cowan, Grier, and Mr. Wideman.
Essay—"Gather Ye Flowers and Tread Lightly Upon Its Thorns."—Miss Nellie A. Pressly, Lulah, S. C. Quartette—Piano—Fairy Queen.—S. Smith. Misses Sharpe, Edwards, and Kennedy. Solo—Vocal—Casta Diva.—Bellini. Miss Mollie McDavid. Trio—Vocal—My Love is a Rover.—C. A. White. Miss Grier, Townsend and Edwards.
Essay—"Possunt Quia Posse Videntur."—Miss Mary Miller, Due West, S. C. Duo—two Pianos—Galop de Concert—Staab. Misses Miller and McDavid. Solo—Vocal—Valse D' Adieu.—Torry. Miss Penick.
Essay—"Le Printemps Dans Deux Les Montagnes."—Miss Mary Guyn, Paint Lick, Ky. Solo—Vocal—Beautiful Bird Sing On.—Bowe, Miss LeGal. Sacred Duett—Vocal—Jesus Lover of My Soul.—Knight. (By request.)
Essay—"Little Things."—Miss Lizzie S. Lipford, Due West, S. C. A Tragic Cantatas.—The Grasshopper.—Mendolph. Misses Penick, Grier, Cowan, Edwards, Townsend, Messrs. Wideman and Magill.
An Episode.—Down Among the Lilies.—Glover.

WORDS OF WISDOM AND ADMONITION.

The Diplomas and the Baccalaureate Address.

President Grier now announced that he would deliver the Diplomas which had been awarded to the graduates by the Faculty and the Board of Trustees. Each of the young men came forward as his name was called, received his parchment, bowed his thanks, and withdrew to his seat. President Grier, then read:

Young Gentlemen: Old chroniclers tell us that every Anglo-Saxon youth on reaching his manhood received, with something of ceremony, a spear and shield. These were his significant heirlooms. These were the symbols of his full equipment for the work of life. This ancient ceremony of a race, whose blood flows in our veins, reveals the lead of that rugged age with its fierce and savage struggles, with its right of might and its sovereignty of brute force. This scene of to day marks the wide interval in time and the equally wide interval in progress between us and our early ancestors. The former scene is typical of the iron age, this latter of the golden period when swords are beaten into plough-shares and spears into pruning hooks. We have now pieced into your hands these last testimonials. They bear upon them the names of the Professors and the seal of the College. What is the significance of this act? Is this mere pageantry? Is it a mere ceremony with which we hope to entertain this audience? Or, more than that, is it simply an expression of kind regards and good wishes? What, we repeat, is the significance by the presentation of Diplomas?

It does not signify that you are finished scholars. The range of your investigation has been limited by the very necessities of the case. The study of a few years devoted to various branches does not contemplate extensive and thorough acquaintance with those details which are the special distinction of eminent scholarship. Take the single department of natural science. When you remember how vast this field is, what wonders of chemistry, Geology and Botany lie concealed in every shell, rock and flower, when you remember that eminent specialists have devoted a life time of unremitting study to a single one of these departments it is certainly nothing to your discredit to say that you have just learned the alphabet of these and other sciences. That itself is no small attainment. He who knows thoroughly the alphabet of the English language may revel in the vast treasures of its literature, and hold communion with those master spirits that still rule us from their urns. So he who has mastered the first principles, the great underlying truths of our College course, while far from being a finished scholar has the materials at hand which he may use for the grandest, noblest ends.

However high may be the opinion which you entertain of your own attainments, whatever may be the expectation of friends who rejoice this day in your deserved honors, one of the first lessons you will certainly learn when you pass out of these halls will be the emptiness of your knowledge. A painful sense of this deficiency is one of the freshest, keenest feelings of a modest graduate. Only sublime ignorance and invincible indolence delude themselves with the idea that a Diploma is the happy finale of hard study and mental toil. The wise student whether of secular or divine things "knows always that there is another world of magnificent splendor lying still outside the utmost discernible star," and that in the great school of truth there is no such thing as graduation. Every step forward only widens the grand prospect and discovers vast stretches of landscape which no mortal vision can sweep.

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