

St. Augustine's Record

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COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

(Including Extracts from the *Raleigh News and Observer*)

Dr. Frank P. Graham, President of the University of North Carolina, yesterday challenged the graduating classes of St. Augustine's College, Negro Episcopal Institution, to utilize their youth and training to work for better cooperation between the white and colored races.

It was the sixty-sixth commencement anniversary of the institution which yesterday graduated twenty-two young men and women from the college department, seven with honors. Eight young women received certificates from the Bishop Tuttle Training School after completing two years of work, and three received their diplomas after having completed a year's successful internship. Three were graduated from the St. Agnes Training School for Nurses and eighteen received diplomas for completing work in the high school department. In charge of the exercises were Rev. Edgar H. Goold, President, and Dean Charles H. Boyer.

Dr. Graham was presented by the Rt. Rev. Edwin A. Penick, Bishop of North Carolina, who also pronounced the benediction.

The University's President, after reviewing past methods of dealing with racial problems declared: "We have entered into a new period. Not of domination, not of intimidation, but of cooperation through education." He pointed to the diplomas as representing the opportunity better to promote interracial relations as equipping the graduates for a common field of service and strengthening their efforts. "We will have many occasions to test us as we try to work out a cooperative basis between these two great races of the world," asserted Dr. Graham.

He told the graduates their diplomas represented a great investment. "It is just a piece of paper," he declared, "and yet what power, what faith, what study is in this piece of paper." In it he saw the far-sightedness of the people who founded the school in 1867, the sacrifices of parents, the inspiration and encouragement of the teachers who moved the students to determine to

"come through." Dr. Graham pointed out three phases of past dealings with the racial problems: (1) slavery; (2) political, economic and social domination; (3) intimidation, with lynchings, injustice and stuffed ballot boxes. He saw a new day dawning with the young generation. He lauded the educational achievements brought to the races by Charles Brantley Aycock and Booker T. Washington, saying, "They are in this diploma today." "Fulfill the promise of this hour," the speaker urged, "and justify the faith of your father, our democracy, that we may work it out today in our Southern region."

"They lived," he said, "in a peculiar time—they were the generation of the World War and its aftermath; they were the generation of the great world economic depression." Dr. Graham stressed the sovereignty of moral law. "We have mastered the physical world," said he, "but we have not won a social and spiritual mastery. Where once we had absolute moral standards we now have relative standards. Where once we had stability, we now have instability."

Problems confronting the world today offer a wonderful challenge, a great opportunity for constructive service to the young men and women of this generation, he asserted. "The world needs them and they need to serve the world in the spirit of this college."

The exercises were opened with singing of the College Hymn written by Mr. William Augustine Perry, Class of 1902, and the creed and prayer led by Rev. S. W. Grice, a graduate of St. Augustine's and a member of the Board of Trustees. Miss Jane Brown Ross, of Bridgeport, Conn., delivered a paper on "French and Its Contribution to English Culture"; Miss Catherine Weston of Tarboro talked on the "Professional Training and the Social Worker," and Mr. William E. Clarke, of Miami, Florida, discussed a "Century of Progress." Application of a gauntlet bandage was demonstrated by three nurses who were graduated from St. Agnes School of Nursing; Dorothy M. Joseph of Tampa, Florida; Valinda F. Wagoner of Sparta, and Edith Washington, of Westboro, Massachusetts. President Goold conferred degrees, awarded diplomas and prizes.

AWARDS AND DIPLOMAS

Winning a banner for his class for having delivered the best declamation in the annual contest was Cecil Levister of the Class of 1933. The girls banner went to Louise Bell of the class of 1933.

Mr. Lloyd Alexander was awarded \$10 for the best address, given annually by Dr. Milton A. Barber, Rector of Christ Church, Raleigh.

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