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THE COMMENCEMENT

LOUISBURG COLLEGE CLOSES A VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

Rev. Frank Siler Delivers Baccalaureate Sermon—Exercises Much Enjoyed by Large Crowds—Medals Awarded.

The Matinee Recital by Mrs. Ballard's music class, on Monday afternoon at five o'clock marked the first public exercises of the Commencement of Louisburg College for 1906. This class is composed entirely of beginners in music and all showed careful training as was amply testified by the rounds of applause that greeted each number on the full programme of twenty-three pieces. The class is composed entirely of girls with the single exception of Master William Winston, who showed decided talent by rendering the old melody "Old Black Joe" with variations in such a splendid manner having begun the study of music some last September only. Of course nothing else was expected of the girls, but that this young specimen of "mama man" should show such talent is deemed so remarkable as to be worthy of special mention. A large audience crowded the chapel and gave close attention until the finish of the programme.

On Tuesday morning at the Methodist church, Rev. Frank Siler, a prominent member of the Western Conference, who is now stationed at Statesville, delivered the Baccalaureate sermon. Rev. J. E. Underwood, of Rockingham, and Rev. A. J. Parker, of Wilmington, assisted in the preliminary worship. The choir sang a beautiful anthem after which Mrs. P. H. Cooke sweetly sang a solo of great beauty, making the musical feature of the day especially enjoyable. Rev. Mr. Underwood introduced the speaker appropriately. Mr. Siler selected a portion of the 1st Chapter of Philippians as his text and his general subject was the three important epochs of the Christian life. We are first babies, then children and finally the full grown sons. He affirmed his entire belief in the Bible as the word of God and transformed his hearers into one big class with himself as the messenger through whom the teaching came. He stated that he had no elaborate commencement sermon to deliver, but would talk the Gospel as he believed such seasons should be made great gospel occasions. The sermon was an able one intensely practical and yet intensely simple, being the pure gospel message without the flowers and the adjectives that have usually characterized such addresses. It showed thought and study, yet delivered in such simplicity that the words and teaching remain in memory. The address and personality of the speaker were unusually pleasing and the impression he made here was a most favorable one.

Thursday evening a very large audience assembled in the chapel to attend the recital of the graduates in the Schools of Expression and Voice which were Misses Pelletier and May in Expression and Miss Perry in Voice. They were assisted by Mrs. P. H. Cooke, and Miss Sallie Williams, accompanists, and Mr. W. J. Barrow, on violin. The opening number was a vocal duet which was admirably sung by Mrs. Cooke and Miss Perry, followed by a recitation "The Marble Dream" by Miss Pelletier, and so on through the entire list of eleven numbers, consisting of solos by Miss Perry and recitations by Misses Pelletier and May. Miss Perry has a voice of great natural sweetness, and the training which she has received makes her a most pleasing vocalist. Misses Pelletier and May are so well known as artists in the field of expression, their recitations having been so much enjoyed

heretofore, that to speak of their merit now would be simply threshing over old straw and we will simply say that they fully confirmed the previous high estimates of their ability. Miss May is especially happy in humorous roles and "Aunt Rhody's Dream" was heartily enjoyed by the audience. Mr. W. J. Barrow, with violin, acquitted himself, as he always does, well, his instrumental solos serving to break the monotony of the programme and adding much to the general effect of the vocal numbers with his obligatos. At the conclusion of the programme the announcement that the usual reception would be omitted was received in silence profound. The news to the youthful and otherwise swains who had carefully prepared themselves for this happy hour was indescribably awful. In fact this unlooked for pronouncement fell with the dullness of the proverbial thud, and the reason assigned that the girls needed a full night's rest to appear bright and rosy on the morrow was far from satisfactory as everybody knows, except married folks, that girls are always bright, fresh, rosy and pretty. But the usual hour of bliss had to be foregone and all hands carefully wrapped in tissue paper and laid themselves away until the morrow.

Wednesday was commencement day, the most important of all. There were only five full graduates this year, Misses Maude Maynard Fleming and Kathrine Eunice Storey, both reading essays that were of merit in themselves and enjoyed by the large audience present. The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. H. H. Mashburn. A chorus by the school followed, after which Rev. J. E. Underwood announced that owing to the death of the late M. S. Davis a change in the management was made necessary and a Board of Trustees was organized with Rev. J. E. Underwood, Pres., and Mr. W. H. Ruffin, Sec'y, Rev. L. S. Massey, Chaplain, and the following members: Rev. G. F. Smith, Rev. E. H. Davis, Mr. L. P. Hicks, Rev. A. J. Parker, Mr. B. W. Ballard, Mr. B. N. Duke, Rev. K. D. Holmes.

Rev. Mr. Underwood appropriately introduced the speaker of the day Dr. W. E. Dodd, of Randolph Macon College, who is a native North Carolinian and informed our Virginia friends that he was merely loaned to them and would be some day reclaimed. Dr. Dodd is quite a young man in appearance but full grown as to his mental equipment. He took as his subject the constitution of the United States and began by saying that it was a document almost totally unknown to the great masses and but partially understood by those who were supposed to understand it well. He discussed the freedom and liberty guaranteed by that instrument and some of the forces of evil that had arisen within the past few years under our law, and plead for greater freedom of thought and discussion of current problems.

Then followed the presentation of certificates of proficiency in mathematics to Misses Mary Louise Allen, Mary Alfred Cooper, Mary Davis Cooper Annie Perry, Summie Staimey, Ola Long, Margaret MacRae, Lucy Webb, Mamie Jones and Maude Scarborough; and of diplomas to the graduates. Mr. W. H. Ruffin, as Secretary of the Board of Trustees, read resolutions adopted by them relative to the death of M. S. Davis which will follow this article. Bibles were presented to the graduates in an appropriate manner by Rev. L. S. Massey. The Mathematics medal was presented in a happy manner to Miss Annie Perry, by Mr. W. W. Boddie. The Music medal was presented to Miss Lizzie Clifton, by Mr. W. H. Ruffin in a way and manner in which Mr. Ruffin only can do, while the Latin medal was presented to Miss Mary Louise Allen, by Mr.

W. H. Yarborough, Jr. His presentation speech was admirable and of surpassing excellence.

Rev. Frank Siler made a short talk as to the work of the college and in eulogy of the late President whom it was not his fortune to know but whose acquaintance he had made in the persons of his former pupils upon whom his personality had been firmly imprinted. The names of the members of the faculty for the ensuing term were announced and the exercises of the day closed with the benediction by Rev. A. J. Parker, of Wilmington. A full list of the faculty when complete will be published Wednesday evening at 8:30 o'clock.

The grand concert was given and a large number of the audience unite in saying that it was, if possible better than their predecessors. Certainly the selections were rendered splendidly, especially the numbers requiring from 8 to 12 young ladies for their performance. The time kept in producing these pieces was of the best. The nimble fingers glided over the keys in masterful style, showing the innate talent of the performers as well as the ability of their instructor. The recitations of the evening were unusually pleasing, and tremendous applause greeted the efforts of the young ladies to entertain, which they did handsomely. Rev. Frank Siler presented the Miss Williams' Music medal to Miss Ava Aycooke in handsome style.

The annual concert is the chief social event of the year in college circles and the social pleasures Wednesday evening were heartily enjoyed by the large number who availed themselves of the invitation to remain after the formal exercises were over, to exchange felicitations, say goodbyes and last but not least to allow the youthful, middle aged and—but nobody is old at commencement times—twains to discuss the state of the crops, and debate the great problems that do now confront us. Amid all the pleasures, however, there was naturally a tinge of the sad, as all were constantly reminded of the late honored President, whose spirit had taken its flight heavenward since the last annual gathering but which is lightened by the knowledge that all passed off as he would have wished, and that the work which he laid down will be carried on by others, and the college which has done so much for the bright Christian womanhood of east Carolina will continue, under the new management, and with the aid and counsel of the Board of Directors, to advance on its era of great prosperity and usefulness.

It was announced that the next session of this school will open September 5th, 1906, and a very cordial invitation was extended all present to attend the educational rally that will take place on the Friday night following.

The following young ladies received golden reports, each having made an average grade of over 95 on all recitations and examinations: Misses Kate Storey, Maude Fleming, Marguerite Harris, Mary D. Cooper, Bessie Norwood, Annie Norwood.

It was announced Wednesday evening that the Alumnae Banquet which has always been such a charming event of commencement, had this year been omitted, owing to the death of M. S. Davis, and that the funds that would have been otherwise expended be applied to a "Matthew S. Davis Loan Fund" for the benefit of worthy and deserving students. This fund now amounts to \$65.00 and with other subscriptions to come in is confidently expected to reach \$100.00 by the opening of the next term.

RESOLUTIONS IN MEMORY OF PROF. M. S. DAVIS.

Whereas the cause of education in North Carolina, and Louisburg Col-

lege in particular, has sustained an irreparable loss in the death of the late honored President, Prof. Matthew S. Davis; Therefore be it, Resolved by the Board of Directors of Louisburg College that the Board take this method of expressing an unqualified appreciation of the long and noble services rendered by this one of the foremost educators that North Carolina has ever produced, whose life and labors have been so long a blessing to his State and Church.

Resolved further that the Board commend the purity of his life and splendor of his character, an example worthy of the emulation of the young men and women of the State. The success of whose life is evidenced by the lasting imprint made by this great educator of some of the foremost men of the State. And while we mourn his death we are comforted with the belief that his life is incarnated in the lives of many men and women who have gone out from the schools over which he presided.

Resolved further that these resolutions be spread upon the minutes and that copies of the same be furnished to the Raleigh Christian Advocate and to other papers, and that one copy be handed to the family of Prof. Matthew S. Davis.

The Current Literature Club.

On Thursday afternoon, May 17th the club met at the home of its President, Mrs. J. S. Barrow.

A most convincing proof was given of the truth of the adage "Variety is the spice of life," the spice on this occasion being furnished in the form of music, which was begun by a "Staccato" by Miss Williams, whose brilliant rendering of its difficult technique formed a pleasing contrast to the "Song of the Brook," which was told by Miss Jones, most effectively.

Mr. Jordan Barrow, with Miss Williams as accompanist, gave Raff's "Cavatina," Schumann's "Tramerel," and the charming "Intermezzo" from Cavaleria Rusticana, so delightfully that it was hard to tell which one was most enjoyed. Then followed the amusing feature of the afternoon—the musical contest.

A romance was read by Mrs. Malone with occasional blanks, these blanks being filled in by strains from familiar airs, which were to be guessed by the contestants. Mrs. Hart and Mrs. Parham were the lucky ones who filled out all the blanks save one; they drew—the prize, a vase, falling to Mrs. Parham's lot. Mrs. Ballard and Mrs. Davis were equally lucky in leaving untitled—we'll not say how many—blanks; they drew, and our gracious hostess presented Mrs. Davis with a fan decorated with crimson ribbon and five finger exercises, delicately hinting that the winner thereof learn the same before another meeting.

The inner woman was then most pleasingly refreshed, after which, amid much merriment, the guests departed, feeling more assured than ever that their President is "the right woman in the right place."

The next meeting will be held at the residence of Mr. J. J. Barrow, on May 31st, with Mrs. Laura Ballard as hostess.

High Marks.

Prof. Mills, Superintendent of the Graded Schools, requests the Times to publish the names of the following pupils, who are entitled to "high marks," for which they labored during the session just closed:

Pupils who were not tardy or absent during the session:—Una May Hayes, Clayton High, Pearl Massenburg.

Absent but not tardy:—Pattie Aycooke, Lillie Hale, Bessie Hale, Mary Burt Harrison, Lucy Jeter, Hodgie Williams, Cade Hayes, Nannie Hale, Willie Harrison, Joseph Davis, Fannie Munford, Emmett Bartholomew. Tardy but not absent:—Chas. Strickland, Genevieve Thomas, Louise Thomas.

IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

FRANKLIN COUNTY FINANCES IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.

Due to Good Management—For Seven Years County Scrip has Been at Par—All Demands Upon the Treasurer Met.

The editor of the Times feels that it is his duty as a public journalist, and county official, to give to the people of Franklin county some facts, which he has gathered relative to the financial condition of the county, and at the same time place the credit for the excellent condition of affairs which they disclose.

As most of us will remember, for a long period prior to 1897, the condition of the county finances had been growing steadily worse, and a large outstanding indebtedness had accumulated. County Scrip was quoted as low as 65 cents in the dollar, and as a consequence the county had to pay from 25 to 50 per cent more for all work done for it than it would had to have paid if its orders on the treasury had been equivalent to cash. And those who received scrip in payment of fees fixed by law, such as witness fees, &c., had to dispose of it at a great sacrifice. An effort was made that year to get on a cash basis by the issue of \$20,000 in bonds. But the amount proved to be insufficient to redeem the outstanding orders and conditions were but little improved. But shortly thereafter Mr. A. J. P. Harris became the Chairman of the board of county commissioners and it was determined to mend matters at once.

A difficult task confronted the administration inasmuch as it was found that on account of the destruction of many bridges in the county and the accumulated floating indebtedness, it was necessary to issue \$10,000 more of bonds. Not at all discouraged, however, the Board went to work, and by its splendid management and that of the Boards which have succeeded it with Capt. T. S. Collier as Chairman, the seemingly impossible task was accomplished and for the past seven years county orders have been as good as gold certificates and are so to-day. All work done for the county is contracted for on the lowest cash basis and jurors, witnesses and all others receive spot cash for their scrip. The bridge bonds referred to were floated at four per cent interest and all of the \$20,000 issue except \$4,000 have been paid off, as well as \$3,200 of the old issue of 1884.

On July 1st of this year \$2,000 more of bonds will be paid off, leaving a total bonded indebtedness of only \$12,000 (and not a dollar of floating debt) as against over \$30,000 (and orders at a discount) when the new policy was inaugurated. And to meet these remaining bonds there is now in the Sinking Fund and in bank belonging to the county over \$6,000, of which \$5,000 is bearing 6 per cent interest or 2 per cent more than the county is paying. So it will be seen that if this amount were applied to the payment of the outstanding bonds not yet due, the total indebtedness of Franklin county would not exceed the sum of \$6,000—very much less than at any other time within the last thirty years. And let it be remembered that there has been built during the past eight years four iron bridges across Tar River, two across Sandy Creek and one across Cedar Creek.

For the good management of the county's affairs and the splendid results obtained, the tax-payers of the county are indebted to those officials who have been in charge, and it is but just and due that the people should remember and honor them for their faithfulness. The plans were laid and policy inaugurated while Mr. A. J. P. Harris was Chairman of the board of commissioners and the pres-

ent excellent Board has carried the good work forward. If it is retained in office with the opportunity to continue this wise and business-like policy, the Times predicts that within the next two or three years the last of the county's old debts will be wiped out and the tax rate reduced to a very low figure.

Justices' Court.

A trial before Justice Geo. S. Baker yesterday attracted quite a number of witnesses from Harris' township. It was an indictment against an Assize by the name of Albert Toney, who was charged with making false representations in a horse trade with Louis Baker. F. S. Spruill appeared for the prosecution and S. G. Ryan, of Raleigh, and W. M. Person for the defendant. He was required to give bond in the sum of \$50 for his appearance at court.

Carroll-Massenburg.

The Times has received the following invitation:

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Ballard Massenburg request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter Marian Norwood

to Mr. Charles Fisher Carroll on Wednesday morning, June the sixth, nineteen hundred and six at half after ten o'clock, Methodist Episcopal Church, Louisburg, North Carolina.

At Home after June twentieth, Warsaw, North Carolina. No cards in town.

W. H. Furgerson's Residence Partially Burned.

Fire was discovered Tuesday morning in the roof of Mr. W. H. Furgerson's beautiful residence on Kenmore Avenue. There was some little time lost in sending in the alarm, but the fire department responded very soon after the alarm, and but for the bursting of a hose when the water was first turned on the fire would have been extinguished before much damage was done. The hose was soon replaced, however, and in a few minutes two streams were playing on the flames. The heroic work of the firemen is to be commended. The damage to the house is considerable, as practically all of the top was burned, and much damage was done the interior by water. The furniture was very much damaged by removal, &c. As soon as the insurance is adjusted Mr. Furgerson will at once have the house recovered and other damages repaired.

Just one year ago (May 22) the store of Stokes & Furgerson was destroyed by fire.

The Louisburg Graded Schools.

The Graded Schools of Louisburg closed last Saturday, and owing to the crowded condition of both the white and colored schools no closing exercises were held. Prof. Mills and his corps of teachers have done remarkably well, and the past session of these schools, under the circumstances, give but an index of what they will be when the new buildings are completed. The Trustees met last Monday and elected teachers for the year beginning September 1st.

Prof. Mills was re-elected Superintendent. Misses Mary Yarborough and Bettie Perry were also re-elected, and Misses Marina Whitley and Florence May Egerton having decided to engage in school work elsewhere, their places were filled by the election of Miss Georgia Joyner, of La Grange, and Miss Urtie Harrison late of the Youngville Graded School. Mr. E. L. Best, late principal of Cedar Rock Academy, was unanimously elected as an additional teacher and helper to the Superintendent. These are all very wise selections and the Times believes the trustees have done well.

He, six weeks after the honeymoon.—I suppose you think you were a fool when you stood up and married me? She—Well, I was the next thing to a fool.—Yonkers Statesman.