

THE INITIAL ALUMNI DAY.

PICTURESQUE RITES OF THE GRADUATING CLASS.

Address by Major Stedman—Class Reunions—Inter-Society Debate.

Saturday and Sunday of Commencement week had fallen below the record expected, owing to the inclement weather, but Monday, June 3rd, the first regular Alumni Day in the annals of the University, dawned with a clear sky, a fitting day for the inaugural of a custom that is hoped to do so much for the success of future commencements. And as the day grew the crowd swelled. Alumni in attendance on the reunions of the classes of 1857, 1882, 1897, and 1902, arrived on every train. Visitors in throngs poured into the campus by every gate. Music was at last supplied in plenty by the 2nd Regiment Band, which arrived, somewhat belated, on the morning train.

Fortunate it was that the final exercises of the Senior class under the Davie poplar had been postponed from Saturday afternoon. Although their session in the afternoon forced the silk hats and Prince Alberts that ruled the day to give place for a time to the sober academic cap and gown, there was not the least of ill feeling, and the exercises, coming as they did in a vacant afternoon on the Commencement program, did much toward rendering the day more eventful still.

The first big feature of the day was the address to the alumni by Major Charles M. Stedman, of the class of '57, of Greensboro, that great-hearted, whole-souled gentleman, typical at once of the old time Southerner and of the Confederate soldier.

MAJOR STEDMAN'S ADDRESS.

Major Stedman prefaced his oration with a few remarks concerning the associations and recollections of days spent in college. "There is," he said, "a glamor connected with our University life which comes to us but once. It is filled with a brightness whose tints are luminous with mellow, tender, and golden rays. The memories of these days ever come back laden with fragrance and delight. They are the chimes which bring melody in all the years which follow, and as they linger with us their echo of the long ago is soft and low and sweet. How delightful to recall the associations of those years of happiness and joy. Yet to one separated from them by the lapse of nearly half a century, there comes with the memory of them a sad pathos which is the music of a vesper hymn."

Referring to the hopes and aspirations of the college boy the speaker said that the dreams of many of his own college mates were quenched in their blood on the battlefields of the Civil War. Of those who survived that conflict many won success in later life. His recollections of what the friends of his college days hoped to attain in life, together with the speaker's own observation and knowledge as to results in specific cases, led him to the theme of his discourse, namely, "What Constitutes Genuine Success?"

THE SUCCESSFUL LIFE.

To lead a really successful life one must, in the first place, regard the promptings of conscience and listen to the call of duty. Duty destroys selfishness with its brutality and cruelty, and even endows one with the power of self-sacrifice. Truth and duty are immortal twin sisters in the realms of

morality and virtue. They are the basis of all character, and without them life is a sham, a fraud, a delusion and too often a crime. Industry is another essential to success. Labor is not only a necessity, but to every properly constituted person it is also a pleasure and a blessing. A noble mind will spurn ease, comfort and indulgence earned by the labor of others. The speaker went on to say that complete success was impossible without self-control, which, like industry, can be traced directly to a sense of duty. Many men and women who intellectually realize the necessity of self-control, lack the restraining power of conscience and the aid which comes from moral power. Hence their lives become sad and unhappy wrecks, often culminating in disgrace, dishonor, and crime. From self control comes courage, that most admired of all personal attributes. Men whose lives are governed by conscience and duty follow the path of honor and right during life, and leave a name resplendent with the halo that gilds the tombs of the blessed.

"It ought not to be accounted strange," declared the orator, "that in any age whose marked characteristic is the worship of money, that one whose moral perceptions are not acute should regard the accumulation of money as the greatest of earthly blessings. How grievous and sad the error is ever shown in the final result; generally to the possessor, and if not to him, always to his descendants. Great opulence acquired in violation of the moral law is uniformly followed by a corrupt and degenerate life in which there is neither joy nor happiness. It matters not how bright and dazzling may be the outside surface of such a life, in the inner recesses will be found the canker worm of destruction whose appetite is insatiate and whose sting is death.

DEMAGOGUE'S DREAM FALSE.

"The demagogue to whom truth is a stranger and sincerity an unknown novelty when by falsehood and hypocrisy he has won high office and the emoluments which he has so eagerly sought, vainly imagines that genuine success has crowned his efforts. Not so. When a few years have passed and he has no longer power to grant favors or patronage to bestow, he will realize how false has been his dream, how useless his life. So it has always been and always will be, with all classes. Be not deceived. Neither permanent renown nor lasting happiness can be secured at the expense of conscience, truth and duty.

TRUE IN PEACE AND WAR.

"As in peace, so it is in war, no genuine personal success can be won where no obedience is paid to the dictates of conscience or the call of duty.

"History has furnished the names of many who have won renown and achieved genuine success, illustrated by the glorious heroism of their death. Wolfe died on the heights of Abraham the death of a hero, and as his spirit took its flight to another world left as a legacy to his countrymen words which will for ever live. Nelson at Trafalgar illustrated by his conduct his supreme sense of duty to England and her glory. The Scotchman who died at Waterloo by the sabre of the cuirassier of the guard has been immortalized by Victor Hugo. But not one of these is more entitled to the crown of immortality than Major John T. Jones, of Caldwell County, North Carolina, and Captain Thomas C. Holliday, of Mississippi, alumni of this University. They died upon the battlefield of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864.

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NEATH THE DAVIE POPLAR.

ROMANTIC WEDDING OF '07'S BENEDICT.

Ceremony by Dr. Hume—College Yells Speed the Happy Couple.

At the foot of the old Davie poplar where over a century ago the plans were laid for the founding of the University, within a horseshoe formed by his classmates, Mr. Roby Council Day, the first of the class of 1907 to fall a victim to Cupid's wiles, was wedded to Miss Annie Elizabeth Hearn of Chapel Hill, just after the seven o'clock bell had sounded its summons to the sleepers on Wednesday morning, June 5th. While the bright morning sunshine still gleamed on the dewy grass and foliage of the campus Dr. Thomas Hume, in a ceremony simple but impressive, pronounced them man and wife, and in a few minutes, sped by the ringing cheers of the Seniors beneath the old poplar, the happy couple were on their way toward the Jamestown Exposition.

Mr. Day, in taking his diploma on one day and his bride on the next, is to be doubly congratulated. While in college he was one of Carolina's most loyal supporters, serving her on an inter-collegiate debate, and giving much of his time, so valuable to him, as an entirely self-made college man, to the work of the Y. M. C. A. He is known by his college mates to be a man of character and ability; for none the future seems brighter. During the coming year Mr. and Mrs. Day will be located at A & M, Miss., where Mr. Day will serve as general secretary for the Y. M. C. A. of the A & M College of Mississippi. The present of the members of the class of 1907 to the bride of their more fortunate brother was a solid silver chafing-dish and tray.

The Final Red Letter Day.

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ern wilderness and conducted the march of the English-speaking American from the seaboard to the Alleghenies, then to the Mississippi and then on to the Rockies, until that march across the continent, ended at the Golden Gate, is one of the wonders of the world's history.

"This sweep of settlement westward, the long engagement in subduing nature, the hard necessities of life, the need of making a living all the while—these and like factors, developed the practical spirit in us. It is to this day in an excess of that spirit, so fine when it serves higher ends and so base when it serves only selfish interests, the inner, invisible things in which the real greatness of our life depends are being attacked and challenged—particularly so in the sphere of higher education. It is being assumed by many as a matter of course that the only education worth having is one which teaches some industrial or technical knowledge which enables the boy or girl to get on in the world. College education, with its quiet round of life and study seems to them unpractical and useless. Of what good is a college education? they ask. It is to this question that I beg your attention for a little while.

"In the first place let us grant that no education is worth having unless it is useful. Let us by all means go even further than this and grant that while a useful education may be a most desirable thing, still it is not the most necessary thing in life. It

is not absolutely necessary that a man be educated. It is absolutely necessary that he be clean, decent and honest. A vicious man who is highly educated is simply a more powerful engine of evil in the world.

"Nevertheless for all who are fit to be educated a good education is so valuable as to be priceless. It is too late in the world's history to gainsay this obvious truth. Let us then join with the practical-minded spirit of industry and commerce and agree that an education, to be desirable, must be useful.

"But what is useful or useless? What makes a man useful or useless? Let us take that matter." Dean West then discussed the difference between the things obvious, immediate, necessary to usefulness, and things which make the whole life useful—resting the case for college education on use as a utility for man's whole life. This was shown by the value of college education in training a boy to find the full range of his powers and possibilities, in acquainting him with the best knowledge and the discipline of duty. It was further urged from the magnificent contribution made by our colleges to the service of our country, and by the priceless service rendered from the earliest days by the universities of the South in enlightening and leading the best thought and action of these several constituencies.

Governor Glenn next addressed the body of graduates, on the invitation of President Venable. He spoke for several minutes, taking up in review the different views and the various phases of life that had been discussed and presented by the student speakers and synthesized these into an organic whole, on which he based his appeal and his advice to the young men who were going out with the stamp of the institution's approval on their brows, urging that they live the broadest and the deepest lives possible to them, lives of courageous, yet self-sacrificing endeavor.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

President Venable made announcement of the resignation of Dr. Kemp P. Battle, from the department of history, and Dr. Thomas Hume from the department of English. He said: "I cannot report the resignation of these two honored professors without some expression as to the great debt which the University owes them for their distinguished services. They have borne a splendid part in its upbuilding and have earned the years of rest and leisure for congenial labor which lie before them. These come to them now through a noble philanthropy. The pain of parting with them as active colleagues is borne in upon me in this hour.

"To you especially, my beloved president," he continued, turning to Dr. Battle, "for you are my president still, do I turn with a deep affection and reverence. Through these years your kindness has been that of a father and in no hour has your wise help and counsel failed me. May the years deal gently with you and may you long be spared as our counsellor and friend."

President Venable then said that at a meeting of the trustees a new professorship of law had been created, yet to be filled, and likewise an associate professorship in French. Mr. James Finch Royster is elected associate professor of English, Palmer Cobb, associate professor of German, and Henry M. Wagstaff associate professor of history. A leave of absence is granted Mr. George McFarland McKie, and Mr. Irvin I. Potter succeeds him as instructor in English.

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