

Acadia Athenæum.

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The "Acadia Athenæum" is sent to subscribers at the exceedingly low price of Fifty Cents per year IN ADVANCE, postage pre-paid.

We extend to all our patrons and friends the COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON, and hope that our students who, more highly favored than ourselves, have got home to spend their holidays, may enjoy a pleasant time.—We need not tell them that it is somewhat dull in Acadia now.

THE SOPHOMORE EXHIBITION.

ANOTHER term of study having been completed, it again becomes our duty to report the Sophomore Exhibition, an old, we had almost said time-honored institution which had been given by Sophomore classes for upwards of a quarter of a century.

Public speaking, in some one or other of its several departments, being the aim of the majority of college students at the present day, we think it well to bring them occasionally on the public platform, and thus give an opportunity for the cultivation of their oratorical powers.

In this college each student is required to appear before the public twice in his course of study to deliver an oration. We like this feature in our curriculum, since it gives a fitting close to the two terms of study—the Anniversary with the graduating orations at June, and the Sophomore Exhibition at Christmas.

The last term of study was brought to

a close on Thursday evening, Dec. 16th, by this entertainment. At an early hour the audience-room of the Baptist Chapel was well filled with an audience made up of members of the institution, people of the community; and a large number of strangers from abroad. The number was much larger than we had ever seen on a similar occasion before. At half-past seven, the Faculty followed by the students, having collected a few minutes previous in the vestry, marched in procession up the aisle, dressed in College costume. The Faculty occupied seats on platform, the students in the front pews.

The proceedings were carried through after the following programme:

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

Prayer by Dr. Sawyer; Music, Be Joyful in the Lord; Orations, Practical Education, E. P. Coldwell, Gasperaux; Poetry and its Mission, B. W. Lockhart, Lochartville; Music, Arise and Shine; True Manliness, I. C. Archibald, Steviacke; Legends, J. A. Faulkner, Lower Horton; The Teachings of Facts,* W. O. Wright, Hopewell, N. B.; Hoc Age, R. Bishop, Greenwich; Music, There were Shepherds Keeping Watch; Social Position of Educated Men, T. Bishop, Greenwich; Mountains make Men, M. R. Tuttle, Stellarton; Music, Jerusalem my Happy Home, National Anthem.
—*Excused.

The choir, composed chiefly of persons connected with the Institutions, with some singers from the village, acquitted themselves admirably. The anthems mentioned in the programme were well rendered, each receiving a hearty round of applause. Much credit is due to Miss Dodge, music teacher in the Seminary, who presided at the organ and well sustained her already high reputation as a musician. It is a matter of regret, however, that the organ used for the occasion was a very unsuitable one, since it could with difficulty be heard below the gallery. Our report of this excellent music would be incomplete if we omitted to mention the valuable assistance rendered by Dr. Bowles with his violin tuned to accord with the organ.

We shall not undertake to give our readers any account of the different orations, although much might be said in commendation of them. In justice to the majority of the speakers, we might remark, that their not being accustomed to public speaking was against them. As

exceptions, however, to this we might mention Messrs. Lockhart and R. Bishop, whose elocution and action were good.

We subjoin one of the Essays:

MOUNTAINS MAKE MEN.

ESSAY BY MATTHEW RICHIEY TUTTLE.

MOTHER earth infolds in her arms children of varied types of character and constitution. These diversities result from a variety of moulding influences, such as climate, situation, natural scenery, and the like. Thus the inhabitants of countries favorable for commerce advance most rapidly in civilization, while those in inland regions remain for ages in darkness and degradation. The discipline of the mountains, also, fit nurse of heroes, is not the least marked of these influences in power to educate and refine. Is it not natural that he who has been bred in the court of King Alp or Andes should be of nature's nobility?

He, perhaps, is a "mighty hunter."—In pursuit of his daily vocation he scales peaks to see spread before him scenes that might force into raptures a stolid Indian, or awaken emotion even in the heart of a Wall Street broker. If, then, he has a love of the beautiful, how must it be developed by commerce with scenes that thus obtrude themselves upon the practical concerns of his life. Had mountains been formed merely to shelter the thankful inhabitants of some fruitful chine, they could have been shaped as precise as the models of a letter-writer, or as regular as the China Wall. Instead of the quaint beauty and endless diversity of mountain scenes, so varied that the harp of every man's feeling can there be tuned to different notes, such beauty as when wreaths of loveliness are flung up into the lap of the awful and grand; instead of the variations of valley, glen, and hoary peak with their unfading garments of green and white, there would have been the bare monotonous rock and barren soil.

Were these grand features of nature, then, to be locked up with the eagle and chamois? No! the mountain was made to be the home of man. Its great heart can hold the hunted and the oppressed, and here the down-trodden of the plain find an ample asylum.

Leaving the results of their industry in a fruitful land to those who would enslave them, they brave the perils and endure the hardships of a sojourn among the hills. But the associations of the mount must be congenial to the sons of liberty. On the door-posts and architraves of this, nature's grand temple, are inscribed in living letters, freedom.—They read it, perhaps in the light bound of the deer over the exulting torrent, or in the cut of the eagle's wing, and every