

OUR LECTURE COURSE.

On Friday evening, Nov. 18th, for the first time in the history of the college, if we have searched the annals faithfully, a lecture was delivered under the auspices of Acadia Athenæum by a woman. Miss Wadsworth, Principal of Acadia Seminary, gave her beautiful lecture on the poet and novelist, Wm. Makepeace Thackeray. For a full hour she stood on the platform in Assembly Hall, and without a written note held the attention of her audience on one of her favorite themes.

The lecturer, in the course of her remarks, gave a brief biographical sketch of Thackeray, criticised his characters, especially his women, brought out some of his rich moral lessons, and made a critical comparison with Dickens, taking "Henry Esmond" as her novelist's typical work.

Thackeray was born in India. He was a pupil at Charter House, left college without a degree, got married, and began to earn his bread with his pen in 1837.

"Henry Esmond" contains all the peculiar characteristics of Thackeray's other novels, and possesses one all its own. It reproduces the age of Anne, imitates the style of Addison and introduces the wits of the period as seen at Lady Castlewood's party. His characters are life-like and well-developed. His women are true to life and not by any means inferior to his men; but Thackeray was too good an artist to make them faultless. He was a preacher by nature and a novelist by accident. He had great moral lessons to teach, and chose to teach them by means of the novel. His books are full of fun, e. g., in *White Squall* on Mediterranean, and in his selection of proper names, *Lady Jane Sheepshanks*, *Tom Eaves*, *Mr. Topp*, *The Newcomes*. Thackeray was a greater genius than Dickens, and a better artist. He tried to reform the novel and left upon it his own peculiar stamp. Other novelists, George Elliot and George MacDonald, have been following in his wake. Thackeray was a humorist, not a cynic, and he knew and loved his fellow-men.

None of our readers will think for a moment that the above bare outline is in any way a fair representation of Miss Wadsworth's full, pleasing and really excellent lecture. Thackeray is now a favorite study at the Seminary, and no one is allowed to graduate without having made a critical study of "Henry Esmond."

JUNIOR EXHIBITION.

TUESDAY evening, Dec. 20th, found Assembly Hall lit up once more with cheery lamps and expectant faces. The weather was not the most auspicious, and the roads were in an ugly condition; nevertheless, a fair number of auditors were there from a distance, and the number of empty seats was very few. Down stairs in the chapel, the Juniors, surrounded by the other classes, waited nervously for the hour when led by the Faculty, they should march up in slow and winding procession to take their seats on the platform.

The whole nineteen essays had been previously recited before the Faculty, but on this more public occasion there was time for only seven. As the President called on these one by one, they stepped out and delivered their orations like men. The productions were all good, and nearly every word of every speaker was distinctly audible throughout the Hall. The interest of the audience did not flag from the time the first man took his stand on the floor until the last one made his final bow, and we need not say more than that the general verdict is that the Exhibition was a good one, and fully up to the standard. Mr. Fletcher's vocal, and Miss Buttrick's piano solo, interspersing the exercises, were both highly appreciated. Following is the programme in full:

Music. Prayer.

ORATIONS.

- "The Office of Conscience."—H. T. DeWolfe, St. Stephen, N. B.
- "Disraeli."—E. M. Bill, Billtown, N. S.
- "The Epicurean."—A. B. Holly, Portland, N. B.
- "Success."—J. H. Cox, Cambridge, N. S.
- "Knowledge of the Past."—W. B. Crawley, Sydney, C. B.
- "The Philanthropist."—L. A. Palmer, Dorchester, N. B.

MUSIC.

- "The History of Slavery."—C. S. Lyons, Somerset, N. S.
- "A Critique on Wordsworth's Excursion."—A. J. Kempton, Hopewell, N. B.
- "What is Eloquence?"—H. S. Blackadar, Halifax, N. S.
- "The Sword Superseded by Arbitration."—A. W. Foster, Bridgetown, N. S.
- "Dryden's Poetry."—C. S. March, St. John, N. B.
- "The Present State of Astronomical Study."—C. H. McIntyre, Springfield, N. B.
- "Edgar Allan Poe."—E. P. Fletcher, DeBert, N. S.