

The Chautauqua Idea.

"CHAUTAUQUA is the apostle of recreation. It teaches some people how to take rest. The Chautauqua idea is a protest against certain false notions which prevail in this land. While we glorify schools, we neglect them. A lamentably small proportion of our boys and girls think of higher education in the college and academy.

"Now the idea that all the education a boy needs is enough to enable him to transact business is one of the ideas against which the Chautauqua movement protests. This mercenary notion which controls so many households in the matter of education is most dangerous. A blacksmith may not need an education because he is a blacksmith, but because he is a citizen, because he is a husband and father.

"The plan of the C. L. S. C. is a course of reading requiring for its completion forty minutes a day for nine months in the year for four years. During this time every subject treated of in a preparatory and college course is touched upon."

Dr. Vincent spoke of college customs and traditions, however absurd in themselves, as mighty factors in college life.

Continuing, the speaker said that objections were raised to the Chautauqua Circle.

"One is that it becomes a substitute for colleges. That is absurd. It is the John the Baptist of the college. There can be no substitute for the college. If twenty-five years from now there are not 25 per cent. more students in the colleges than at present we shall have failed in one of our objects. It is pronounced superficial. Who is not superficial? Of course it is superficial; it can't be otherwise, and I might say I have seen boys in colleges do tolerably superficial work; but I don't find fault with colleges on that account. Superficiality is not the worst fault in the world. What we want is to do our work well whether it be superficial or work in the depths. Again it is said that by encouraging plain people to study it will educate people above their position. I am an American citizen and a believer in the aristocracy of worth, and I loathe all distinctions that are based on anything but merit. I should like to educate a servant girl so that she could not be trampled on by her mistress or by a waxen bejewelled miss. I would educate the people so that the royal rights of men would be laid hold upon and be recognized by all so that there would no longer be common people."

The Charge to the Superintendent.

BY MARY B. SLEIGHT.

"FEED thou My lambs." The loving charge
The Lord to Peter gave,
He gives to thee, and bids thee haste
His scattered flocks to save.

Lead them where Truth's pure fountains flow
And life's green pastures spread;
And let no longing, hungering one
Go from the feast unfed.

Feed them with manna from the Word,
Fresh-gathered for the day;
And bring them where love's banner broad
Shuts out the noon-tide ray.

To those that err, the meet reproof
With tender pity speak;
And guide with patient loving hand,
The wayward and the weak.

Remember, too, the souls that stray
Afar on sin's dark wold;
Nor rest, whate'er the toil, until
Thou win'st them to the fold.

Be zealous for thy sacred trust,
Nor falter, faithful one;
And thou at eventide shalt hear
Thy Master say, "Well done."

A THOUSAND graduates in a literary course is no small number; but this class is, nevertheless, the smallest ever graduated in the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, and less than half of what the succeeding classes are likely to be, for '86 has 15,000 members and '87 has 20,000. The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle has now over 100,000 students, distributed through every continent and a good many islands. A little while ago the editor of a monthly in New York wrote to a distinguished gentleman to prepare an article upon a certain subject, which has been recently in the public mind. The gentleman answered that he had been already engaged to write on the same subject for *The Chautauquan*. The New York editor then proposed to *The Chautauquan* that he would be glad to publish the article simultaneously, and thus give it national circulation. He then learned, to his surprise, that *The Chautauquan* has three times the circulation of his own magazine, and goes, not only to every county in the United States, but also to every State in Europe, and is translated into Japanese, where, at last accounts, it had 750 subscribers, and with another year he will have 2,000.