

With such evidences presented to us, it is indisputable that the Greek chorus, in its assertion of the temper of reverence—of the spirit which submits and waits,—in its freedom from the lower passions,—its pure and lofty serenity,—its zealous maintenance of great principles,—its elegant, sonorous rhythm, and its intuitive recognition of the beauty of a self-balanced completeness, justly occupies on the glorious heights of literature a conspicuous and enviable position. And our modern tragedies, stripped of this halo that gleams so brilliantly around the ancient plays, lose, by this very severance, much of the lustre that would otherwise fall within the limits of artistic possibilities.

In allusion to the renowned writers who developed and perfected the Grecian Drama what terms are too highly laudatory? Brighter than the camp-fires that blazed on the Marathonian Plains do these inextinguishable lights glow in the arena of the histrionic art. They are indeed

"the bards sublime,
Whose distant footsteps echo
Down the corridors of Time."

With what majestic proportions,—what bold outlines of character—does the Genius of Grecian Tragedy rise before us!

There is Æschylus like some "bald rugged mountain" piercing with its top the o'er-arching heavens,—its sides ever garmented with clouds of storm and tempest, terrific in their very grandeur. There, too, is Sophocles of finer mould and deeper pathos, sublime in power and beauty, like some neighboring height of fairer form and more exact proportions, whose sides are graced with every changing hue of loveliness, and whose summit, bathed in streams of light from the rising and setting sun, reflects the countless glories of a genial sky. While we gaze upon the richness and tenderness of Euripides like a limitless valley stretching away beneath us with field and forest of tropical luxuriance bloom, with fruit of balm and brightness, and o'er its surface Phæbus darts are playing and the gentle breath of Æolus floating through the branches. A noble trio, revered by their fellows, they were destined to live even a higher life in the remembrance of after ages.

Soon after their time, however, sophistic speculation uncompromisingly supplanted poetic composition, and Greek culture, diverted from its wonted course, drifted away on another tide.

Whether or not the change was productive of the highest good, we assume not the province of determining; but surely if our hearts are at all in sympathy with the lofty productions of poetic art that erst were sung by the side of the murmuring sea that sweeps the Thracian shore, we must, in imagination, hear with regret

the mourning of the Muse of ancient poesy, as driven from the groves and dells of sacred Greece by the invasion of the Spirit of Philosophy, she is forced to take her last leave of the twilight shadows of earth, and wing her weary way to those etherial realms whence she had originally descended to ennoble the soul of man and fire it with a holy zeal.

ANNIVERSARY.

THE closing exercises in connection with Acadia College for the past year were held in the Baptist Church, Wolfville, on Thursday June 3rd. The day was remarkably fine, and a great number of visitors from various parts of the Province and New Brunswick were convened. At about eleven o'clock the Students, Professors and members of the Associated Alumni, clad in collegiate costume, marched in procession from "the Hill" to the Church. After prayer by Rev. I. E. Bill of St. John, the following orations were given by the members of the graduating class:—

Tendencies of Modern Civilization—A. J. Stevens, Caspereaux.

Integrity, the Soul of Commerce—Howard Bars, Wolfville.

The Use and Abuse of the Emotions!—George E. Good, Woodstock, N. B.

How far is Political Antagonism a Vice?—Benjamin Rand, Canning.

The Greek Chorus—W. G. Parsons, Kingston.

Blomidon—A Poem—Israel M. Longley, Paradise.

The music rendered by the choir at intervals during the delivery of these speeches was excellent and elicited hearty applause from the spectators and students.

Respecting the character of the orations, it is not fitting that we should make any remarks either commendatory or depreciative. Were we reporters of the same addresses delivered *elsewhere*, we would very readily give to the public our ideas concerning them. As, however, many of our subscribers were not present at the Anniversary exercises, one of the orations will be inserted in this issue for their pleasure, profit, or disgust, as the case may be.

The degree of Bachelor of Arts having been conferred upon the (six) members of the class, the presentation of prizes came next in order. They were distributed as follows:—

Freshman Scholarship, prize \$20—M. R. Tuttle, Wolfville.

Sophomore Scholarship, prize \$20—P. W. Campbell, St. George, N. B.

Junior Scholarship, prize \$20—Jacob Schurman, P. E. I.

Monthly Essay Prize, \$25—Jacob Schurman.

Edward Young, Gold Medal, for proficiency in the Higher Mathematics (competition in the Sophomore class only,) P. W. Campbell.

An Honor Certificate was awarded to Jacob Schurman for extra studies in the Classical, Mathematical, and Scientific departments.

The Alumni Prize for the best Essay on the subject, "Evolution, its history, teachings, and tendency," was withheld, since there was but one competitor.

Our President gave notice that it would be in order to announce the awarding of the Governor General's Medal, at the commencement of the next collegiate year.

In response to calls made upon them, the following gentlemen delivered short, yet very appropriate and forcible speeches: President Allison, of the Sackville Institute, Rev. Dr. Burns, of Fort Massey Church, Dr. Parker, Rev. A. S. Hunt, Superintendent of Education, and Mr. Falkner.

The singing of the National Anthem concluded the exercises, which, though quite long, were assuredly very interesting and pleasurable throughout.

In the evening the Concert was largely attended, nearly one hundred dollars being taken at the door. The Chairman—Prof. Welton—explained that the Graduating Class had instituted it for the purpose of aiding in the erection of the new Academy. He further laid the financial condition of the Committee plainly before the assembly, and called for increased assistance. How readily this call was responded to, may be seen in the fact that during the day and evening something over \$2000 was pledged towards the completion of the building.

The entertainment was entirely satisfactory. Miss Churchill rendered three choice readings in her best style, hearty plaudits being accorded her. "The Famine" produced a profound impression on the audience, and won for the reader the *re plus ultra* of commendation.

The music was well received, yet owing to the illness of one of the principal singers, was inferior to what it would otherwise have been.

A. Longley, Esq., M. P. P., and E. M. Chesley, Esq., A. B., gave short speeches, directing their remarks particularly to the recent under-graduates. The address of the latter gentleman was notably fluent and racy.

Mr. John L. Beckwith, Wolfville, N. S. acts as Secretary and Treasurer for the ACADIA ATHENÆUM until further notice.