

THE SENIOR THESES.

The custom, revived last year, of requiring the members of the Senior class to write Theses, has been continued. The subjects were assigned in December, and the papers read before the professors and students in President's Hall, a part on each of the three last Saturdays in February. There is no room for doubting the propriety of reviving the custom. The amount of select reading which so wide a range of subjects necessitates is sufficient justification, to say nothing of the artistic skill acquired in their treatment. They differ from the ordinary Junior and Senior essays in two particulars. Being so much longer they admit of a more exhaustive treatment, and as they are read, instead of spoken without manuscript, less attention is paid to oratorical effect and more to detailed analysis.

The papers were well written and well received, evincing, in some cases, an originality and breadth of thought which showed more than ordinary ability, and such a preparation as delights the listener. The effort of the lady member, of whom, by the way, the class are justly proud, was a convincing argument in favor of higher female education. The following is a list of the speakers with their subjects:—

The Motives that have operated for the Science and Practice of Medicine......Irving S. Balcom.

The Aesthetical Element in Real Life.
M. Blanche Bishop.

Religious Novels John W. Brown.

Elements and Condition of Statesmanship.
Charles H. Day.

Addison's Spectator: Its probable Effects on Public and Private Life......Austin K. deBlois.

An Historical view of the Commerce of the Mediterranean...... Foster F. Eaton.

The Amusements of a People, a Sign and Cause of their Character...... Harry H. Hull.

Social Rome during the First Century before Christ.
Walter V. Higgins.

Seneca and Paul as Philosophers.... W. B. Hutchinson

Socialistic Theories. Frank. H. Knapp.

Science as a Public Benefactor...... Harry A. Lovett.

Should the development of the Resources of a country be undertaken by Government, or left to Private Individuals...... Vernon F. Masters.

The connection between a People's Literature and their Material Prosperity...... Mark B. Shaw.

The Parliamentary Orators of 1785 and 1885.
Hibbert B. Smith.

OUR LECTURE COURSE.

The third lecture of the college year, under the auspices of the Athenæum society, took place Friday evening, Jan. 29th, 1886. Lecturer, J. F. L. Parsons, Esq., of Halifax, N. S. Subject: "Opportunities Met or Made." Mr. Irving S. Balcom, the President of the Literary Society, presided. The house was well filled, considering the unfavorable weather. A noticeable feature, however, was the absence of many of the members of the society. We would suggest that it would possibly be more profitable, and certainly more becoming, for all such to make it a point to attend their own entertainments in preference to those given by 'hers.

Mr. Parsons was greeted enthusiastically. His introductory remarks were somewhat lengthy, but made in such a way as not to be tiresome. Before commencing his discourse, the lecturer pointed out to the audience that owing to the extreme shortness of the time between date of notice given him and evening of lecture, it had been impossible for him to prepare a lecture, but that he would give us a talk. After informing us that he would say, no doubt, some things wise and some things otherwise, Mr. Parsons proceeded to talk on his subject. He did not propose to treat his subject in a scientific manner; his point was rather, by a few hints and many apt illustrations, to give the students advice which would be serviceable somewhere in the experience of each one.

After a few words on the beneficial effects of travelling when one is worn down through steady application, the number of opportunities that the ordinary traveller meets, and by the proper or improper use of which he will make his recreation a pleasure or a drudgery were pointed out. Such as—the opportunity of keeping one's temper under all circumstances, of keeping silent, "speech is silver, silence is golden." But frequently this order is reversed. "Good words are good, good deeds are better." The grand opportunity that meets us at every turn is to combine them, to back up words with deeds. These and numerous other examples were well illustrated, many of them by the lecturer's personal experience of a laughable character.

To grasp and use an opportunity requires two things—Preparation or Readiness and Experience. There are, perhaps, as many opportunities meet the clod-hopper as the poet or professor. The real difference in the success of each depends on the power of grasping these. This power can only be developed properly by study, work and watchfulness. Every student should combine them, giving himself a mental, moral and physical strength.

The only way to grasp the great opportunity which assuredly comes in each individual's existence is to be ready for all, small and great. Keep where the