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# THE PORTFOLIO. 

Wita Sine Literis $\mathrm{MRozs}^{\text {Got. }}$

VALEDICTORY.<br>" Our little systems have their day, They have their day and cease to be."

Change and decay are on the face of all earthly things. Nature and nations, customs and families illustrate this universal law. The aspect of affairs in this world is constantly changing. We, ourselves, have our entrances and exits; our day of bright glory, followed by our night of dark oblivion. Here to-day and gone to-morrow, is the record of our strange eventful pilgrimage.

Nature herself does not continue the same. First, winter comes to rule the varied year, sullen and sad with all his rising train of vapours, clouds, and storms. How dead the vegetable kingdom lies! How dumb the tuneful! and the whitening shower descends through the hushed air until the broad fields are clothed in robes of purest white. But soon nature puts on the fresh green garb of spring: the little brooks so long silenced comes trippling down the mountain side, babbling as it goes; the violets and daisies raise their tiny heads; white wreaths of blossoms cover the wide landscape; the feathered songsters again appear on the window sills, and life and motion and activity are everywhere.

Radiant summer follows and its sunshine glorifies and beautifies all nature, giving splendor to the flowers and scattering "molten gold" over the corn fields, A season gay with all the profusion of luxurious bliss, the pomp of nature. Lastly autumn, "crowned with the sickle and the wheaten sheaf," comes nodding o'er the plain. Extensive harvests hang their heavy heads; downy peach and shining plum, and luscious grape make fragrant the evening air. But when the keen and cruel frost has touched the world with its blight, we pause amid the desolation of nature,-bird, and leaf and fiower have all felt the blast. The desert no longer blooms as the rose; the song of joy is silent among the hills, and the earth is
strewed with that foliage which once bespoke the magnificence of summer.

The destiny of men and nations presents analogies corresponding with those of nature.

> " Day follows night and night
> The dying day; stars rise and set and rise, Earth takes the example.

The great nations of antiquity flourished for a time and then gave place to others. Egypt, Babylonia, and Assyria each had its day and ceased to be. On the plains of Marathon, at the pass of Thermopylæ, on the seas at Salamis, Persia learned her lessons of defeat and disaster. Phuenicæ with its sea ports of Tyre and Sidon, Carthage the land of Dido, Troy, Lydia, Phrygia, the wind passeth over them and they are gone, is the record of their fate. Of Greece-that nation which shone in arms, in arts, in literature, and in philosophy-Macaulay says, "Her freedom and her power have, for more than twenty centuries, been annihilated her people have degenerated into timid slaves; her language into a barbarous jargon; her temples have been given up to the successive depredations of Romans, Turks, and Scotchmen; but," he adds, "her intellectual empire is imperishable." Wherever literature consoles sorrow, or assuages pain; wherever it brings gladness to eyes which fail with wakefulness and tears, and ache for the dark house and the long sleep, there is exhibited in its noblest form the immortal influences of Athens. And, when those who have rivalled her greatness shall have shared her fate, when civilization and knowledge shall have fixed their abode in distant continents; when the sceptre shall have passed away from England; when, perhaps, travellers from distant regions shall in vain labor to decipher on some mouldering pedestal the name of our proudest chief, shall hear the savage hymns chanted to some misshapen idol over the ruined dome of our proudest temple, and shall see a single naked fisherman wash his nets in the river of the ten
thousand masts, her influence and her glory will still survive, fresh in eternal youth, exempt from mutability and decay, immortal as the intellectual principle from which they derived their origin, and over which they exercise their control. On the ruins of Greece, Rome rose the mistress of the world. This monarchy owed its dissolution to the extension of its dominions. Ignorance, avarice, wicknedness, and ambition are the general causes of the downfall of nations. Gibbon says: "If it had been a capital crime for a Roman citizen to carry the arms of the republic beyond the limits of Italy, its constitution might have been preserved for many ages beyond the period of its actual duration." Nations are, in general, the masters of their own destiny, end may-certainly they ought to-aspire after immortality. Rome fell and

[^0]The law of change is at work in families as well as in nations. No single race of human beings hold for ever the keys of privilege and power.

[^1]The Ptolemies and the Cæsars are dynasties of the past. Centuries have gone by since the Colonnas and the Medices were the most celebrated and powerful of the Roman aristocracy. The Stuarts at one time claimed three crowis in Europe. Today on a monument by Canova, in St. Peter's at Rome, may be read three empty titles not found in the roll of British kings. Beneath the marble the bones of the last Stuarts have long since mouldered into dust. Hail and farewell was the fleet condition of their earthly intercourse.

In customs and in costumes the empire of change is also absolute here, exercising a sway so arbitrary and so conspicious as to defy all calculation. The kaleidoscope of public taste is constantly changing. The prevailing fashions of to-day may be the bad forms of to-morrow. We do not need to go back to remote days for illustrations of chance in manners and decay in practices once held in the highest esteem. Fashion
is the merest chameleon. Things but come in to go out. Often the ornamental gives way to the practical. The graceful and the beautiful go down before the advancing tide of commerce and money-making. Rakes and flails, scythes and reaping hooks, fit themes for melodious utterance or illustration, are things of the past. The sailing vessels, courted by all the winds that blow, have given place to the modern steam boat; and the puffing, panting, blazing steam ensine has taken the place of that mail coach so favorable to social intercourse and romantic adventure.
" But weep not that the world changes;
Did ic keep a stable changeless course'twere cause to weep."
Changes sometimes means added beauty, sometimes progress. In the physical world sunshine follows shadow, shadow sunshine. To the rain as well as to the sun we owe the gorgeous effects of dight and shade and color, which give the sunset so dazzling a grandeur. To the fleet aiternation of sunshine and shadow is due the freshness and beauty of the rainlow, the verdue and lustre of the foliage, and the brilliancy of the landscape. Change means development; the want of it all that gives death its commanding and chilling power in the eyes of men. Change means progress. Woman is no longer the slave, but the equal of man. Chivalry, the bright flower of feudalism, has passed away; instead of heroes we have men. A gentleman is not judged to-day by the use of arms, but according to his possession of personal honor, generosity, courtesy, kindness, qualities more valuable and perhaps larder to be obtained. Change is progress in legislation. In the last fifty years seen in the abolition of slavery, the disappearance of the press-gang; the lessening of taxation and the cheapening of postage; in the reform of our marriage laws, and the removal of our civil and religious disabilities. Change is progress seen in the development and dissemination of knowledge; seen in the growing fellowship of man with his fellowman; and seen in that sharper sense of obligation that each feels to-day to be due to the other.

On behalf of the graduating glass of $x 887$, I would say farewell to our instructors and Hamilton friends. The years we have spent in the college have been pleasant ones, and we feel that we will always look back with
delight to them. But the time has come when we must leave our Alma Mater and the thought saddens us.

Dr. Burns, to you we would offer our sincerest thanks for the pains you have ever taken to instil in us a love for knowledge. You have shown us by example as well as by precept the grandeur of a life of a true student; have taught us how to cultivate our minds, and have guided our steps to the door which opens into realms of delight. We feel that we have merely entered the portals, and will endeavor to show our appreciation of your advice by pressing onward fo heights beyond. Your counsel will never be forgotten and your influence will be lasting.

Our college life has been made more homelike by the watchful care of Mrs. Burns. We have never gone to her for advice but have come away brighter-hearted, and when tossing on a bed of suffering hers has been a ivelcome face. We find in her a ready sympathizer.

To you, the members of the faculty, we would also offer our thanks for the care and patience you have ever shown towards us. Perhaps we have not always repaid you for your trouble, and have oftentimes gricved you by thoughtless words and deeds, but we appreciate your kindness. Often when the class-room work has been over instead of enjoying your deserved freedom you have employed those hours for us, assisting us in difficulties and devising for us means of entertainment. We will carry with us pleasant recollections of the time spent with you.

The monotony of student-life has been relieved by kind friends of the city, and we would thank them and the directors of the college for their kindness. Such attention paid to those who are away from home and under the necessary restraint of school-life is very much appreciated and will not soon be forgotten.

To-night we seem to be standing on the borders of a new and untried life. Our school days are over. What will the coming years reveal to us? will they be as pleasant as those that have just closed ? are questions that thrust themselves upon us. During our collcge years we have made many friends. These are strong tics which bind schoolgirls' hearts, and in a very few hours miles
will separate those who have for a time been close friends. Friends must part and associations which have been long and pleasant must be broken. We hope that next year when the majority of you will return, when the old halls will re-echoe with laughter and song, that class ' 87 , although absent, will not be altogether forgotten. We wish you all a happy and successful life.

> " We meet and part-the world is wide. We journey onward side by side; A little while and then again Our paths diverge."

Let the members of class ' 87 as they leave their Alma Mater and go forth to meet the realities of life " still attaining, still persuing," keeping in view some noble object, resolve that no matter what may be the position each is called upon to occupy she will discharge its duties to the best of her ability, remembering that
> " Who does the best his circumstance allows,
> Does well; acts nobly ; angel could no more;
> Our outward act, indeed, admits restraint,
> Guard well thy thought ; our thoughtsare heard in heaven."
> SALUTATORY.

By Miss Lithite Hardy.
To-night, in the name of the class of I887, I come to greet you. To those with whom we have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance as well as to all who show by their presence here this evening an interest in our welfare, we extend a hearty greeting.

As a class, we feel honored by graduating in this jubilee year. "The horologe of time strikes out the half-century with solemn chime." Not many English sovereigns have worn the crown so long as Queen Victoria. George III ruled nominally for sixty years; Henry III reigned fifty-six years; Edward IV barely reached his fiftieth. Jubilee medals have been cast, jubilee books have been written, the jubilee ode has been composed by our laureate poet, and manufacturers have woven special patterns into their fabrics to commemorate this event. We are on the eve of its celebration in this city. Tomorrow the children will be expressing their loyalty in beautiful song; the streets will be crowded with faithful subjects who have left their workshops and their counting-houses to do honor to the occasion. But many of us will be miles away, swiftly journeying to our various homes. Some, perhaps, of this
class may live until another fifty years has come and gone. Will that jubilee "summon us together once again, the joy of meeting not unmised with pain?" We will then know what that time we now call future has had in store for us. Hitherto our studies have engrossed all our attention; our energies have been employed in the acquisition of knowledge. Now we are about to enter upon a new life. The information that we have obtained is to be practically employed and to be supplemented by a knowledge of many things now unknown to us. Some of us have been many years away from home. We must now learn to make homelife pleasant to those from whom we have been so long seperated. Domestic economy must be added to the curriculum of our studies. We are ignorant and inexperinced in much which it most concerns us to know. The unknown and untried lies before us. The future of our individual lives is yet to be. We know, however, that

> "We shape ourselves the joy or fear Of which the coming life is made And fill our future's atmosphere With sunshine or with shade. The tissues of the life to be We wear with colors all our own, And in the field of desting We reap as we have sown."

The remembrance of this evening will be one of the most pleasant of our lives, and although with our academic robes we may bid farewell to the scenes and associations of many happy years, we will not lay aside with them the tender memories of classmates and teachers, friends and acquaintances by whom we have been surrounded in this our Alma Mater. Again we curdially welcome the friends who by their presence here to-night show a kindly interest in our welfare and in that of the institution, of which we form a part. We who are about to go
"Salute you, hail you, take your hands in ours, And crown you with our welcome as with flowers."

## CONCERT AT THE COLLEGE. <br> Taken from Tines of Junc 16.

The pupils of the Wesleyan Ladies' college gave their annual concert last night in the music hall of the institution before a very large gathering of their friends. In many respects the concert was superior to any of its predecessors in years gone by, and the words of praise and congratulation which fell
from the lips of all must have been highly satisfactory to the pupils, as well at to Prof. Ambrose, their tutor. The programme was a pretty lengthy one, excellently arranged and admirably carried out, the young ladies showing real ability as well as careful tuition. The solo, "O Loving Heart, Trust On," was to have been sung by Miss Marion Burns, but that young lady was, unfortunately, troubled with a hoarseness which would not admit of her singing, so Mrs. Martin-Murphy, who was to have played her accompaniment, sang while Miss Burns played. The closing number,"Cornation Duet," played by Misses McDonald and Marion Burns, was a splendid arrangement of "God Save the Queen" and "Rule Britannia." It was nicely executed and much enjoyed on account of its appropriateness as well as for its own merits. The programme was:


At the close Prof. Ambrose announced that the first prize for music had been awarded to Miss Grace Menzie, and the second to Miss Marion Burns. Miss Coldren, a young lady who delighted the audience with a piano solo, was almost tie with Miss Burns for second prize, the examiners baving much difficulty in making the award. Dr. Burns announced the reception of the Alumnæ Society for tonight and the commencement excrcises at Centenary Church on Monday evening.

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## Gelitorials.

The annual reception given by the Alumnæ Association was held on the evening of Friday, June rgth. In spite of the very unfavorable weather the halls filled rapidly with a brilliant throng of guests. The reception rooms were beautifully decorated with bunting and bouquets of flowers were in profusion. Oil paintings-the work of the pupils-were hung on the walls. There have seldom been better or larger collections of water colors than this year. In the smaller rooms were hung Chinese lanterns, which added much to the pretty effect by their dim light of subdued coloring. From the lower hall the I3th Batt. band discoursed music throughout the evening. About nine o'clock all assembled in the collegiate to witness the reception of the graduating class into the association and the conferring of prizes.

The president, Mrs. Galbreaith, read an address of welcome, after which the secretary, Miss Zealand, read the report of the work of the society during the year, and referred in touchng terms to the death of Miss Mina Keayes, of Hamilton, who graduated but two years ago. The members of class
' 87 were then welcomed by Mrs. Galbreaith, who pinned upon each the society badge. The prize of $\$ 25$, given by the association to that member who writes the test essay upon a given subject, was presented by Dr. S. J. Hunter to Miss McIlwraith, of class ' 76 , of Hamilton. The other prize of $\$ \mathrm{ro}$, given to that member of the senior literary society who writes; the best essay during the year, was presented to Miss Edith Robinson, of Hamilton, by Mrs. T. H. Pratt. The reception of ' 87 was acknowledged by all to be a great success in every respect. The visitors represented almost every city in the province. Quebec, Rochester and Lockport sent their quota, but Toronto, as usual, outdid them all. The college never looked so beautiful. The Alumnæ never showed a greater interest in their Alma Mater. We are told that the cost of the reception ran up into the hundreds. At the meeting of the Alumnæ over forty members were present, and there was so much business to be discussed that the mecting was adjourned until Monday afternoon.

## BAGCALAUREATE SERMON.

The services in Centenary church on Commencement Sunday were intensely interesting. The students occupied the centre pews of the church, the graduating class occupying the front seats, and wearing the cap and gown.

Dr. Dewart's subject was specially appropriate and was treated in a most interesting manner. His illustrations were striking and forcible, and the impression made will not soon pass away. The Baccalaureate sermon in the evening by our principal, Dr. Burns, was an exceedingly learned and eloquent exposition of the principles of liburty-intellectual, theological, political and religious, and was at once, as all his addresses are, both instructive and inspiring. The following is a brief synopsis of the sermon, taken from The Times:

Rev. Dr. Burns spoke upon the text, St. John viii. 32: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." He said: Absolute freedom belongs to God alone. All others are held in bond natural or unnatural, legal or illegal, pleasant or galling. The whole human race is a subject race, legally and naturally subject to the restraints imposed by infinite wisdom and goodness; and illegally and abnormally subject to the galling slavery of perverted appetites and desires, also to the oppression of ignorance in its thousand forms or to the overpowering force of outside tyranny, acting on the principle that might makes right. Yet, who would be catalogued as a slave? And even if slavery of body has to be admitted, as has too often been the case, in our own Britain, for instance, and in the United States, intellectual and moral freedom will still be claimed. The Jews, to whom the Lord used the words of the text, resented the insinuation of servitude implied in them, and declared that they "were never in bondage to any man." How far from the truth was that statement? But it was not to political enslavement that the Master referred, but to a much more common and riore degrading servitude. How bitterly we struggle against political subjection, how easily we glide into the bondage induced by the clouding of the judgment and the perverting of the moral sense. Through the seducive influences of sin we become the spori of forces that we were destined to control and are racked by fears begotten of ignorance. For ages the elements were a continual terror to man, the majority of phenomena were supernatural, and behind every fear lay a demon or a demigod. How galling the tinraldom under which the whole Church groaned for centuries, while astronomy, geology, physiology and biology were being interrogated and their secrets extorted. Multitudes lived and died in the firm conviction that the man had better never been horn than that lie should shock the Christian world with the idea that the sun was the centre of this system, and that the earth travelled round it. So when the idea of "more worlds than one" grew out of the teachings of Copernicus and Galileo it was met by the most violent opposition, as turning into ridicule the story of the incarnation. When the nebular hypothesis was propounded by the great

La Place, iollowed by the theory of the transmutation of species and the general teaching of evolution, there was an unquestionable flutter among theologians and an unseemly tremor all through the Christian ranks. There was a triple cause for this perturbation: The unnatural methods of studying nature; the irrational system of interpreting scripture; the ignoring of the simple truth that if nature and revelation had a common orgin there must be harmony, and that when discord or contradiction occurs it must be from misinterpreting one or both of them. Here we may surely say with the poet, "All discord, harmony not understood." These fears have all subsided, or are rapidly disappearing. It may be that there are a million million worlds immeasurably larger than ours and more densely peopled with intelligencies; but the discovery, if confirmed, would not obscure the revelation of our Great Father to us or weaken the testimony of our consciousness to His Spirit speakirg to our hearts or His love shed abronit therein. Then look at the bondage of liberalism and bibliolatry that so long oppressed the Church and which, to some exient, galls her yet. An unalterable meaning was attached to biblical utterances at a time when but little light had fallen on many subjects and before criticism had become a science. A thorough and rational system of reverting criticism has been applied, resulting in a reverence for the word and love of it that would have been impossible under the former bondage of infallible literalism. But have not discrepancies multiplied? No, they have almost disappeared. Indeed it might be said that discrepancies had dropped out of New Testament criticism altogether. There never was a book so maltrcated as the Bible. It has had to carry the ignorance of the masses in their perverse and vicious interpretation and application, the bisotry of the zealot, the blasphemous handling of the inquisitor, the slaveholder and the distiller, each of whom found in its sacred pages some passage that inferual skill could bend to his purpose. Buoyant in our freedom from the bondage of the letter, we unhesitatingly declare that he is guilty of high treason to our faith who would fear the result of any investigation, whether biblical, philosophical, scientific or historical. The day of broader vision has
come. The darkness past, and no biblical scholar worthy the name is longer harassed or even visited by the thought that truth can suffer by the entrance of light. The different interpretations placed upon the teaching of Christianity regarding ceremonies, symbols and sacraments have, to a large extent, been the cause of the division in the Christian ranks. Thus a Methodist might doubt the religion of a man who did not meet in class, or a Baptist the genuineness of the religion of a man who had not been immersed, and so of others. But a larger vision is coming to Christ's people, and a broader Catholicity. We are beginning to realize that the same high end is aimed at, even when methods differentfrom our own may be employed. And we are beginning, faintly it may be, but still audibly, to revive the Apostolic prayer, "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ." And more, we are beginning to ask if we could not come closer together and economize our forces for the evangelization of the world. The humiliating yoke of our divisions is donmed. The truith of the unity of God's family and Christ's Church has taken root, has flowered and fruited. Fraternize we wilh, co-operate in all Christian aggression we must, though the theological gladiator and the heresy hunter may have to search for more war-like realms or grieve to find their occupation gone. I have referred to Church separations. Let us look at national. Look at Europe to-night, a bristling camp, agreeing on nothing except the worship of Mars and self. Take it nation by nation. Russia on the east, Britain on the west; life almost crushed out of the people by wars and their concomitants. Is the condition of European nations an illustration of Christian civilization? Is war peace? Is drunkenness sobriety? Is the oppression of the many for the pampering of the few the aim of civilization? Said the Bishop of London recently: "There are parts of the world whence our countrymen, when they return, declare that it is better to carry Mohammedanism there than Christianity, because Mohammedanism is temperate and Christianity is not." Said Archdeacon Farrar: "Our 200 millions or more of fellow-subjects in India mainly belong to three great religions-they are mainly luaddists, or Brahmins or Molammedans. In every one of these three religions drink
is entirely discouraged. We found India sober, we have made it drunken. What with extermination for some, slavery for others and brandy for all, truly the other continents have had to pay dear for Europe's civilization." We protest against this impcachment of Christianity. The present condition of Europe is no more Christian than Southern slavery was the result of the " Declaration of Independence." Shall this br ndage forever continue-the bondage of the throne to pagan ideas and customs, the bondage of the people who cultivate and develop the nation to the assumptions of the few who manage the nation in their own interests? No, thank God, a thousand times, no! The imperfect and unjust cannot abide. Goodness alone is permanent. The leaven has not yet leavened the whole lump of so-called Christian society. But other gods have fallen, and mammon and pride must come down, and God and truth alone be cexalted. This is the jubilee of our good Queen Victoria, unquestionably the wisest monarch that ever filled the British throne. Other monarchs may have seen more of military splendor and greater acquisitions of territory. Oth:er queens may have been more pronounced on national affairs, and more ready to unfrock those who might differ from them on state policy. But no monarch ever wielded the sceptre in Britain more wisely or more kindly than her present Gracious Majesty, and none ever filied a larger or warmer place in the hearts of the British people than she. With a rare intuition and womanly good sense, she caught the spirit of constitutional government as no former British monarch ever did, and she has neither chafed herself or irritated the people by living on the bounds of preugative. Instead of stretching or straining authority she has ever shown a marked respect for the rights and even prejudices of the British people. I had hoped that in this jubilee year the sound of rejoicing might be heard in every province of her vast Empire. I don't blame Her Majesty for the distracted and sorrowful condition of my native country. Nor do I blame the British people. I cannot help thinking, however, that if Her Majesty had visited poor Ireland and scen her people and shown an interest in their sorrows, her kind, queenly, Teutonic heart would have responded to their Celtic warmth of loyalty,
and a sympathy would have been established between the good Queen and my countrymen that would have done more to solve the difficulties of the Irish problem than all the Viceroys and Coercion bills that have ever been forced upor that unhappy country. As it is, I believe that she is our friend, and I camot but think that a nature so noble and good must be in sympathy with the distressed and oppressed everywhere, and I would now ask this audience to join the choir in singing " God Save the Queen."

The request was responded to with much feeling, and Dr. Burns then addressed the class of graduates as follows:

Members of class 'S7, in calling your attention to liberty to-night I know that I am falling into line in the joyous march of every young heart. Much of the strength of young life is lost by a protracted use of swaddling bands. Many a wreck is thrown of life's shore through cowardly striking sail to one's fears. Many a youth with real genius and intellectual prospects sinks utterly from view through fear of venturing on seas unfurrowed by other keels. The whole genius of our day and our country bids us be free, and were I to give you an advice which would more than another secure for you a fee simple to the purest, deepest mental bliss, it would be: dismiss every mental formula, banish every mental restraint, and follow fearlessly the flashes of your own soul. There is no phrase of thought that is not legitimate to him who, with unsandaled feet and uncovered head, would approach God in search of light. That others have not left their footprints is the most tempting argament to enter and explore. It is a sad fact that in ordinary society the great bulk of human action may be anticipated, because all, but the few who retain their individuality and value their freedom, are simply echoes of nthers. They can hardiy be said to have an opinion. They simply float with the current and, if noticed at all, it is through collision with some upstream stranger, whose counter movement indicates life and force. I know that you sympathize with my thoughts to-night, that you have no fears of a collision between nature and revelation, that the lusk of ceremony and sacrament will not stop you on your search for the kernal. I know that you are all possessed of a broad Catholicity, that you not mercly
believe that there is common ground for mutual co-operation, but that you will lend your influence to Christian union. Spend not the struggle of your young hearts in creating or strengthening shibboleths. P: ay I say to you to-night, young ladies, that society expects something of you. Don't sink into inaction, even if your sphere should appear to be common-place. And, I beg you, don't stoop to become society ladics simply, like figures for millinery stores or creatures to grace an evening party. "Life is real, life is earnest." You cannot afford, even if your means would permit, to be moving figures to advertise the latest fashions. God has given you minds. He has given you advantages. I question if there is a more powerful influence in scciety than the earnest, loving words of a good woman. Gold, logic, eloquence, ambition have many a time spent their strength in vain, when the right words from loving lips have proved irresistible. I say not this to amuse or flatter, but to warn and exhort. Be not careless about appearance. The most powerful object on earth is a beautiful woman, and when beauty, wisdom and goodness are combined they form a trinity that both earth and heaven must acknowledge. To-morrow we shall as teachers and pupils be separated, but in affection more firmly bound than ever. You and ours, and we shall claim your victories and cover your defeats. May your friends be legion and your foes not be found. You have before you, I trust, many years ciuring which your path shall " grow brighter to the perfect day," full of action, full of hope, full of victories, and when the days of valedictories shall have passed, and the grand reunion shall have come, may class ' $S_{7}$ appear mubroken at the roll call of the skies.

## COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

## (From the Tises of Junc 2r.)

The annual commencement exercises of the Wesleyan ladies' college took place at the Centenary church last night. It was a very brilliant affair and very largely attended by the friends of the college and the students. Rev. Dr. Burns, principal, presided, and there were upon the platform Rev. Mungo Fraser, Mif. Dennis Moore, Rabbi Birkenthal, Dr. Roscbrugh, Mr. J. M. Gibson, M.P.P.,

Mr. S. F. Lazier, Rev. J. Kay, Rev. S. J. Hunter, D.D., Dev. Francis Coleman, Mr. W. J. Ballard, M.A., Rev. D. H. Fletcher, Rev. W. Rigsby and Rev. Dr. Dewart, besides Prof. Ambrose, Prof. Chambers, Miss McEvers, Miss Bean, and Miss Reasor, of the faculty.

When the graduates-Miss Eva Aikins, Brampton; Miss Lizzic Hardy, Cornell; Miss Clara Kitchen, St. George; Miss Ella Leary, Britannia; Miss Susic Mercer, Islington; Miss Aleda A. Burns, Hamilton ; Miss Edith Robinson, Hamilton; Miss Tillie Robinson, Hamilton; Miss Catharine Shore, Toronto, and Miss Emma Tucker, Campbell-ford-came upontt eplatform Prof. Ambrose played "See the Conquering Hero Comes" upon the organ and the audience applauded to the echo. After the singing of a hymn and prayer by Rev. Mr. Coleman, Dr. Burns, in a few words, said it had been very difficult this term to choose the prize-winners from among the class, as four or five of the number had received nothing but honor cards all through the term, to secure which they had to set an average of 7 S out of 8 marks in all! their work.

He then introduced Miss Lillic Hardy, of Cornell, who read the saluatory; a wellprepared and well-delivered greeting, in which very touching reference was made to the completion of the college course and to the celebration of the Queen's jubilce.

The valedictory was read by Miss Eva Aikins, of Brampton, the subject of whose remarks is designated in the couplet:

> "Our litue systems have their days They have their day and ccase to le."

The address touched bricfly but clearly upon the changes which have been made and are taking place in all around us; upon the rise and fall of the nations of antiquity; upen the changes in dynasties and families; in customs and costumes, and in all nature. In referring to the life upon which the graduates were about to enter, the kindest references were made to the principal and faculty of the college for their care and kindness, and for their wisdom and prudence, which had aroused within the members of the class a love for knowledge, so that, though they left the college, they would sti!] press on in pursuit of the moblest aims of life, and no matter in what sphere of life they might be
cast they would profit by their instruction and perform their duties faithfuily.

The principal then formally admitted the graduates into the rights, privileges and responsibilitics pertaining to the degrees which they had won. The degrec of M.L.A. was bestowed upon Misses Eva Aikins, Lillic Hardy, Clara Kitchen, Ella Leary and Susie Mercer, and that of M.E.L. upon Misses Aledd A. Burns, Edith Robinson, Tillic Robinson, Catharine Shore and Emma Tucker.

The presentation of medals and prizes was then procecded with. The Gov--General's gold medal for English literature was presented by J. M. Gibson, M.P.P., to Miss Susie Mercer. In making the presentation Mr. Gibson said that to some the presentation might seem but a formality, but to those who had spent many a weary hour of hard work in laying up knowledge it was not such. To Miss Mercer it must be the emblem of a well-earned victory and the symbol of success. In English literature Miss Lillic Hardy was second.

The idemis Moore gold medal for psychology had to be made in duplicate this ye:ar. Miss Eva Aikins and Miss Aleda A. Burns came so close together in the examinations, the former receiving 90 and the latter Sgout of a possible 100, that Mr. Moore decided to give a medal to each. Rev. Mungo Fraser, in a few words of advice, presented the medal to Miss Aikins, and Mr. Moore himself made the presentation to Miss Burns. Both gentlemen made brief and appropriate remarks, bestowing congratulations and givins advice.

The Demis Moore gold medal for Biblical history was then presented to Miss Eva Aikins loy Rev. S. J. Hunter, D.D., and second prize to Miss Emma Tucker by Dr. IBirkenthal.

The W. E. Sanford's gold medal for instrumental music was presented to Miss Grace Menzic, and the silver medal donated by the same gentleman as second prize for the same subject to Miss Marion Burns, by Prof. Ambrose, who made some very appropriate remarks upon music and its influcnces upon socicty and upon the cultivation of a God given talent for music.

The Edward Gurney sold medal for mathematics, won by Miss Nectic Burkholder, was presented b; Mr. W. J. Ballard, M.A., inspector of public schools, who said
that in the subjects of examinationgeometry, trigonometry and algebra-Miss Burkholder had reached the recognized stan-dard- 75 per cent-of gold medallists of the universities.

The John Macdonald gold medal for Christian evidences, won by Miss Lillie Hardy, was presented by Rev. D. H. Fletcher. Miss Edith Robinson was second in this subject and received a silver medal.

When announcing the prize winners in art Dr. Burns cexpressed regret that Prof. Martin, a member of the faculty, was not present, as he could better deal with the subject than any one clse. Mr. R. Duncan's prize for oil painting was won by Miss Eva McPhie and Miss Emma Smith, equal, and both young ladies were presented with their prizes by Mr. S. F. Lazier. Miss Clara Kitchen received honorable mention.

Rev. Mr. Rigsby presented the prize for crayon drawing to Miss Josephine Telfer, Miss Nellie Mulholland receiving honorable mention, and Dr. Burns presented Miss Edith Scott with the prize for pencil drawing. Miss Ella Leary received honorable mention for china painting.

Medals and diplomas won by Miss Edith Grafton, Miss Emma Smith, Miss Lottie Brethour and Miss Aleda A. Burns for paintings in oil at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition were then presented to those young ladies by Dr. Burns, which closed the ceremony of presentation.

Rev. Dr. Dewart, of Toronto, then addressed the meeting briefly upon the subject of education, and Dr. Burns said a few words in praise of the class of 'S7, after which the meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

## ENAMINATIONS.

Commencement week has in one respect lost its old-time attractions-the oral cxaminations and exhibitions to which parents and friends were warmly, yea urgently, invited. The loss was a serious one to those who might happily possexs enough of confidence and skill to answer at the questions, and if not to meet them squarely, at any rate to show that they could talk atoott ticm. Wut the present system of write en cxaminations is vastly superior in cecry respect os a lest of scholarship, and much more satisfactory to both teachers and jupils. Hence we are glad that years ago our College adopted the written examinations exclusively in undergraduaic work. Another great improvement was the introduction of outside cxaminers. To be sure, there is a litlic fear lest the papers might carry us into fields not thorrughty traversed in the class-room or covered by the lectures of our professors. But thus far these fears have treen groundiess. We lelieve that there is a general fecling among the students that they would rather have the pappers from oulside scholars than from their own teachers. The ruling jassion constantly present to the teacher, io discover
the ignorance or weakness of a pupil, might possibly control them on examination day. But final examinations should not have that in view. It is the duty of teachers to discover the ignorance and defects of their pupils; they do it that they may remove or correct them. But the object of examinations should be to see if the work of the year has been done honestly and well; and as a matter of course, catch questions, or curious and frivolous ones, that might puzzle the faculty of Yale or Harvard, should be ruled out.

With the introduction of prizes comes another element. The question no: is not simply, "Ins the work been done well?" but "Who has done it best?" No student can justly object to a difficult paper on a subject properly taught, and to which reasonable time has been alloted. Indeed, we hear that the examinations are becoming more dificult every year, yet the classes are better pleased and the reports are more satisfactory.
The examinations just closed were a gratifying termination to a year of hard work. Some of our friends almost envy us the life of ease and pleasure that they fancy we lead in the dear old College. The examinations are to us girls the best vindication against such an idea of life. And if we catch the after words of the examincrs-words that perhaps may have escaped the attention of the uninterested-and repeat them, our readers must indulge us for the nonce. It is human nature, you know, and girls are embraced in that broad category. One of the examination items was that the class in Psychology would le examined on the paper prepared for the Ph. D. course in a certain University. When the Rev. Mr. Stewart, examincd in Toronto University, told us once at Commencement that he had found more papers in Psychology in our College that year than he had reccived from the class in the Universit, don't imagine that we lost our heads. Our Principal had prepared us for such a statement, and said, "Why not? You have the same books, have you not the brains?" Another item was the Rev. Dr. S. J. Hunter's report of the Diblical History class. "I have examined the papers in Biblical History. They are all exceedingly good, I must say, far better than so many candidates ior the ministry would have done. This is the result, Eola 100, Sc., Se.' Well, we were not Eola, hut we are satisfied that she deserved the maak.
Another item was the report on English literature from a gentleman who has made it a specialty. "I was greatly pleased with the answers to my paper, and especially with the young lady, Lena, at the head of the list. The papers were all good ; the questions really difficult.' Many ladies do not like Paley's evidences; we are of the number, and did not expect nuch, we therefore transfer to our classmates the pleasant words of the scholarly examiner, "The answers are iull and well expressed. reflecting credit, cte., etc."

Our cup was almost full when Mr. W. H. Ballard, M.A.. inspector of city schools. who had prepared the papers in Mathematies, told us at commencemiont that each year had given him new surprise at the cxecllence of the papers presented by the "Ladies' College." Several of them would bave been honor papers in university work, being about is per cent. As this is not our hobby cither. we cheerfully relinquish it to the deserving lady who will graduate next year.

We could refer to the reports of other departments, but space forbids. The girls that were thought to be but enjoying themselves had found their enjoyment in something very dificrent from mere inactivity. The faculty says that this has been a very prosperous year. We giris know that it has been one of incessant labor. We congratulate our fellowstudents on these examinations-on their difficuliy, their impartiality and especially on the results. Were we to criticize anything, it might be the phainness of the programmes. as indeed of all announcements regarding the College. I'erhaps it is well. It is said that the ladies' colleges are in marked contrast with unitersities on the matter of display. If so. our Alma Mater is aiming at the maximum of results with minimem of display. Esfo jersedea.

The college will re-open on Weilnesday, September 7th.

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[^1]:    "Crowns have their compass, length of days their date, Triumph her tombs, felicity her fate."

