

Correspondence.

FROM OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

HAMILTON COMMENCEMENT.

The exercises of Commencement at Hamilton College this year were more than usually interesting. The graduating class was unusually large, and is regarded as one of the finest that has ever left those classic halls.

- Arnold, Charles Patrick.....Angella Bayless, George.....Highland, Kansas...

MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1864, WHO ARE NOW IN THE ARMY OF THE UNION, OR WHO HAVE DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

As usual, Commencement week was ushered in by the Baccalaureate of the President, delivered to a crowded house in the village church on Sunday afternoon.

And one other improvement is the adoption of the Bible as one of the text-books of the college, to be studied just as regularly and just as thoroughly as any other book through the entire college course.

Mr. Johnson's style is peculiarly mature, manly and thoughtful for one so young; his manner deliberate and yet impassioned; his voice clear and penetrating; his articulation just and expressive; with form and bearing all that could be desired to aid him in making the most of these fine powers of oratory.

On Monday evening came the Prize Declarations. The awards were as follows: Juniors—1st, Morris P. Brewer; 2d, George W. Martin.

SOCIETY OF THE DEGREE.

Hon. Chauncy M. DePew, Secretary of State, presided on this occasion. Very sweet music was made by a Quartette Choir from Rochester, led by Prof. Munson, which added much to the interest of the evening.

But the Poem, by Francis M. Finch, Esq., of Ithaca, was the marked feature of the evening, and seems not only to have given universal satisfaction, but awakened the highest enthusiasm. It was real poetry, poetry of a high order, and recited with complete rhetorical success.

On Wednesday forenoon was the meeting of the Board of Trustees. We were not present at this, and cannot speak of the far-reaching devices there considered for the still increasing enlargement and prosperity of the Institution; only some things leaked out (by design, doubtless), which we regard as of very great importance; and one was the election of the three new Trustees—all capital men—in place of some retiring members of the Board: Rev. A. D. Gridley, of Clinton, in place of Dr. N. W. Goertner, now a member of the Faculty; Rev. F. F. Ellinwood, of Rochester, in place of Dr. Brayton, late pastor at Watertown, but now removed from this vicinity; and Rev. Thomas S. Hastings, of New York, in place of Rev. Dr. Smith, now President of Dartmouth College.

These, surely, are most excellent appointments. They are all graduates of Hamilton; all comparatively young men; all earnest and active, and all in fine positions to be of great service to the college. And this marks an important epoch in the history of this Institution. She is henceforth to look more than ever before to her own sons for counsel and support.

The address before the Society of the Alumni was delivered on Wednesday afternoon, by Hon. Charles P. Kirkland, of New York, of the class of 1816. It was said to be able by those who were near enough to hear it; but it was far too long for such an occasion, being over two hours, and the speaker was not easily heard even by half the audience.

The Poem before the Alumni was by Prof. North, of the College, and was a model of its kind. In happy contrast with the oration, it was but thirty short minutes in length; every word also was distinctly and gracefully uttered; all was perfectly heard and appreciated by a most attentive and delighted audience; whilst its classic beauty, its genuine wit and happy turns of thought called forth frequent bursts of loud applause.

After enjoying so highly this gem of a poem, it was truly sad to turn to the necrological report for the year. This was prepared by Prof. North, but read by Rev. Herriek Johnson. We can give only the names and classes of the deceased:

Class of 1816—Philander Bennett, Theodore Sedgwick Gold. 1821—Frederick Augustus Penn. 1825—George Alexander Stansbury. 1832—John Dean. 1837—Henry Hovey Cozens. 1839—Hubert Francis Peebles. 1862—Henry Hastings Curran, Lansford Stuart Page. 1863—Charles Abbott Butts.

The following are the OFFICERS of the Society of the Alumni for the ensuing year: President—Rev. L. Merrill Miller, Ogdensburg. Vice Presidents—Hon. Othniel S. Williams, Clinton; Prof. Theodore W. Dwight, New York; Rev. William E. Knox, Rome.

Executive Committee—Rev. Charles Jerome, Prof. Anson J. Upson, Prof. Henry P. Bristol, Rev. David A. Holbrook, Hon. Henry M. Burchard, Rev. Charles E. Knox, Edward Curran, Esq., Rev. Albert Erdman, Dr. John C. Gallup, Dr. Henry M. Payne, Andrew W. Mills, Esq.

Recording Secretary and Necrologist—Prof. Edward North. Treasurer—Hon. Joseph S. Avery. Orator—Rev. Henry A. Nelson, D. D., St. Louis, Mo., (Class of 1840).

CONFERRING OF THE DEGREES. L. L. B.—in course, upon Andrew Wetmore Mills and Charles Morton Everett.

A. B. ex gratia—Philip Clinton Curran, '64. Canfield left his class to join the army, and did good service for his country.

Alfred Ayres Morse, Ezra Barton Wood. A. M. honorary—Lucian Harrison Cheney, of Baldwinsville; David Madison Chapin, of Ogdensburg; Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, of Honolulu, S. I.; John Gordon, of Port Hope, C. W.; and William G. Brownson, Jamaica, L. I.

CHAPLAIN STEWART'S LETTER. WASHINGTON, July 21st, 1864.

DEAR BROTHER Mears:—The strange mutations of this ever varying, ever changing war, enable me to date my present letter from Washington—the very Capitol itself—this place, the concentration of Brother Jonathan's family influences; this famous centre of Uncle Sam's civil wisdom and military power; this city of offices and officers; of scattered public buildings; of magnificent distances; this immense platform for Sharks and Shoddies, for winners and losers, for clerks and retainers, for the great and the small, the well known and the obscure; this motley place, where characters of all imaginable grades do congregate; this city, which, from the foregoing, we may infer pre-eminently abounds in all MANLY VIRTUES, CHARITIES, CHASTITIES, and PATRIOTISMS. At all events, here we are, quietly writing, in the office of a dear friend, with rebel raiders all chased far beyond the Potomac.

The occasion of our present hasty visit to Washington has already been widely bruited. Owing to the concentration of military strength around Petersburg, the Capital, with other important localities, became almost depleted of veteran defenders. All this being familiar to Rebeldom, with their larders and wardrobes sadly needing replenishing, they not only determined upon, but actually made an incursion into Maryland. Possessing an admirable tact of not only concealing their actual strength, but of immensely magnifying their real forces, the rebels succeeded, with a few thousand, in seriously threatening, at the same time, the capture of Washington and Baltimore, together with a host of minor localities.

Governors and localized Generals called, in long, loud, and patriotic strains upon citizen soldiery to rally to the rescue, and drive the marauding hordes back across the Potomac; even into that sacred river, if they were not in a hurry to be away. A rally in various localities seems to have been made; but, as usual in such cases, a little too late for the emergency; not being ready until the threatened evil was accomplished and the danger over.

The powers that do conserve the interests of Washington no doubt felt a little shaky about trusting the interests of the city to a hastily extemporized army, even though ready at the call, and large as demanded. Some veterans must needs be summoned, as a bulwark, from the Potomac army.

It so happens that when any sudden emergency comes, any raid to be headed, any long and rapid marches to be made, or any reliable fighting to be done, our 6th Corps is almost invariably selected. So it was in the late emergency. Although our corps was farthest from City Point, miles south of Petersburg, the order came at dark on Saturday, July 9th, to pack up at once and fall in. But a few minutes' interval, and, enveloped in clouds and darkness, we were warily threading our way to City Point, a distance of thirteen miles. By sunrise on Sabbath morning we were ready to be crowded, packed, jammed, squeezed into boats large and boats small, boats clean and boats foul, boats airy and boats suffocating; then away down the classic James, over the beautiful Choptank, and up the broad and lovely Potomac, until, landed once more in Washington, we were quickly at the forts in its vicinity. This was certainly accomplished none too soon, for a delay of a dozen hours in the arrival of our First and Second Divisions would, to all human appearance, have given Washington into the possession of rebels.

Owing to the unwonted labors, exposures and fatigues of our late terrible campaign, a little season of rest seemed a necessity for me on our arrival in Washington. This our good surgeon kindly ordered me to take. As the Lord always casts my lot in pleasant places, so a dear Christian friend, Colonel J. A. Akin, at the head of the Cavalry Bureau in Washington, at once took the over-measure of myself and jaded horse. A ten days' real resting, such as has neither been offered nor taken since the commencement of the war, has now been enjoyed, and greatly to the refreshment of both soul and body. During this period, scarcely a thought has intruded itself of writing letters for the press.

The amor scribendi seems a little excited to-day, and hence this hasty epistle. Items for a number of letters have been marked out, but their subject matter will not grow old. Where our next move, or when back to the line in front of Petersburg, deponent, not having the arrangements, saith not.

COLLEGE RECORD. Amherst College. President Stearns delivered the Baccalaureate sermon on Sunday, July 10th, from Hebrews 4: 13, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God," and the theme of the discourse was, "Unbelief in the Nineteenth Century."

The address before the Society of Inquiry, Tuesday night, was by Prof. H. B. Smith, of Union Theological Seminary, New York, and formerly Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy in this institution. His subject was, "Our nation and its present conflict in relation to the general progress of mankind."

The Commencement was on Tuesday. The degree of A. B. was conferred on forty young men, of whom eleven are absent in the army, fighting for their country. Honorary A. M.—Dr. Dio Lewis, of Boston; Francis O. Mason, of Geneva, N. Y.; Lebbous B. Fifield, of Bucks co., Ind.; William C. Collar, of Roxbury.

Dickinson College. The anniversary exercises of Commencement week at Dickinson College closed on Thursday, June 30th. These exercises opened on Sabbath morning with the Baccalaureate Sermon by President Johnson. The address before the Society of Religious Inquiry was delivered on Sabbath evening by Rev. J. R. Peck, A. M., of the class of 1832. On Tuesday evening the address before the Literary Societies was delivered by Rev. J. W. Jackson, of Harrisburg; his theme was, "Are we a nation?"

Westminster College. Thursday, June 30th, was "Commencement Day" at Westminster. By nine o'clock, A. M., carriages and vehicles of every description began to pour into the village of New Wilmington, Pa., the seat of the College, from all directions. Addresses were delivered by the young ladies and gentlemen who had finished their college course, while on previous days interesting exercises were held by the different Literary Societies.

Wabash College. The thirtieth commencement of Wabash College occurred on Wednesday, June 29th, 1864. It was an occasion of interest to its friends and visitors. On the Sabbath previous, Rev. H. E. Edson, of Indianapolis, preached an interesting sermon in the forenoon. The President, Dr. Tuttle, delivered his Baccalaureate in the afternoon. His text, "Put on the armor of light," was made the basis of a good practical discourse.

Marietta College. The anniversary exercises closed on Wednesday, June 29. From a full report in the Cincinnati Herald we take the following particulars: The address before the Society of Inquiry—a finished and eloquent discourse—was delivered by Rev. Rollin A. Sawyer, of Newark.

President Tuttle, in a communication to the Herald, says: The regular Commencement exercises, the degree of A. B. was conferred upon members of the graduating class: also the degree of A. M. on Rev. Henry Wickes, Edward H. Allen, Esq., R. B. Brownell, M. D., Major E. C. Dawes, 33d U. S. I., Capt. W. S. Friesner, 58th U. S. V. I., J. Addison Kingsbury, and Lyman A. Strong, Alumni of the College, and all but the first two belonging to the class of 1861.

The year which closed June 29th, has been marked in our history as a year of excitements, which, at one time, threatened us with the necessity of suspension. Many of our young men did enter the service of their country with a noble willingness, which makes us proud of them; but at no time have we been compelled to suspend the exercises of a single class. Some of them will return at the expiration of their 100 days. Past experience renders it probable that a considerable per cent. of them will re-enlist, and some of them, alas! will never return to us."

Several of these are already endowed, and the Board of Trustees have resolved to endow fifty of them, as a sign of their appreciation of the splendid conduct of our soldiers in this war, and as a means, also, of aiding the permanent endowment of a College which has sent no less than three hundred of its students, first and last, to the war. It is a soul-stirring idea, which I am sure will meet a generous response from churches and individuals. How many patriotic gentlemen and ladies there are in Indiana, who would be willing to take a share in this noble work, if they were thoroughly convinced of its feasibility.

Monmouth College. This College is established at Monmouth, Illinois, in a section of country possessing many advantages for such an institution. Its faculty, in learning and numbers, compares favorably with older Seminaries; and the course of study is ample and judicious. It has been especially favored in the preparation of many for the gospel ministry. We call the attention of our readers to the following account of its commencement week: The Baccalaureate Sermon was preached by President Wallace on Sabbath, June 26th, from Phil. ii. 5: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, cordially concurring with the Congress of the United States in the penitential and pious sentiments expressed in the aforesaid Resolution, and heartily approving of the devotional design and purposes thereof, do hereby appoint the first Thursday of August next to be observed by the people of the United States as a day of National humiliation and prayer.

Thursday of August next to be observed by the people of the United States as a day of National humiliation and prayer. I do hereby further invite and request the Heads of the Executive Departments of this Government, together with all Legislators, all Judges and Magistrates and all other persons exercising authority in the land, whether civil, military, or naval, and all soldiers, seamen, and marines in the National service, and all the other loyal and law-abiding people of the United States, to assemble in their preferred places of public worship on that day, and there to render to the Almighty and Merciful Ruler of the Universe such homages and such confessions, and to offer to Him such supplications as the Congress of the United States have, in their aforesaid Resolution, so solemnly, so earnestly, and so reverently recommended.

Monday evening came the Prize Declarations. The awards were as follows: Juniors—1st, Morris P. Brewer; 2d, George W. Martin. Sophomores—1st, Samuel D. Wilcox; 2d, Charles P. Skinner. Freshmen—1st, Sydney A. Sherman; 2d, George W. Hubbard.

Starting from the point suggested by the text—"And the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch"—that cities were the chief fields of apostolical labors, the superior influence of soul efforts in their bearing upon the work generally, is well urged. In everything belonging to human affairs, cities are centres of influence, and in nothing more so than in the religious condition of the world.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. By the President: WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

A PLEA FOR THE PREACHING OF CHRIST IN CITIES.—A sermon preached before the Young Men's Christian Association of New York, at their 12th Anniversary May 8th, 1864, by Richard S. Storrs, Jr. D. D., of Brookly, N. Y.