

THE HIGH SCHOOL.

The Valedictory Address Delivered at the Semi-Annual Commencement To-day. On an outside page are given the proceedings at the Semi-Annual Commencement of the Central High School, held to-day. Below we give in full the Valedictory Address, delivered on this occasion by Robert K. Pattison, who spoke as follows:—

The Walls of Constantinople.

From the Fall Wall Gazette. If we are to believe the latest intelligence from the Bosphorus, one more of the great empires of the world is to be demolished. The walls of Constantinople are to be demolished, or are already in process of demolition. It seemed to present a pictorial summary of a long tract of history—five or six volumes of Gibbon at least—that grand line of double and triple rampart, with its numerous towers and gates, extending four miles, from the Golden Horn to the Propontis, the "long wall" that stretch from sea to sea, as Charles Kingsley describes them in one of his most spirited ballads. For a thousand years, from their completion under Theodosius until the capture by the Turks, they had served as a barrier between effeminate wealth within and rapacious barbarism without. For no invader had succeeded in penetrating them. The Latin conquerors arrived by sea. But they were even more dear to the lover of the picturesque than to the antiquarian. The ancient walls of Rome, venerable as they are, but irregular in outline, often sunk in deep hollows, masked with vines and with gardens so as to be generally invisible until close approach, and nowhere presenting any long and imposing front, were not to compare in point of grandeur of appearance with those of her daughter capital. Shattered by earthquakes, breached by enemies, robbed of material by encroachers, they magnificent range still remained in substance unbroken, with even its towers standing in regular succession. The Turk resembles the Englishman especially in three things—fondness for horses, for young children, and for trees; and he has indulged the latter passion all along the leeward face of this ancient fortification. The broad open space, or glacis, which follows its outline—what ride in Europe can equal it?—is fringed on one side by splendid vegetation protruding from the old ditches and ruinous slopes, on the other by the cypress groves of one cemetery after another. All this monument of forgotten glory will soon cease to exist. The stones, it is said, are to serve for new erections, and part of the material has been dutifully presented by the Sultan to his mother, to dispose of as she may think proper. Some Oriental Hausmann, or, more probably, some company of ingenious Western adventurers, rejoicing in concessions, will replace it with brick new levees and barracks and suburban walks, with their due proportion of cafes, chantants and casinos. No question that Constantinople presented a fine field for the modern improver. But, considering the extent of waste or neglected ground within its walls, the lanes of ruinous huts to be demolished, the grand sites to be utilized, one cannot help fancying that its imperial edifice might have begun by making clean the inside of the cup and platter, and that there was enough to occupy him and a successor or two within the walls before they were called on to assail that venerable fabric itself.

consequence of the floods the past season, and the large accumulation of fresh water in the bay, the oysters have been killed in some of the most famous beds. Napoleon III has been elected an honorary member of the Antiquarian Society of the Rhine. In acknowledging the favor, he said that his German education was a guarantee for his esteem and sympathy with Germany. Scattered by fashionable ladies in New Orleans hung a yellow ribbon to their door knob New Year's day, as an indication that they would receive calls. The callers didn't come, and they afterwards found that it had been considered a sign of smallpox. The Massachusetts General Court having failed to pass the customary appropriation bill, the clerks at the State House in Boston are in trouble about their salaries. On Thursday last it was publicly announced that they would attend at one of the city soup houses, in a body, at noon on Saturday, but it was afterwards suggested that a better course would be to petition the Legislature to establish a soup house in one of the committee rooms. At a very successful seance in Cincinnati the other night, a man burst into tears when the medium described very accurately a tall, blind-eyed spirit standing by him, with light side whiskers and his hair parted in the middle. "Do you know him?" inquired a man at his side, in a sympathetic whisper. "Know him? I guess I do." On his feet he quickly put on, but "He was engaged to my wife. If he hadn't died he would have been her husband instead of me. Oh, George, George," he murmured, in a voice choked with emotion, "why, why did you peg out?" This is the latest story from Paris.—M. Blanc, a millionaire, who came within a acre of being elected deputy, was returning from Burgundy by a night train. A lady, young and pretty, occupied the same compartment. Now M. Blanc, who, in spite of his naturally small figure, tries to make them smaller still, was suffering terribly from tight boots. All at once he noticed that the lady was asleep and he could just as well take off his boots, which he did. Suddenly the station lights begin to appear in sight. On his boot is quickly put on, but the other, alas! does not go on so easily. He pulls and pushes; finally the foot goes in, but is terribly pinched. Once at the station, M. Blanc hides himself in a cab, and thinks his troubles at an end. When he reaches the home, imagine his surprise at finding his right foot in a lady's boot. The lady had been in a similar situation with herself. Madame Blanc refuses to believe a word of his story; she cries, goes into hysterics, and finally returns to her father, refusing to hold any communication with her unfortunate husband. But think of the reception accorded to the lady of the train when her husband saw her predicament!

Watches, Jewellery, Etc. Ladies and Gents' Watches AMERICAN AND IMPORTED. Of the most celebrated makers. FINE VEST CHAINS AND LEONTINE. In 14 and 16 karat. DIAMOND and other Jewellery of the latest designs. Engagement and Wedding Rings, in 18-karat and gold. Solid Silver Ware for Bridal Presents, Table Cutlery, Plated Ware, etc. 115 cent.

LEWIS LADOMUS & CO. DIAMOND DEALERS & JEWELLERS. WATCHES, JEWELRY & SILVER WARE. WATCHES AND JEWELRY REPAIRED. 802 Chestnut St., Phila.

HOWARD WATCHES. THE FINE AMERICAN WATCH AT THE VERY LOWEST PRICES BY ALEXANDER R. HARPER, Successor to John M. Harper, Agent for the Howard Watch. No. 308 CHESTNUT STREET, 119th SECOND STORY.

RICH JEWELRY. JOHN BRENNAN DIAMOND DEALER AND JEWELLER. No. 13 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET, 89 1/2 WEST PHILADELPHIA.

HARDING'S EDITIONS. THE HOLY BIBLE. FAMILY, PULPIT, AND PHOTOGRAPH BIBLES, FOR WEDDING AND BIRTHDAY PRESENTS. ALSO, PRESENTATION BIBLES FOR CHURCHES, CLERGYMEN, SOCIETIES AND TEACHERS, ETC.

HARDING'S PATENT CHAIN-BACK PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS. For Wedding, Holiday, or Birthday Presents, these Albums are particularly adapted. The book trade and dealers in fancy articles will find the most extensive assortment of Photograph Albums in the country, and superior to any heretofore made. For great strength, durability, and cheapness, Harding's Patent Chain-back Albums are unrivaled. Purchasers will find it greatly to their advantage to examine these new lines of goods before making up their orders for stock.

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SPECIAL NOTICES. OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held on THURSDAY, the 10th day of February, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the Hall of the Assembly Building, S. W. corner of TENTH and CHESTNUT Streets, Philadelphia.

OFFICE OF THE LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held on THURSDAY, the 10th day of February, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the Hall of the Assembly Building, S. W. corner of TENTH and CHESTNUT Streets, Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD CO. OFFICE, No. 227 S. FOURTH STREET. DIVIDEND NOTICE. The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed on FRIDAY, the 12th instant, and reopened on TUESDAY, January 11, 1870.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS. THE CHEESAPEAKE AND DELAWARE CANAL will be closed, for repairs to a lock, on MONDAY MORNING, the 7th of February, 1870, and opened for navigation in a few days thereafter. Notice of which will be given.

THE PARHAM SEWING MACHINE. Company's New Family Sewing Machines are most extensively pronounced to be the best and most durable of a perfect machine ever combined.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LONDON AND LIVERPOOL. SABINE, ALLEN & DULLIS, Agents, FIFTH and WALNUT STREETS.

COLD WEATHER DOES NOT CHAP. OR CRACKS THE SKIN AFTER USING WRIGHT'S ALMOND OIL. Glycerine. Its daily use makes the skin delicate soft and beautiful. Sold by all Druggists.

COLTON DENTAL ASSOCIATION. originated the anesthetic use of ETHYLENE OXIDE, OR LAUGHING GAS. And devote their whole time and practice to extracting teeth without pain.

DR. F. R. THOMAS, THE LATE OPERATOR of the Colton Dental Association, is now the only one in Philadelphia who devotes his entire time and practice to extracting teeth absolutely without pain, by fresh methods, 211 WALNUT ST.

BATCHELOR'S HAIR DYE.—THIS splendid Hair Dye is the best in the world. Harmless, reliable, instantaneous, does not contain lead, nor any vital poison to produce paralysis or death. Avoid the cheap dyes of the market, which are composed of arsenic and other poisonous substances.

HELMHOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU AND IMPROVED ROSE WATER cures all delicate disorders of the bladder, such as irritation, little or no change in diet, and no inconvenience. It is pleasant in taste and odor, immediate in its action, and free from all injurious properties.

HELMHOLD'S CONCENTRATED EXTRACT BUCHU is the Great Urinary Remedy. HELMHOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU is the Great Urinary Remedy. HELMHOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU is the Great Urinary Remedy.

FOR NON-RETENTION OR INCONTINENCE of Urine, irritation, inflammation, or obstruction of the bladder, or other diseases of the prostate gland, such as gravel, or other diseases of the bladder, and all diseases of the bladder, kidney, and dropsical swellings, use HELMHOLD'S FLUID EXTRACT BUCHU.

HELMHOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU gives health and vigor to the frame and blooms to the hair. It is the best remedy for all diseases of the bladder, kidney, and dropsical swellings, use HELMHOLD'S FLUID EXTRACT BUCHU.

ENFEEBLED AND DELICATE CONSTITUTIONS of both sexes, use HELMHOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU. It is the best remedy for all diseases of the bladder, kidney, and dropsical swellings, use HELMHOLD'S FLUID EXTRACT BUCHU.

THE GLORY OF MAN IS STRENGTH. Therefore the nervous and debilitated should immediately use HELMHOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU. HELMHOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU is the Great Urinary Remedy.

MANHOOD AND YOUTHFUL VIGOR are regained by HELMHOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU. HELMHOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU is the Great Urinary Remedy.

HELMHOLD'S FLUID EXTRACT BUCHU is the Great Urinary Remedy. HELMHOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU is the Great Urinary Remedy.

TAKE NO MORE UNPLEASANT AND DANGEROUS REMEDIES for the bladder, kidney, and dropsical swellings, use HELMHOLD'S FLUID EXTRACT BUCHU.

PROPOSALS FOR STAMPED ENVELOPES AND WRAPPERS. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. Sealed Proposals will be received at the Post Office at Philadelphia, Pa., on the 1st day of MARCH, 1870, for furnishing all the "Stamped Envelopes" and "Newspaper Wrappers" which this Department may require during a period of four years, commencing 1st of July, 1870, viz:—

STAMPED ENVELOPES. No. 1. Note size, 5 1/2 by 4 1/2 inches, of white paper. No. 2. Ordinary letter size, 5 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches, of white paper, or in such proportion of either as may be required. No. 3. Full letter size (ungummed on flap, for circulars), 5 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches, of the same color as No. 2, and under a like condition as to the proportion of each.

NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS. All the above envelopes and wrappers to be embossed with postage stamps of such denominations, styles, and colors, as may be determined by the Postmaster-General, and to be made in the most thorough manner, of paper of approved quality, manufactured specially for the purpose, with such water marks or other devices to prevent counterfeiting as the Postmaster-General may direct.

THE ENVELOPES to be thoroughly and perfectly gummed, the gumming to be done by hand (except for circulars) to be put on not less than half an inch in width with the entire length. The wrappers to be gummed not less than three-fourths of an inch in width across the end.

ALL envelopes and wrappers must be banded in parcels of twenty-five, and packed in strong pasteboards, so that they may be sent by mail, and to be made in the most thorough manner, of paper of approved quality, manufactured specially for the purpose, with such water marks or other devices to prevent counterfeiting as the Postmaster-General may direct.

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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE ERECTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS. PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17, 1870. SEALED PROPOSALS will be received for the following work and materials required in the execution of the WALNUT Street portion of the PUBLIC BUILDINGS, to wit:—

For all the excavations, including the trenches for the foundations. The price to be stated per cubic yard, which is to cover all digging, hauling away the surplus earth, and cutting down and removing whatever trees may come in the way of the excavations, without extra measurement or allowance.

For taking down the terrace wall, cleaning the bricks, and piling them up adjacent to the buildings, taking down the iron railings, the gate posts, the coping of the wall and the steps, and depositing them on the grounds, and removing all the rubbish occasioned by the same. The price for this portion of the work to be stated in gross.

For furnishing and delivering large-size building stone, the price to be stated per perch of 22 cubic feet, measured in the walls. Also, for select building stone, averaging 8 by 4 feet, and from 12 to 15 inches thick; the price for the same to be stated per cubic foot, delivered on the ground.

For building all the cellar walls, and the outside walls of the basement story, as high as the level line of the pavement, according to the plans and specifications. The price to be stated per perch of 22 cubic feet, laid in the walls, without extra measurement, and to include all labor and all materials except stone.

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For building all the cellar walls, and the outside walls of the basement story, as high as the level line of the pavement, according to the plans and specifications. The price to be stated per perch of 22 cubic feet, laid in the walls, without extra measurement, and to include all labor and all materials except stone.

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