

EDITOR OF CENTRE DEMOCRAT. Dear Sir:—Believing your readers will be interested in learning something about the exercises of commencement week at State College, I submit a brief account of the same.

Dr. Wm. Campbell, Ex-President of Rutgers College, N. J., delivered the Baccalaureate sermon on Sunday afternoon. His text was taken from 119th Psalm and the 129th verse. "Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore doth my soul keep them."

The discourse was able, interesting and instructive. The Doctor, though an old gentleman, seems to enjoy unusual vigor and speaks with great power. His address won the highest encomiums from all who heard him. If Dr. Atherton has any more such friends in Jersey he should not fail to bring them here on such occasions especially.

Tuesday morning was given to examinations, at which time the Preparatory students finished their work for the session and hoped they should never again be held to work even a day longer than college men. In the afternoon the Washington Literary Society held their reunion. Rev. W. K. Foster delivered the address of the occasion and appropriate music was rendered by members of the society.

Wednesday's programme was as follows: At 9 A. M. artillery salute; at 10 o'clock, annual meeting of the Board of Trustees; at 12 M. Alumni dinner; at 1:30 P. M., meeting of delegates to elect trustees; at 4 P. M., reunion of Cresson Literary Society, and at 8 P. M. Junior contest. The Alumni dinner is given annually by the College in honor of the Alumni Association and has become one of the most interesting occasions of commencement week.

The Cresson meeting in the afternoon was a grand success—all the members performed their parts well. The Junior contest in the evening proved, as it always has, to bring the largest number of friends and to be most interesting indeed. It would occupy too much space to give in detail even an outline of the different orations. They were all very good.

erected and good accommodations furnished for all friends of the college.

Thursday morning proved to be bright and pleasant. The programme was carried out in full. Dr. Atherton delivered a most excellent inaugural address, in which he reviewed the history of our education and then showed what industrial education was and the kind furnished by the College over which he so recently had been called to preside.

The orations of the graduates were excellent indeed. They all deserve great praise for the way they performed their last duties at the College. After conferring degrees and the awarding of prizes, Rev. Laurie dismissed the audience with benediction.

At 8 P. M. the President's reception closed the exercises and it was a most enjoyable occasion. A very large number of friends were present and the evening passed most pleasantly. On the whole it was one of the best commencements the College ever had, and if the increased interest has any symbol it means that State College is now going to be one of the best and most prosperous institutions in the land.

CONTRIBUTOR.

Our Early Predecessors.

How They Lived and Left Their Descendants Poor.

Jefferson lived at Monticello in the meridian of his intellectual manhood—the patron of seats of learning, the friend of the great of the earth—as a citizen of Virginia, and his mountain home was as accessible as the laborer's cottage.

His predecessors in the great office he filled dwelt like him in modest homes—Adams in a New England village and Washington at Mount Vernon, where his munificent hospitality made his Virginia home seem a great mansion, whereas it was not more pretentious, save as to grounds, than are the homes of mechanics today.

Madison's home was the finest of all the President's, and he died so poor that his widow, to get the means to pay her board in Washington, sold her public papers to Congress. He had no children, and yet did not leave wealth sufficient to keep his homestead in the possession of his family ten years after his death.

Monroe, the author of the doctrine that is today the guide and monitor of the nation in its dealings with other nations, lived for his country and died homeless. Long before his death he sold his country home in Virginia and became an inmate of his daughter's house in New York, where he died.

his second term. Mrs. Randolph was a noble Virginia matron, and Jefferson's last days were made wretched by the thought that he should have to leave her poor. The home was sold and the fund that was so generously proposed to be raised for her was never secured.—Brooklyn Eagle.

President Garfield's Remains—The Face Covered with Mould and the Features Well Nigh Obliterated.

The guards are still watching the tomb of the late President. When the correspondent walked up to the vault in Lake View cemetery containing Garfield's body, a lonely and solitary private was patrolling in front of the vault, with a tired and weary look on his face. By the way he held his musket I should judge it weighed in the neighborhood of a hundred pounds.

Inside the vault, near the entrance, is a tall silver vase, which is filled with beautiful flowers twice each week by a florist employed by Mrs. Garfield. On the casket is a handsome wreath of immortelles, placed there by Modjeska, the actress, when in Cleveland some months ago. Near the wreath lies a sheaf of wheat, laid there by Garfield's father-in-law.

At the base of the casket lies the large palm that was placed on the casket at Elberon on that warm morning in August when services were held in the Franklyn cottage by the seashore.

Fronting the tomb is a wire fence, on the gate of which hangs a small box, which is used as a receptacle for small contributions by visitors to the Garfield monument fund.

The average receipts are about \$2.50 per day. At this rate it would not take many years to secure a goodly sum with which to build a modest monument.

"Has any one viewed the remains of the dead recently?" was asked of the guard in attendance.

"Yes; the lieutenant in charge sees the body once a month. You see, the officer having the body in charge is held responsible for its safe preservation, and when the lieutenants change off on the first of each month, the newly arrived officer unseals the plate that covers the glass over the casket and looks in to see that the remains are still there. It is a most disagreeable task, I assure you. The last time I saw the body there was every indication that it was rapidly crumbling to dust. The face was covered with a white mould and the features were well nigh obliterated."

"Do the relic hunters annoy you to any great extent?"

"Yes, they bother us terribly. They carry away anything they can lay their hands on—even the grass that grows around the vault. For this reason we were compelled to place a wire fence around the vault. In my opinion there was really no necessity for the placing of a guard around this grave. The idle talk of four drunken men had more than anything else to do with it. The night after Garfield's body was placed here in this vault the cemetery employe who stood in the shrubbery near by guarding the vault was startled by four men who drove up and began rattling at the vault door. One of the men claimed to be a United States officer, and wanted to know why no guard was stationed at the grave. The sexton threatened to pound him with a club if he didn't leave the grounds, and the party retreated in good order. When they returned to the city they started the report that an attempt had been made to rob Garfield's grave, and the government troops were hurried here from Fort Wayne and placed on guard."

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