

**IOWA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.****Exercises of the First Annual Commencement—Some of the Results of the Agricultural College System.**

The State Agricultural College of Iowa is situated near Ames, in Story County, and the exercises of the first graduating class, on the 13th inst., drew together most of the leading men and women of that enlightened and vigorous young State. A class of twenty-six received the degree of Bachelor of Science, and nineteen of these young ladies and gentlemen took part in the commencement exercises by reading papers on various subjects. A brief outline of these may indicate the scope and tendencies of the new system of education which agricultural colleges may be said to have introduced. After prayer by Dr. Thacher, President of the State University, Mr. John L. Stevens, of the graduating class, delivered an oration on "Economy of Labor," the theme of which was science as the basis of wealth and the instrument of labor.

Mr. C. L. Sueksdorf, of Scott County, spoke on "Physical Deterioration," which he ascribed to fashion and ignorance. The oration was an argument for the practical education and the combination of labor and study.

Mr. J. C. Arthur, of Floyd County, in a paper entitled "Encourage the Beautiful," showed the tendency of the practical to assert itself in disregard of the beautiful in home surroundings and in personal and public taste. Following the physical science in imparting polish to education, he said, is the study of the ancient and modern languages, and to these next come the fine arts. The speaker indulged in the aspiration that the time might never come when it would be demanded of our colleges to send forth educated bores.

"Science and Faith" was the subject chosen by Mr. C. P. Wellman, of Winnebago County. The advancement of science does not tend to the destruction of faith. He had no fear that Darwinism would undermine Christianity.

Mr. G. W. Ramsey, of Buchanan County, showed the effect of "Climatic Influence" on vegetation and also on man, proving himself a close observer and an original thinker.

Mr. E. M. Hungerford, of Wapello County, read a paper on "Our Own Literature," tracing the history of literature from the earliest times, and pleading for the study of that of our own country, the sturdy common-sense vigor of which indicates the manliness and independence of our race.

Mr. T. L. Harvey, of Humboldt County, chose "Scientific Agriculturists" for his theme. Men have utilized every plan for the economy of labor, until the laborious process of farming has been replaced by one of ease, pleasure and profit. The idea that science and practice are antagonistic is fallacious. Agriculture is both a science and an art, and requires the application of science with individual tact and energy—hence the necessity for agricultural schools.

Miss Faunie H. Richards, of Hamilton County, a clerk in the Iowa Legislature, last Winter, spoke on "Denominational Christianity," and the drift of her discourse may be seen in the declarations that Christianity is love, and nothing but love, and the dogmas of men avail nothing against it, and that sects should be abolished.

Mr. L. W. Noyes, of Linn County, told "How to Build a State," saying that it is with mind, not matter; with men, not things. Industry and intelligence are the essentials; intelligence in our people, and not three hundred dollar State-houses. The advocates of the material policy use every effort to increase material wealth and greatness; those of the intellectual policy seek to elevate and perpetuate the State by fostering the intellectual and industrial interests, providing general intelligence by placing it within the power of all.

Mr. S. A. Churchill, of Scott County, spoke on the "Necessity and Benefits of Military Instruction." Connected with every educational institution in the country, he said, should be a thorough department of military instruction, the exercise of the drill being beneficial to students, and making men of them when nothing else can. This branch of instruction deserves an equal footing with every other, and should be made compulsory.

Mr. J. W. Smith, of Floyd County, discoursed on "Pride of Scholarship," taking what is described as a common sense view of life, and declaring scholastic education to be but secondary after all.

Mr. L. Foster, of Wapello County, read an excellent essay on moral restraint, under the title of "Self-government the Highest Wisdom."

Mr. S. L. Thompson, of Fayette County, drew many practical applications to our form of government from the Pnyx, the throne of Athenian oratory, in a scholarly address.

Mr. C. A. Smith, of Clinton County, held the Press responsible for very few of the evils of society, and laid upon society the onus of nearly all the evils of journalism.

Mr. O. Cessna, of Story County, on the subject of "Failure the Law of Progress," argued that when failures cease progress must cease, because man no longer gains the knowledge imparted by failures.

Mr. Henry Clark Spencer, of Grinnell, gave an interesting historical sketch of "The National Banking system of the United States." For ten years the system has been before the public, and found not wanting. The advantages were pointed out, such as uniformity in its notes, security, and the strict regulations and examinations to which the national banks are subjected. No banking system has ever shown itself so excellent and secure.

Miss Mattie A. Locke, of Benton County, also one of the clerks in the Iowa Legislature last Winter, on the subject of "Education for Women," argued that if woman wants domestic, social, and political equality with man, she must attend to the requirements of those conditions.

"The Ages," "The Old and the New," and "Culture, the Showy and the Solid," were the subjects of papers read by Mr. E. W. Stanton, of Story County; Mr. S. H. Dickey, of Henry, and Mr. J. K. Macomber, of Cass County.