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A MEMORABLE EVENT

One Long to Be Remembered by Graduates. Relatives and Friends. Synopsis of Orations.

Another event was added in the history of the Billings high school saturday night, when the graduating exercises of the class of '99 were held and six young people completed their studies and passed out into the world to enter the active pursuits of life. The class was the second one to leave the Billings schools and was the largest by one. Fred Penrod was the only young man in the class and has the honor of being the first to graduate from the city schools. The opera house was tastefully decorated with streamers, flowers and potted plants, the class colors, pink and green, being quite prominent. The five young women of the class were daintily attired in white gowns, while the young getlemen member work black. The class motto "Nullc Secundus," a Latin phrase meaning "Second to None," was prettily worked out in gold letters with pink and green background over the front of the stage. The graduates and the relatives and friends and those interested in the high school and its work will remember the occasion all their lives. The graduates were the recipients of many lovely bouquets and baskets of roses.

The opera house was crowded, many standing and a number being turned away from the doors unable to gain ad mittance. Each graduate delivered an essay or oration, a portion of each one following below. In justice to all it is but fair to state that each one acquitted himself or herself in a highly creditable manner and the orations showed careful thought and prepara-tion. The programme opened with a splendid overture by the orchestra, followed with an invocation by Rev. D. Clark. Throughout the evening the programme was iterspersed with music a ladies' quartette, composed of Misses Martha Denham and Dora Gruwell, Mesdames Tompkins and Barstow, and a male quartette, comprising Messrs. H. M. Allen, Ira L. Whitney, E. H. Hollister and C. F. Young, each sang a fine selection. Miss Denham also sang a beautiful sole and encore, being in splendid voice for the occasion. A cornet duet by Messrs. H. A. VanHorne and W. O. Allen was another pleasing musical number. At the close of the orations, Judge Jas. R. Goss, president of the hoard of trustees, made the pres entation of diplomas to the graduates complimenting them upon having run a successful race and doing well. When he had closed, Principal H. M. Brayton addressed the class, reviewing their school work and speaking of the regret that was felt upon bieng called to bid them good-bye and that they would be greatly missed from the school. The orchestra then played a selection after benediction by Rev. Clark, the programme came to a close and rela-tives and friends of the graduates hastened onto the stage and showered con-graulations and well wishes upon them.

A Philanthronic Movement. by Miss Winifred Rixon.

The salutatory was given by Miss Winifred Rixon. After extending a cordial welcome to all present she took up the subject "A Philanthropic Move-ment." She said:

"We meet tonight to celebrate the end of school days and to hail the beginning of serious life-the day, the months, the years have passed by and at last our course is finished. We have looked forward to this night as a period in our lives of much importance to us and I, in behalf of my class, welcome you to these commencement exercises of the class of 1899. Looking back through countless centuries, the fate of the wounded soldier was to be left alone upon the battlefield, there to watch eagerly for the moment when pain and exhaustion would bring to him the only reward which emperors and kings were liberal with—the glory of dying for a country. Little interest was manifested in the final lot of the sick or wounded patriot until the Crimean war, when the effect of the press upon the sympathies of an intelligent people became evident. When reports were found showing that the government had falied to supply sufficient medical aid, that soldiers were dyin from pestilences; that men, wounde in battle, lay in the trenches, where they fell; that they were unfed and un-cared for, the British nation was filled with horror and indignation. Sidney Herbert, realizing that a civil organization would be better able to cope with these humane duties, wrote to Florence

hospital, in regard to such an organization. A few days later she, with a band of forty women, started for the field of battle. Her success in what became the special work of the Red Cross is known throughout the world and she is regarded as one of the highest and noblest ideals of character. The Geneva treaty constitutes what is known as the treaty of the Red Cross. which opens the ranks of the armies to the direct aid of the people for the re-lief of the sick and wounded. This treaty is signed by forty nations. It was at the beginning of the civil war that Clara Barton first took an interest in this work. From that time her life has been devoted to this great work. It was not until 1882 that our congress agreed to the Geneva treaty. Our last congress passed a bill protecting the symbol of the order and there will be no more Red Cross cough drops, Red Cross washing machines and Red Cross whisky. Much was done by this society to relieve the suffering in the late Next to the flag of their country all true men and soldiers love and honor the flag of the Red Cross."

The Nicaragua Canal" by Miss Delia

minds of the American people at the that of colonization. It cannot start present time is the above, and the orapresent time is the above, and the ora-tion of Miss Loftus showed that much study had been devoted to it. The pendence could not go out and carry on speaker said in opening:

of Columbus? At the time when success seemed attainable, he found his progress checked. Nature had placed a barrier in the way which not even his perseverance could surmount. It remained for Balboa to make known to the nations the small extent of this they conscientiously start out on an existhmian obstacle stretching between the Atlantic and Pacific. Balboa's plan to break through this barrier and thus reduce the sailing distance around the world by more than one-third of its gling against the rapacions advance-oroumference has been the desire of ments of a nation which has heretofore thousands. The discovery of a great followed the 'ways of pleasantness' lake, now known as Nicaragua, to-and 'paths of peace.' " The speaker gether with its outlet, the San Juan river, seemed to indicate that at this point easy access could be gained to the Pacific. From that time until the present many examinations and various schemes have been devised for the pro-ject. While the failure of Count de Lesseps has prevented great capitalists from making the necessary heavy investments, still the people of the United States have never doubted the practicability of the scheme, nor have they ever faltered in the idea that the canal should be under the control of our government." She spoke of what had been done on the project from Grant's administration to the present time in the way of investigation, and sion to best and brightest century in the defeat by our last congress of the bill to appropriate \$100,000.000 for its construction, which she said was, no doubt, due to a powerful lobby. "It is no easy matter to convince seventy millions of people that this canal should be undertaken. Perhaps the recent voyage of the battleship Oregon and its return trip together with the Iowa have done more than anything else to convince us that the canal is a necessity. Yet there are many reasons why it is desirable. Will it not greatly benefit our commerce, both domestic and foreign? The time and cost of transportation will be greatly les-sened." She spoke of the increased market in Europe for Pacific coast products which would result from the opening of the caual and that the west would not reap all the benefits. The manufactured goods of the east would find a more ready sale and the its cotton and nig-iron would be vastly benefitted." Three-fourths of the commerce of the South American ports," said Miss Loftus, "is with Europe, but with the advantages gained by the canal, we would secur control over a larger portion of this commerce. The desirability of the canal as a means of defense appeals to the judgment of all. We may never be called upon to test our valor or strength in a trial of arms, yet foreign aggres iveness may compel us to resort flict, in which event the canal would nict, in which event the canal would be a short gate from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The possibilities of such a conflict are sufficient reason for us to insist, in days of peace, on a provision that may be of immense worth to us in days of war. Since the changes that have come to us as a result of the late war, it is an absolute necessity, if we

"Imperialism" by Fred Penrod.

are to take a part in the development

of the Pacific, we must construct and own this canal. The opportunity is

now presented for us to complete the interrupted work of Columbus and thus

bring greater wealth and greater pros-perity to the United States."

With the subject "Imperialism," the only young man in the class, Fred Pen-rod, proved himself a splendid orator. His subject is a most popular one with the people and Mr. Penrod made a good impression with his speech. A portion of his oration is as follows:

"Perhaps there is no question that is troubling the minds of this great com-monwealth more than that of expan-Nightingale, supervisor of a London sion. This nation is entering upon an

era not even dreamed of by our fore-fathers, and in this critical period she has but the only successful nation heart, her prayers and her benedictions. She is the champion and vindicator every war of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, of envy and ambition, which assume the color and usurp the standard of freedom.' At the time this was said there was no thought of undertaking conquests or of expanding our boundaries. Yet Mr. Adams saw our boundaries. the danger that would befall the American people if such a course was pursued. It remains for you to see how near those prophetic utterances apply Another subject foremost in the of expansion the nation can take up is eaker said in opening:

"How often in life is a person denied lized people. If they thought of adeptthe one thing he desires before all ing such a course they can but remem-others—the one thing sought is unat-ber how, in 1775 at the battles of tainable. Was it not thus in the case Lexington and Concord, their forefathers laid down their lives on the altar of freedom, they can but recollect how precious liberty was to their forefathers, how they sacrificed all for this love. Then after thinking and looking back over the events of '75 and '80, can pedition of murder, ravage and con-quests? Of the 8,00,000 people in the Philippine islands, every drop of blood shed would mark them martyrs struggave his reasons why we should not keep the Philippines, chief among them being the necessity of keeping a large standing army and increased naval force, and stated that a grgest question is before us. He said that \$20,000,000 had been paid for the islands and asked what is to be done with them. He said that in case this government assumes annexation, what form of government would be given to the islands. In the words of Bishop Potter, "We have certainly attained a position in our relations with the rest of the world that is absolutely unprecedented in history, and it remains for the people of the United States alone to form the conclu-'A Scientific Wonder" by Miss Hattle

Brayton.

In a description of "A Scientific Wonder" Miss Hattie Brayton told of Wonder" Miss Hattle brayers the marvelous use of liquid air and its make in a few years. "All probable uses in a few years. "All substances in our universe," she said, "are one of three conditions, solid, liquid or gaseous. Most elements can exist in two if not all of these states, for instance, water is a solid when ice, a gas when steam or vapor. For many years it was thought by philosophers that on account of conditions necessary to human life, it was impossible to reduce air to any form except the gaseous. But in 1877, by the combinaa few clear, bluish drops of liquid which bubbled and then disappeared as

other important constituent of air, was has but the only successful.

Great Britain to guide her. While we could have no better example than that Dewar of England produced some quantity of not only liquid oxygen, but the li successfully liquified several years later. It was at this time that Prof. stained from the quarrels of that great ounce. Since the success of this exstained from the quarrels of that great onnce. Since the success of this exAceldama, the European world, wish periment scientists believe that every now to enter upon a different career? substance can be reduced to any of the substance of the conditions. By heat it may be a conditions, and independence has been or shall be unfurled there will be her heart, her prayers and her benedictions.

The charming and vindicator Mr. C. E. Tripler, a civil engineer of She is the champion and vincicated only of her own. She well knows that by once enlisting under other banners eight years with the result that now the liquid which was produced at such that now the liquid which wa great expense is made by the barrel at a cost of about 20 cents a gallon. When extreme cold and pressure are applied to the air we breathe a liquid with a slight bluish tinge is obtained. This liquid is not wet to the touch but causes severe cold, being about 312 degrees below zero. It was not until lately that compressed air was used instead of gasoline or electricity for motive power, but this is likely to be superceded by the use of liquid air, the motive power of which is its most important factor. Mr. Tripler has suceeded in running a small engine in his laboratory with liquid air and thinks that if small engines may be made to run, why not large ones, and he is engaged on a method by which liquid air be used in practical machinery. It is thought that because of the small amount of space occupied by liquid air it will be applied in aerial navigation." She said that in many cases metals could be frozen by the use of liquid air could be trozen by the use of inquid air and that fruit, butter and eggs may be frozen so hard that they may be re-duced to a fine, dry powder. "It is impracticable to keep this liquid closely shut, or in an open vessel on ac-count of its tendency to evaporate." She said, "The discovery of liquid air suggests an explanation for the fact that the moon is without atmosphere. The heat was radiated from the moon till the air, becoming cooled below 312 degrees below zero was probably pre-cipitated as moisture, and as the cold increased crystalized. It is not at all improbable that millions of years hence this will occur to the earth as it is rapidly radiating its heat. So many new discoveries are made in science nowadays that people are ready to believe almost any statement that is endorsed by a scholarly name; but, while the name of Mr. Tripler has been before the country for so short a time, it promises to remain permanently associated with the greatest scientific wonder of the closing century."

"Progress" by Miss Trudence Miller.

Miss Trudence Miller's subject was "Progress." She spoke of the advancement of the United States in all the different lines of work. She said in

part:
"The close of each day finds us either
the close of each day finds us either we are advancing or retrograding, we are never standing still; when the sun sets we are not where we were at its rising, we have progressed or we have re-treated; every action advances or re-tards our growth; every organ of our body, when unused, loses its function; every time we fail to use our power it becomes weaker; every time we fail to embrace an opportunity for doing good we lose the desire for so doing. Progress must be made in the mental world—mind unless cultivated becomes stagnant. So a nation must advance or it will retrograde, it is an impossibility for it to remain stationary tion of great cold and enormous pres-sure upon oxygen, Raul Pictet produced

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