

president of Roanoke college. At the conclusion of his remarks Dr. Dreher announced that on account of the fact that two of the class had made exactly the same average it had been impossible to award the medal but for the generosity of Mr. Z. F. Wright, who had offered to provide an additional medal, and two German medals were awarded this morning—one to Mr. James R. McKittrick and another to Miss Lola Lake, both of the senior class.

Owing to the length of the exercises which were to follow, the announcements of the awards of the other medals were made by President George B. Cromer.

The John M. Kinard Freshman medal was awarded Miss Sara E. Bowers, with honorable mention of Mr. W. F. Hipp.

The Greek medal, offered by Messrs. C. P. Boozer and W. A. Moseley, was awarded Mr. J. H. Riser, with honorable mention of Mr. P. A. Schumpert.

The John J. Long Science medal, the contest for which was throughout the course, was awarded Mr. L. M. Bouknight.

The O. B. Mayer Senior history medal was awarded Mr. L. M. Bouknight, with honorable mention of Mr. James R. McKittrick.

The George S. Mower Senior essay medal was awarded Mr. Wm. B. Seabrook.

The degrees were conferred and the diplomas were awarded the graduating class by the retiring president, Dr. George B. Cromer.

Dr. Cromer's farewell address to class of 1904 was the deeply sincere utterance of a man who had watched their college career with loving interest and who took a deep and abiding interest in their future.

Dr. Cromer spoke with an eloquence which fittingly expressed his deep feeling. There was no voice of God out of the clouds, out of the winds, or out of the earthquakes, he said. The voice of God came to men in a sense of duty, and those who heard were those who listened, and listened in a time of need and conscious dependence. He had few words to say to the graduating class this morning. He wanted to urge simple, plain, down-right, straightforward honesty—not that kind which puts books in shape because the grand jury is coming to inspect, but that kind that challenges investigation and inspection. The only real problem which we have, he said, is the problem of honesty. We have no negro problem. What we need is honesty—honesty among the white men of this country.—what we want is voters to rule the country in the fear of God.

As a last word to the class of 1904, he wanted them to be scholars if they could and to win position if they could. He wanted them to go up until they reached the full measure of their willingness to serve the people in the fear of God. But above all he wanted them to be honest men and honest women.

The Two Presidents.

Dr. Cromer, the retiring president, presented Dr. Scherer, the incoming president, with the words: "And now I have the honor to present my friend, and your friend, and the friend of Newberry college."

Dr. Scherer's inaugural address was characteristic of the man,—eloquent, thoughtful. His diction was superb and his delivery graceful. And above all, he showed his love for the college, his abiding faith in its future, and his earnest purpose to give the best that within him lies for its welfare.

Dr. Scherer's address is published in full elsewhere.

THE JUNIOR CONTEST.

Mr. J. E. Harms, of Savannah, Winner of the Oratorical Medal.

The Junior oratorical contest was held on Monday night before one of the largest audiences of commencement. The medal was awarded Mr. J. E. Harms, of Savannah, with honorable mention of Mr. R. W. Frick, of Chapin. The presentation was made by Dr. W. H. Dunbar, of Baltimore.

The contest was participated in by eight young men, selected from the class at a preliminary contest. They with their subjects are as follows:

W. E. Derrick, Hilton—Peace Hath Her Victories.

L. E. Dreher, Selwood—Lights and Shadows.

R. W. Frick, Chapin—Everlasting Monuments.

J. E. Harms, Savannah, Ga.—Luck or Labor.

J. C. Hipp, Newberry—America's Mission.

E. H. Olney, Charleston—Climbers.

W. E. Pugh, Prosperity—The Tendency of the Times.

J. H. Zeagler, Lone Star—The Two Evils.

All of the young men acquitted themselves with a great deal of credit, and their orations were heard with pleasure and with closest attention by the large audience.

The committee of judges consisted of Dr. W. H. Dunbar, of Baltimore; Rev. J. D. Kinard, of Orangeburg; Mr. Z. F. Wright, of Newberry; Col. W. H. Hunt, of Newberry; and Capt. J. W. Jenny, of Jennys.

Excellent music was furnished by the Newberry orchestra.

ALUMNI ADDRESS.

It Was Delivered by Dr. James M. Kibler, of This City, of the Class of '82.

The annual address before the Alumni association of Newberry college was delivered in the opera house Tuesday morning by Dr. James M. Kibler, of this city who was a member of the class of '82. His address was a thoughtful and forceful plea for public education.

Dr. Kibler is a strong writer and a graceful speaker, and his address Tuesday morning was received with close attention. The speaker drove home with force the truths which he uttered, and those in his audience were strongly impressed with the thoughts which he brought to them.

In a professional life of eighteen years Dr. Kibler has had opportunity to study the condition and needs of the people of South Carolina, and his address on Tuesday was made all the more forcible on account of the fact that he spoke in some degree, at least, from his own personal experience among the people of his state.

The speaker was introduced by Hon. Arthur Kibler, president of the Alumni association.

After a few introductory remarks Dr. Kibler announced as his theme, "A Plea for Public Education." When a thoughtful man took cognizance of life and things around him, he said, his heart was touched with a feeling of deep sympathy on beholding the utter dependence of the great masses of our people upon the will and desires of a few. They had no aspirations or incentives for a higher life, and were content with the menial things around them. How were they to be lifted from the slough of their helplessness? By developing, training, moulding and elevating them to a higher plane of usefulness, where would dawn before their visions the light of worlds, before un- seen, and beauties of thought, of desires and of aspirations never before imagined.

The speaker came, therefore, to the Alumni association this morning with a deep feeling of their responsibility for their fellow-man—they had been lifted from the commoner walks of life by the fostering care of others—and to those also of his fellow-citizens whose circumstances and environments of life had given them more than ordinary advantages in the great struggle of existence. He came to all with a Plea for Public Education.

The great need of the times now was a more thorough system of common schools and a more liberal attendance upon their sessions.

South Carolina had state colleges for the higher education of young men and young women scattered throughout her borders, besides a half dozen or more denominational colleges whose curricula were equally as high as the state colleges, and whose influences were a power for good. There was no danger in the denominational colleges being short-lived. The prayer, love, devotion, and sacrifices of God's people guaranteed their success. And it seemed from the liberal appropriations lavished upon the state institutions that their continued existence was assured. He would not have the doors of one of them closed, but he was persuaded that a superabundance of funds was being used for their maintenance. The colleges should be maintained and successfully conducted, but the

little log cabin school house should not be forgotten.

The speaker quoted statistics showing the startling average of illiteracy existing among the white voters in South Carolina—an average of nearly 300 illiterate white voters to each county. Be it said to the credit of Newberry county, however, she had but 104. By comparison it was found that with only three exceptions there was more illiteracy in South Carolina than in any other southern state, and more illiteracy in each of the southern states than any other state in the union. To what could be attributed these facts if not to the lack of interest in public education?

The greatest need of the state, he said, was money, and how and upon whom it should be used; a thorough system of education having been established, how a liberal attendance upon its sessions might be had. The speaker noted that in a discussion of any question of universal public good to the state we were necessarily confronted by the omnipresent negro problem. In the state there were four colleges for the higher education of the negro and common schools in every district, for which they paid about one-fourth the amount necessary for their maintenance. It was a mooted question whether the effort to give the negro a higher education was for his good and the welfare of the state, or whether it was not better to give him an industrial education and make him a trained workman and better citizen. Until the fifteenth amendment of the constitution shall have been repealed, said the speaker, and the privilege of the ballot denied the negro, the north and south would never come together in the solution of this question. Disfranchise him and let him work out his own salvation.

There were today in this country, continued the speaker, school houses fit only for the owl's nest, the mill villages with a population of several thousand people and the school cared for on account of its slim attendance by only one, two or three teachers. It was said that the reason why the southern mills were so populous was that labor was much cheaper here, and the people live on less money, this being a mild climate with short winters. See to it, friends, he said, that it does not prove an expensive experiment. The little ones, were earning their own support by their own labor. What of the next generation and of the next? He was told that 42 per cent. of the white children of the state were not attending school. This was due either to carelessness, inability or downright opposition of superiors. And there were 20,000 more negroes than whites in the common schools of South Carolina.

The speaker referred to the "Ogden movement," saying that if properly conducted, and with the right motives behind it, it would be of great benefit to the south and of help to her people.

He referred to the strenuous efforts now being made by the state to encourage immigration, and to the assertion that in the public schools where attendance was voluntary the foreign portion of the population took advantage of the tuition more generally than the native population, making it necessary that our people be universally educated that our institutions might have their integrity perpetuated.

The rural free delivery was also adding much to the convenience and comfort of country life, and would prove of benefit in building up the country and enlarging schools.

The speaker went back to his original proposition, that the great need of the times was a more thorough system of common schools and a liberal attendance upon their sessions. How were we to have a more thorough system of common schools? That was not a question for them to decide. A thorough system of schools having been established how can we maintain a liberal attendance upon their sessions, was the question which the speaker propounded to the alumni.

Only one thing could bring about a revolution in this matter, and that was a law of compulsory education. In- vade the "sanctity of the home," overthrow the idols of ignorance, polish the rugged jewels, and make them sparkling gems!

The speaker said he was sincere in this matter, for the question had weighed upon his mind and heart for

several years, and he took this opportunity of giving it public expression. In a professional life of eighteen years he had entered the homes of all classes of people and had seen their frailties and faults and knew their needs. He appealed to those before him, therefore, that their influence might go out over the state in their behalf. All around were poverty, ignorance and misery. These could be corrected, and it must be done. The children of the state crying for the bread of knowledge and the parental hand withholding it was a sight that touched the heart of all right minded citizens.

"There blooms yonder upon the bank of the brook by the meadow," concluded Dr. Kibler, "a modest little daisy, neglected, unnoticed, yet, even perhaps unknown; yet as sweet, as beautiful and as full of promise as the most highly cultivated daffodil of the florist's. I am told that whenever water is turned on the dreary desert everything will grow with wild luxuriance. It seems that the very powers of nature had been confined for centuries only awaiting an opportunity to be released. Then turn the refreshing waters on the Sahara of our state and permit the neglected flowers of our youth to bloom with beauty and fragrance."

Alumni Association.

The annual meeting of the Alumni association was held in the opera house immediately after the address to the Alumni. The meeting was called to order by Hon. Arthur Kibler, prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Livingstone, and the previous minutes were read by the secretary. Mr. Kibler was unanimously re-elected for president, and Mr. J. B. Setzler for secretary. Prof. W. K. Sligh was elected treasurer and Dr. W. G. Houseal was made vice-president.

The Hon. A. F. Lever was elected to be the next alumni orator.

The committee on building a gymnasium reported subscriptions to the amount of \$1193 and one hundred and fifty nine dollars in cash. The committee was authorized to continue in their efforts with a view to starting the gymnasium as soon as possible.

On a motion from Dr. Cromer, the thanks of the association were extended Dr. Kibler for his excellent address.

A motion by Prof. A. J. Bowers to make Dr. J. A. B. Scherer an honorary member of the association was unanimously carried. Following this the association adopted resolutions pledging the hearty support and co-operation of the alumni in the work of the new president, Dr. Scherer.

LITERARY ADDRESS.

It Was Delivered Tuesday Night by Hon. W. C. Benet, of Columbia.

The annual address to the literary societies of Newberry college, delivered Tuesday night by the Hon. W. C. Benet, of Columbia, was a gem. He spoke of the duties devolving upon college men, and for nearly an hour, by the power of his eloquence and the beauty of his language he held the closest attention of his audience. The address throughout, so eloquent was the wording which clothed the magnificent thought which it contained, was a beautiful prose poem.

Despite the rain, a large audience greeted the gifted Carolinian. Judge Benet delivered the literary address here in 1885, and there were many in the audience Tuesday night who heard him at the time and who, even after this lapse of years, remembered the message which he brought nineteen years ago.

The speaker was introduced by Col. E. H. Aull.

Judge Benet said he desired to say something to the young men of the literary societies about the obligations devolving upon college graduates—what the world had a right to expect of them.

One of the first of these obligations was to be the friend, guardians and preservers of liberal education in the south. Nothing could take the place of the old classic curriculum. It was urged that Latin and Greek would not help to make money. Education was not principally intended to help a man to get along in the world. When he heard the question, "Of what use is Greek and Latin?" it reminded him of the question of Judas Iscariot, "To what purpose is this waste?"

Another obligation devolving upon college graduates was to continue their student life after leaving college, to still foster the love of study and good reading, to be seekers of knowledge as long as life should last.

Another obligation devolving upon the students of southern colleges was to learn the lessons of southern history. In beautiful language the speaker portrayed the condition of the south at the close of the war for Southern Independence.

Happily the south had emerged from the darkness and the danger, from out the clouds, and she was now bravely endeavoring to rebuild the shattered fabrics of her national life, and her voice was now to her college graduates, to whom she called to preserve the glorious records of her past. Some there were who would have us to believe that the history of the south had nothing worthy of study, that a new south had risen having nothing in common with the old. They knew not of what they spoke. As well tell a mariner to go upon the seas without his compass and his chart. To the past we must look for help, to the past we must call to guide us. And was it deaf and dumb? No; the voices of the past gave forth no uncertain sound, and woe to that people who regarded them not. Should the southern states sever themselves from their memorable past? Perish the thought! It was time to drift from the bloody chasm made by the war, to lift the crimson curtain that was dropped, and it was the duty of the college graduate in this first calm of peace to go back to the past and save all that was precious there.

The speaker painted a beautiful picture of the old south, of the purity of its statesmen, of the high resolves which actuated the performance of every duty, of the high code of honor of the southern gentleman. The bringing forth and the study of these was one of the sweet uses of the study of the history of the past. He was certain South Carolinians could serve their country best by remaining true to the traditions of their state.

A people without a history were like a man without a memory, and such a man was not far removed from the brute.

Another obligation resting upon college students was the duty to aid in the cultivation and creation of a distinctively southern literature. The south had produced many men of literary genius, among whom he mentioned Dr. J. A. B. Scherer, the new president of Newberry college, whose recent work, "Japan of Today," he characterized as the most valuable contribution to the history of that study. But the south had not taken the place in literature for which she was so well fitted by her fruitful fields of romance and of history, based on a glorious past. Not yet had the tale of the Confederate war been told and it was well. We were yet too near those bloody fields, and they were yet too real to be softened or subdued by the glamour of romance or truthfully portrayed by the pen of the historian. In glowing words which formed one of the most beautiful prose poems it has ever been the pleasure of a Newberry audience to hear from the lips of a public speaker, Mr. Benet pictured the natural beauty of the beautiful southland, lacking only the genius of man to bathe it in a light never seen on land or sea, the consecration of the poet, to make it as worthy of pilgrimages from the distant parts of the earth as any of the grand scenery famous in song and story. Engage in writing southern books, he pleaded, not for the love of money but for the love of letters and the love of country. The literature of a country was its only immortal part.

DR. SCHERER'S INAUGURAL.

Address on Wednesday of the New President of the College.

Following is the full text of Dr. James A. B. Scherer's inaugural address, delivered on Wednesday morning:

In addressing this audience this morning I will include a term which includes all: board of trustees, faculty, the students, people of Newberry, and visitors—when I address you as the friends of Newberry college. That is the bond which unites us all. The honorable gentlemen of this board have proved through years of trial