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SKYLIGHT CITY BEATS MEXICO

The Lowell Observatory Returns to Flagstaff.

The Climatic and Atmospheric Conditions of Old Mexico Prove Unsatisfactory—Flagstaff Superior.

The contemplated return of Lowell Observatory from the City of Mexico was announced by us some weeks ago. The big telescope has already been taken down, packed on board a train and shipped here.

The observatory building used last summer was found to be not high enough and has been torn down and a new one, some ten feet higher, erected. Sykes Bros. have just completed the work and are now erecting the dome for the telescope.

Professor Lowell and his corps of astronomers, including Dr. T. J. J. See and Mr. Cogshall will arrive in a short time. Professor Drew is already here.

Professor Drew informs us that the American astronomers were treated with every courtesy by the Mexican Government, whose representatives took a personal interest in the gentlemen and made their stay very pleasant.

The atmospheric conditions of the City of Mexico are such as to hinder seeing, and the expedition, from a

scientific standpoint did not prove the success hoped for.

Professor Lowell, after trying nearly every locality and section of North America to obtain the best atmospheric conditions for the carrying on of his work, has come to the conclusion that Flagstaff excels all, and will make the Skylight City the permanent home of Lowell Observatory.

The following dispatch was sent to one of the press associations and has been given wide publicity in the papers throughout the United States:

"CITY OF MEXICO, April 16.—Professor Lowell, the noted astronomer, who moved his observatory from the Mogollon mountains of Arizona to this city six months ago, has concluded after months of trial in this republic to remove his observatory back to Flagstaff, as much better results was secured in that dry, clear atmosphere, than can ever be attained in this country, and besides the New England men, including the professor, say that they prefer to observe the stars under the starry flag of the United States, although the Mexican citizens have treated them royally.

"It has been found that though the atmosphere of Mexico equals that of Arizona in dryness and clearness, and it being farther south, gives a better view from the higher declination of the planets, in particular, it lacks that other most essential requirement for an ideal observatory, steadiness of the atmosphere.

"The unsteadiness of the air from heat radiation is the bane of the larger telescope, and four months experience has proved that in that great essential

Mexico is not to be compared with Flagstaff. For days at a time the conditions would be almost perfect and then suddenly the atmosphere would become so unsteady as to render work with the large glass very unreliable. It is the opinion of the professor that there is no place on the North American continent that can compare, one day with another for the whole 365, with Flagstaff as a site for an astronomical observatory."

FIRST COMMENCEMENT.

Emerson High School Passes the First Milestone of Its Existence With Colors Flying.

The first annual commencement of Emerson High School occurred last Thursday evening. Spacious Emerson Hall was early filled with the friends and patrons of the school and when the exercises began the aisles and corridors were crowded with ladies and gentlemen unable to find seats within the hall. The wide entrance doors were thrown open so that those standing in the corridors were enabled to hear the exercises and view the pretty picture presented within.

The walls in the vicinity of the stage were beautifully decorated with evergreens and blooming flowers; the back of the stage was prettily embellished with rugs, Navajo blankets and other unique articles of ornamentation, while across the front of the stage, extending from wall to wall, from the ceiling hung a festoon of evergreens, emblazoned in letters of silver with the class motto: "Non Hæri, Neque Cras, Sed Hodie." ["Not Yesterday, Nor To-morrow, but To-day."]

"The Rainy Day Song" and the "Fan Drill" were features of the closing exercises held by the school in the afternoon and by request were presented as a prologue to the regular program.

Five little girls, dressed in gossamers and with high black umbrellas, tramped out on the stage and rendered the "Rainy Day Song" most beautifully with their childish voices.

The "Fan Drill" came next. Sixteen pretty maidens, dressed in blue and pink, went through the various evolutions of the drill with a grace and manner that won the admiration of the entire audience. They made a beautiful picture on the stage.

Rev. H. P. Corser invoked the Divine blessing and the program began.

A violin solo by Charles Edwards, rendered in his usual excellent manner, was followed by Rev. F. Dilly in an eloquent five minute oration on "Our First Commencement." F. C. Reid followed with a vocal solo, "The New Kingdom."

Then came the oration by Reuben Neill, "In the Realm of Astronomy."

A very pretty vocal solo, "Thursday," by Mrs. F. W. Sisson preceded the oration by Hugh Anderson, entitled "In the Realm of Natural Philosophy."

Miss Alice Metz followed with a vocal solo, "Gentle Voices," and Miss Margaret Wallace then gave her oration, "In the Realm of Geology."

Mrs. D. J. Brannen next favored the audience with a vocal selection, "The Day is Done."

The presentation of diplomas devolved upon M. J. Riordan, and it is needless to say that he ably did his part.

Benediction by Rev. C. P. Wilson closed the exercises.

The orations of the graduates, Miss Margaret Wallace, Reuben Neill and Hugh Anderson, all were splendid compositions, showing a thorough knowledge of the subjects, and were delivered with freedom and good oratorical effect. As they concluded their orations they were presented with handsome bouquets by their friends.

Professor Wasson is to be congratulated by the patrons of Emerson High School on the result of his labors as principal and for the success of the first annual commencement.

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