

Memphis Daily Appeal**June 7, 1879****Commencement**

**Exercises of the Memphis High School at the Memphis Theater, Last Night, Before a Large and Fashionable Audience--
The Address by the Graduates.**

**A Creditable Display by Our Public Schools--
Address to the Graduating Class--Conferring of the
Diplomas--Names of the Graduates for 1879.**

The commencement exercises of the Memphis high school were held at the Theater last night. The Parquette, dress circle, and family circle were crowded with gentlemen, ladies and children, all anxious to witness the exercises of the graduating class of 1879. The class, consisting of ten young ladies (one being absent on account sickness) and three young gentlemen, was seated in a semi-circle, and behind were the other pupils of the high school. The members of the board of education, and the superintendent Mr. Wm. H. Foute, were also on the stage. When the drop-curtain rose the stage presented a scene of youthful beauty and loveliness most charming. The orchestra, under the leadership of Prof. Handweder, performed the overture.

Mr. Superintendent Foute appeared at the footlights and stated briefly the object of the exercises. The class numbered fourteen, eleven young ladies and three young gentlemen. The public schools did not open in 1878 until two and a half months after the usual time of opening. Under this disadvantageous state of affairs, the class had to work hard in order to be able to graduate. It took honest, hard work, and the examinations were of the highest grade, equal to the examinations of any class of graduates of the high school. The class deserved the greatest pride in the graduating class of 1879. He felt proud when this goodby ship of ours came into port and delivered to friends and relatives its precious living freight. (Applause)

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Address By The Graduates

Superintendent Foute introduced Miss Mollie Marshall, who carried off the second honor, and was selected to deliver the salutatory. The young lady read her essay in a pleasing tone of voice. (It was short, but a very commendable production.)

Miss Mary M'Feely read an essay on "Life", a rather avstruse and difficult subject to handle. The little lady discussed life in a free and easy manner, and gave a picture of it such as presents itself in the day-dreams of a sweet girl-graduate, whose experience had been of a most pleasing character, and for whom life was in the future not in the past or present. The little lady received a number of bouquets at the close of her address.

The graduating class then sang a melody, Near friends, the hour has come when we must go.

Miss Annie Avery, a self-possessed young lady, read a well written and practical paper entitled, "Gather Roses While Ye May," A line taken from Herrick poem entitled, Advice to Maids. The essay contained good advice to young ladies and young gentlemen, and was received with applause by the audience.

Master Sam Cruse, read a paper entitled. "What I Saw in the Laboratory." He referred to the alchemist in his search after the elixir of life, or that mysterious thing which would turn everything into gold that it touched. It was written as if an autobiography. It was a wild tale of alchemy, very well put together, and was read by the young gentleman in quite an easy and spirited manner.

Miss Jennie Morrison was the next essayist. She read a production entitled "IN Caele Quies." The essay was well written, pleasantly presented and was received with approbation.

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Miss Annie Marley read a paper, "O, Say, what is that thing called Light?" The young lady delivered her address exceedingly well. The essay was full of thought and pointed illustrations of the subject, which is full of natural philosophy and chemistry. The fair speaker was deservedly applauded.

Address To The Graduating Class


The programme was changed at this point in order to give Mr. W. B. Trezevant an opportunity to deliver the address to the graduating class. Mr. Trezevant was introduced to the audience by Mr. W. C. Folkes, president of the board of education. The speaker addressed himself to the theme, "The Education of Youth." He referred to education in Greece and Rome, in Saracen lands, in modern countries, and especially in the United States. The public schools of Tennessee, from the earliest days were referred to at length, and the effect of the public school system upon the people in developing intelligence and spreading information was duly commented upon. He recommended the establishment of industrial schools in our midst, so as to develop the body, and thereby increase the power of intellectual acquisition. He believed in teaching the masses the higher branches of knowledge, the arts and sciences. He addressed the graduating class in words of kindness and advice, and spoke of the teachers who fell in the great plague of last year--Mr. Thweatt, Misses Meann, Flack and Lyons, and the good and noble superintendent, Mr. James T. Leath. Mr. Trezevant concluded by saying; "May you never falter in the right; may honors and rewards follow you in all your pursuits, and may your future be full of profit to yourselves, and good toward others, free from error, sorrow and anxiety; may adversity always avoid you and misfortune never beset your pathway, and may you know only comfort, gladness and independence." The lengthy, but eloquent address was loudly applauded.

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Address By Graduating Classes

Miss Kate Richie was the next speaker. Her theme was, "Does the Road Wind up Hill all the Way?" It was well considered and delivered by the little lady who was at home upon the stage, and created a most pleasing impression.

Master C. Wiley delivered a speech upon "Experience." It was a theme well handled by the youthful speaker and was delivered excellently well.



Miss Jennie Hewett delivered a pathetic recitation, entitled "Where's Annette?" Miss Hewett's action and elocution were very impressive, and attracted the greatest attention. At times she was quite dramatic and developed talent which rather surprised old theater-goers. The young lady closed the beautiful recitation amid the most enthusiastic applause, which was kept up for many minutes.

Part of this article torn out and gone. Article resumed.

Miss Lelia Seaton, who carried off the first honor of the class, was the last essayist. Her subject was "Another year." She referred to the years passed in the school-room, to the teachers and the board of education, and in the name of the graduating class of 1879 thanked the board of education for the efforts made to keep up the schools. She addressed her class-mates, and recalled to their minds the pleasure of past associations, and bid them good-bye in affecting language. A number of floral offerings was presented to the charming and intelligent young lady, a well deserved compliment to one who stood at the head of the graduating class of 1879.

The Contestants For Honors

Superintendent Foute, in reference to the graduating class, stated that the first honor, won by Miss Lelia Seaton, was contested for by Miss Annie Avery and Miss Addie Douglass, and that the second honor, won by Miss Mollie Marshall, was contested for by Miss Anna Muhler, Miss Jennie Morrison and Miss Kate Richie.

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Delivering Diplomas

Mr. Wm. C. Folkes, president of the board of education, walked to the foot-lights and announced that he would now deliver diplomas to the graduating class; he thanked the audience for their attendance. He briefly referred to the financial troubles of the public schools, incident to the changes in the city government. But notwithstanding all that the schools were kept up to the highest standard, and the graduating class of 1879 was the result.

To Miss Jennie Morrison he then presented a beautiful gold medal, a testimonial for deportment presented her by her friends and admirers.

To Miss Kate Richie he presented a gold medal, a memento of affection and esteem from a teacher, Miss Mary Boddie.

The following graduates were then presented with diplomas:

Miss Mollie Marshall
 Miss Annie Avery
 Miss Annie Marley
 → Miss Jennie Hewett
 Miss Anne Muller
 Master Sam Cruse
 Miss Mary M'Feely
 Miss Jennie Morrison
 Miss Kate Richie
 Miss Addie Douglass
 Miss Lelia Seaton
 Master C. Wiley
 Master G. Anderson

Miss Lizzie Rice, one of the graduates, was absent on account of sickness. She will, however, receive her diploma as a graduate.

When the diplomas had been delivered the graduating class sang *Shadows of Night Are Falling*, and the commencement exercises closed.

The Diploma

The diploma given to the graduates is elegantly printed on paper parchment, and contains the following words;

Memphis High School Diploma

This certifies that _____ having satisfactorily completed the course of study prescribed by the high school of this city, and sustained a correct moral deportment, is entitled to this testimonial, the highest honor in our power to bestow.

In testimony whereof the president and secretary of the board of education, and the superintendent of the public schools, have affixed their signatures, at Memphis, Tennessee, the _____ day of _____, 1879. _____, Superintendent.

President,
Secretary.