

MEMPHIS PUBLIC LEDGER

June 25, 1881

THE CLOSING EXERCISES
OF MISS CLARA CONWAY'S
SCHOOL

The closing exercises of this institution, which commenced last Tuesday, was completed yesterday. Mention has been made of Tuesday and Wednesday's entertainment. They have throughout proved unusually interesting to the many visitors who have attended. Among the number of attractive incidents of the previous days, the following recitations are deserving of particular notice: "Hunting a Mouse," by Hattie Hirsh; "Rubenstein Criticized," Pattie Hammond; "The Cause of Education," Meddie Scruggs; "Shamus O'Brien," Miss Josie Daly; "Jepthah's Daughter," Miss Fannie Scruggs, and "The Curfew Shall Not Ring To-night," by Miss Hennie Smith, and "The Young Gray Head," by Miss Julia Karr. This last was a performance of uncommon ability rare in one so young.

Friday's exercises! Despite the threatening weather of yesterday morning, a very large number of the friends and patrons of the school gathered in the school room to witness the commencement exercises. The various features of the occasion were admirably rendered, and reflect much credit on both teachers and pupils.

The exercises were opened by a class song, after which Miss Mollie L. Barrow performed Beethoven's sonata (op. 26) in a manner which showed plainly an exquisite delicacy of touch and assiduous application. "Each and All," and essay by Miss Lizzie Norton, which followed, was replete with beautiful thought, besides displaying an intimate acquaintance with history and poetry. Misses Jeanne and Lucie Pettit next performed an instrumental duet in quite a tasteful and artistic manner.

The feature which succeeded was one of the most delightful of the programme—a song by Miss Susie Greenwood. This young lady's voice is of considerable compass, with a pure rich tone, and makes certain promise of winning distinction for Miss Greenwood should she give it that cultivation of which it is so manifestly susceptible.

"Our Debt to Hellas," an essay by Miss Lula Chambers, was attentively listened to and was treated in a manner indicative of an extensive knowledge of classical history.

A musical selection by Miss Kouns was well and acceptably

Continuation: The Closing Exercises of June 25, -81
 Miss Clara Conway's School

rendered, and showed much talent on the part of the young lady.

Miss Mamie Erskine's essay, "Shall We know More Than the Alphabet," whose sensible and practical tone met an enthusiastic reception, was highly interesting. Miss Bettie Hart performed an instrumental piece in an excellent taste.

Miss Jeanne Pettit's essay on the very unique subject of "Rembrandts," with its amusing allusions to her classmates, was one of the most pleasing incidents of the programme, and the keen appreciation of the audience for its humor found vent in repeated applause. A response to "Rembrandts" by Miss Carrie Jones was peculiarly happy and appropriate and delivered in a most graceful manner. An exchange of kisses between the two young ladies at the close of Miss Jones's essay was rapturously applauded and in the opinion of the reporter was a delightful variation to the entertainment. A duet was next rendered in excellent style by Misses Maggie L. Robinson and Pearl Kouns. After a class song, Miss Mollie Pimm read an essay entitled, "All the Day Idle," which was characterized by a depth of thought both pleasing and instructive.

The presentation of diplomas was then made by B. M. Estes, Esq., in a graceful and fitting manner.

This concluded, an address to the graduates was delivered by Judge Henry Craft, which abounded in scholarly thought and very practical advice. We much regret that a want of space forbids our quoting at some length Judge Craft's edifying remarks.

The valedictorian, Miss Maggie Rambaut, selected for her subject, "There are Green Fields Still in Thrace," Miss Rambaut evinced an exquisite perception of her happily chosen theme, and her parting words to her classmates were delicately and feelingly rendered. A beautiful original poem, addressed to the class, was delivered by Miss Jennie Frazier in a manner as graceful as the style of the poem was chaste.

The prize offered for writing and music were won by Misses Gracie Lonagan and Pearl Kouns respectively.

The singing of the "Class Song" concluded the exercises.

Continuation: The Closing Exercises of June 25, -81
 Miss Clara Conway's School

We cannot close our report of these exercises without briefly referring to the excellence of this school. Miss Conway is well known in this community as a teacher of recognized ability, as the large number of her pupils attest. She is ably assisted in the primary department by Miss Florence Acree, and by Miss Grace Lewellyn in the intermediate. A noticeable characteristic of the exercises was the beautiful elocution of the young ladies. This department is taught by Miss Lewellyn, who is certainly deserving of much praise for the careful and thorough training which their reading evinced.

The musical department is under the instruction of Mrs. Fitts, a lady whose sojourn in our midst has been brief, but that her abilities are recognized is proven by her daily increasing number of pupils.