

Third Annual Commencement.

The third annual commencement of the Sacramento Institute, which is conducted by the order of Christian Brothers, Brother Cianan Principal, took place at the Assembly Chamber last evening. There was a very large audience in attendance, the spacious Chamber being filled to its full capacity by an assemblage which manifested the deepest interest in the exercises. The stage was neatly decorated with flags and flowers.

The programme opened with a reading, "The Blue and Gray," by Wm. Hanlon, which was given well in voice, enunciation and emphasis. The programme then proceeded as follows: Vocal solo, "Take Me Back Home," by J. Heffernan, very prettily sung. Essay, "Danish Invasion," a historic recital, interestingly told, and following closely historic authorities; it was well delivered by John M. Griffin. Vocal Solo, "Happy Be Thy Dreams," creditably sung by Peter Schmittgen. "The Picket Guard," recited by Bernard Arnold with very good effect and with credit to the student. Reading, "Regulus," by Henry Denuie; a familiar selection which was read gracefully and forcibly. Vocal solo, "How oft have I sat by the Brookside," by John Campbell; a very young master with a very strong clear soprano voice. Recitation, "Rollo's Address," by Charles E. Wait; very well delivered indeed, by a very young master. Essay, "The Land Question," by T. F. Gleeson; the essayist considered first, the presence in our land of a discontented class which believes its condition cannot be made worse, and which class is a dangerous one and the possible author of a dangerous revolution. He then traced the origin back to the early ages, and sketched the growth of agriculture, the ownership of lands in many hands, the monopolization of the soil by the few, etc. The history of the subject was glanced at in Egypt, Greece and the Roman Empire; and finally the feudal system of England was touched upon, and the example of France, where the soil is held in small tracts. He concluded that the danger which may be read in the signs of the times is the same which Europe has wrestled with, and that the lessons of history teach us that the elements of a country's greatness are found in simplicity, independence of the citizen, frugality, and the cultivation of the patriotic sentiment, by giv-

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ing the masses an interest in the soil. He has no inducement to love his country who cannot find a day's employment in the time of peace and plenty, at a time when he must undergo more privations than the soldier in the time of war. The wisest course is to anticipate the demands of the unemployed and discontented and convert this class into the patriotic and interested citizen, whose prosperity shall prove the bulwark of the nation and the strength of the land. The essayist failed to specify a positive remedy for the evils he saw, and his essay was such a recital of historic generalities as may be readily compiled by the industrious student. It was well delivered and scholarly in diction. The impression was distinct that the essay was more mature than the mind of the speaker. Quartet by four male voices. Reading, "The Legend Beautiful," by John Doyle, an excellent reader, possessed of natural elocutionary powers of marked superiority, and indicating a possession of much of the dramatic quality. The reading was one of the gems of the programme. Piano duet, N. D. Perkins and A. Scheld. This was the best musical performance of the evening. It was played with vigor and grace, and evidenced musical taste of a refined quality. Vocal solo, "On a Shore I Strayed," by August Coolot, a very young master with a strong soprano voice, which the difficult song severely taxed but did not conquer. Declamation, "Execution of Montrose," by N. Dana Perkins. This was the elocutionary triumph of the programme. The young gentleman read in a flexible voice of resonant tones, which he had in excellent training, and undulated to fit the character of the text with eloquent effect, and studied but well disguised art. Vocal solo, "Home by the River," by Master James Jeffrey, who has a naturally sweet and flute-like voice, but found the selection embarrassing in its difficulties. Nevertheless he sang it bravely and well for one so young. Essay, "Savior of Civilization," by G. W. McEnerney. He considered the arrogance of the Turk at Europe, the trials of Poland and the raising up by Providence of John Sobieski, King of Poland, whose high-minded chivalry and inherent nobility constituted him a leader and a ruler among men—one who knew how to govern, because he had learned to govern himself. The essayist then sketched the life and triumphs of Sobieski, his victory over the Turks, the loss of the fruits of his first victories, and his subsequent successes over the infidels, when he was allied with the Austrians, who owed their deliverance to the Polish Christian King. He concluded by pointing out how European nations, with bitter ingratitude, forgot the debt

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they owed to Poland. The essay was delivered with great clearness and vigor. He was warmly recalled by the audience. The essay, even as a historical synopsis, evinced in Master McEnerney remarkable advancement in scholarship, fluency and historical research—assuming the essay to be original with the young master. "The Office Seeker's Platform," an amusing recitation by William A. Gett, in which the sordid office seeker and conscienceless politician laid bare his principles. The character was well maintained by the personator. Vocal solo in German, "On Guard," by Henry Schmittgen; sung pleasantly in a fair tenor voice. Piano solo, by N. Dana Perkins; a charming performance, and one showing the young gentleman to possess superior musical ability. Essay, "Heroism," by Peter Shields. The Christian martyrs, he thought, were among the noblest examples of heroism. Heroic deeds are unknown where exalted principles are absent. Ancient Greece was the home of heroes and heroic deeds many of which the essayist recalled. The heroism manifest in the crusades he next considered, placing Richard Cœur de Leon highest among the exemplars of heroism. Greater examples of heroic devotion were never given to the world than those of the patriots of the American Revolution. Such men as Washington and Putnam rank with the most heroic beings of modern ages. He next considered the heroism of those religious devotees whose self-sacrifice is hidden by their retirement, but who in times of danger and terror are found in the front rank braving pestilence and bullet alike. The young gentleman has good delivery, and gave evidences of severe training in the elocutionary art. His essay was advanced in character and beyond the capacity one would credit the master with, if judged by his years, rising far above the conventional composition of the school boy. Vocal solo, "Mother Put Your Arms Around Me," by Master Conrad Weil. This solo was well sung, and won deserved applause. Essay, "The Character of Napoleon." Beginning with a eulogy of Napoleon, he prefaced his analysis of his character with a clearance of the hero from aspersions cast upon his name by the charge that he was responsible for most of the bloody struggles of his time, which the essayist declared were the results of the acts and ill judgment of the allies and the necessities of the era, quoting from a few authorities in support of the position. He then sketched the chief events of Napoleon's career. He then proceeded to analyze Napoleon's character, who, to him, seemed a man of great personal courage, one of great self confidence and relving supersti-

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tiously upon what he believed to be his high destiny. He viewed him as a man of great concentrative powers of mind, of profound and far-seeing judgment, of indomitable power, and unconquerable bravery; a man who won and deserved the love of France. According to the essayist there was nearly everything to admire in the character of Napoleon and little or nothing to condemn, in which conclusion the young gentleman boldly differed from some of the best historical writers of modern times. The essay was scholarly and well delivered, and of that character which reflected strongly the authors the essayist had consulted in making up the skeleton of his production. Vocal solo, "Happy as a Wild Bird," by C. E. Wait; rather difficult for so young a voice, but sung bravely by Master Wait. "Blood Will Tell," a petite comedy, in which Wm. Foster, J. F. Webster, A. H. O'Neil, M. Bryte, Fred. Kripp and Harry Tuttle took part, each one maintaining the part assumed with credit.

Hon. Jo Hamilton, with a few congratulatory remarks, then presented the diplomas and certificates, as follows: Diplomas in first degree—Lee Brown and Peter Shields. Diplomas in second degree—G. McEnerney, T. Gleeson and T. F. Meagher. Certificates—Lee Brown, in solid geometry, plain trigonometry, English literature and elocution; Peter Shields, in solid geometry, plain trigonometry, English literature and elocution; Thomas F. Meagher, in English literature; Garrett W. McEnerney, in plain geometry, rhetoric, natural philosophy, history and elocution; N. Dana Perkins, in arithmetic, book-keeping, rhetoric, philosophy and elocution; Arthur H. O'Neil, in arithmetic, book-keeping, history, philosophy rhetoric; Harry S. Kirk, in commercial arithmetic, book-keeping and philosophy; Adolph Scheld, in bookkeeping and penmanship; William A. Gett, in commercial arithmetic, history and philosophy; John F. Webster, in commercial arithmetic and bookkeeping; Fred. Wood, in commercial arithmetic, bookkeeping, philosophy and history; Ernest Eraun, in commercial arithmetic and bookkeeping; John M. Griffin, in arithmetic, bookkeeping, philosophy, history and penmanship; Henry Dennie, in commercial arithmetic and bookkeeping.

E. W. Maslin then made the address to the students. His address was a practical,

thoughtful, and in many respects an eloquent production. The central sentiment and text of the address was found in the earnest advice he gave the young gentlemen not to seek for a place in the professions, and in which he protested against the tendency of vain parents to crowd their children into professions and callings. He declared that among inventors, artificers and workers, greater and more triumphs are won, and that while the professional man waits for the world to acknowledge him, he who delves, fashions and creates, commands the world to do him homage. It was an earnest, forcible plea for labor, industry and lofty aspirations in the field of physical as well as intellectual effort.

The audience was then dismissed. The most noticeable thing about the entire commencement exercises was the return to the good old style of declamation of selections from the best oratorical models in preference to having all the students pronounce essays presumably of their own creation, but which too frequently are the result of assistance and prove the best efforts of their lives. The exercises all evidenced the fact that the pupils are quite thoroughly trained in elocution. The floral gifts to all the young gentlemen who took part were numerous and rich, and oftentimes came upon the stage in a perfect shower of bouquets. After the exercises at the Assembly Chamber the faculty entertained members of the City Board of Education, State officers and citizens to the number of about thirty, at the College, a light collation being spread, and toasts being offered and responded to with much spirit.