

The Alumnæ Reunion.

The Alumnæ Reunion, Friday, October 25th, was an undoubted success. Whether the unusually large attendance was due to the change of day from Saturday to Friday, or to the announcement that Mr. Joseph Jefferson would address the Association, we cannot say. Certain it is, the chapel was nearly filled, and we noticed many familiar and friendly faces on the platform.

The program was exceptionally good. We were, unfortunately, not in time to hear Mrs. Northrop's opening address, but we did not lose Mr. Granitza's excellent rendering of "La Gioconda." Miss M. Lounsbery, one of our own graduates, added to the musical part of the program, and was enthusiastically encored.

We were fortunate to obtain Miss Maud Morgan's services for our reunion. President Hunter's address was very brief, recounting the work done in the College last year, and detailing what the Committee expects to accomplish next year.

The event of the afternoon was Mr. Jefferson's address, and they were fortunate who caught his jokes and witticisms in their freshness. We who were late and obliged to sit in the rear, were content to catch them on the rebound, after the applause died down. By the way, people whose privilege it is to sit in the front of an audience should wait half a minute before applauding, to allow the words of the speaker and their import to penetrate the distant recesses of a long room. It is very trying to hear the first half of a good sentence, only to lose the latter portion in the applause of the more forward part of the audience.

In the course of his talk, Mr. Jefferson dwelt especially on two points:

- 1st. The difference between oratory and acting.
- 2d. The difference between genius and art.

We can [only quote stray sentences, from which the gist of his remarks may be gathered:

"The attributes of the orator and those of the actor, while in some respects alike, in the main differ totally.

"The orator is unimpressionable; the actor is impressionable. The orator impresses by what he says; the actor is at his best when he shows evidence as to how he is impressed."

Mr. Jefferson, in speaking of comedy and tragedy, assigned to the latter the higher place.

His rendering of the grave-digger's scene from "Hamlet" met with much applause.

Speaking of genius and art, Mr. Jefferson said:

“It is hard to determine the subtle point where the one begins and the other leaves off.

“Genius is apt to look with contempt on art, but there genius makes a great mistake. Genius may accomplish much, but for true excellence they should be combined.

“Genius produces, but art reproduces. Genius may dye of a color resembling the hues of the rainbow, but art fires with a permanent hand. If, after repetition, the old story wearies, genius is lacking from the lines.”

Mr. Jefferson allowed his audience to propound questions to him. Much fun was elicited in this novel manner. Mr. Jefferson referred laughingly to one case in which he had asked for questions, when “up rose a stern old professor, who, from behind a pair of tremendously learned-looking spectacles, asked: ‘Mr. Jefferson, do you believe in the starring system?’” Mr. Jefferson’s reply was characteristic. He said there undoubtedly was a time when he did not believe in it, but as he grew older he somehow changed his views. Still, he hoped not to be held alone responsible for the system.

Among the questions asked were:

1. What rôle do you prefer?
2. What differences do you observe in the audiences of New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago, and which do you prefer?
3. Do you think Hamlet was mad?
4. Why are Shakespeare’s plays not more popular in New York?

After the Chapel Exercises the Social Reunion was held in the Calisthenium.

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