

VALEDICTORY.

BY E. W. KERR.

Your Excellency, Honorable Board of Directors, Respected President and Faculty, Fellow Cadets and Visitors :

Of all the blessings that Providence has allowed us to cultivate, there is not one which breathes a purer fragrance than education.

Its prospects are the brightest, its association the most captivating, its assistance the most helpful and its pursuit the most delightful.

There is no blessing so precious as the gracious encouragement and the opportunity which attend the efforts of our youth in their attempts to cultivate their minds. The Classic learning of the east, the ripened and mellowed experience of the ages, and the gatherings of civilization from time immemorial await the beck and call of every aspiring youth, imparting to him the riches of the past, brightening and proportioning his future, and above all, preparing him aright for the useful walks of life.

Education is the basis upon which our nation is building. Through it she bids fair to reach the highest pinnacle of fame and sway with delicate adjustment and master strength the political and commercial fortunes of the eastern and western continents.

The mother eagle from her eyrie upon the mountain top watches over her brood with an ever jealous eye and so her educational system is to be the watchful nurse of our nations progress. What I see before me today in this vast audience is illustrative of the problem which engages all the push and originality of Americans. His Excellency the Governor of Texas leaving the affairs of State; so many distinguished visitors sacrificing extended business interests; our president here, declining the demands of an anxious people inviting his return to public positions of trust and importance; our faculty wreathed in holiday smiles; so many fair ones, whose en-