

annual session of the A. & M. college was at an end. The boys gave vent to prolonged cheers for soon they were to be with parents whom months of separation made more dear.

The ball complimentary to the graduating class was a most elaborate affair, probably having larger attendance and greater entertainment than ever before.

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### Valedictory Address,

By C. C. Todd. ✓

Gentlemen of the board, honored president, respected faculty and other instructors, ladies and gentlemen:

You have gathered here upon this occasion, to join with us in making glad a day, the joys of which shall never be forgotten by the class of '97.

I scarcely feel competent to voice the sentiment which I know exists among my class mates, and yet I feel greatly honored by the privilege which has been accorded me.

I see before me an assemblage, among which are scattered those who have already passed the meridian of life, have seen their mistakes and now deem it a sacred duty to direct the young into those paths which lead to success. We are honored by some of the older sons of this institution, who have seen fit to visit their alma mater and enjoy with us this, a happy commencement. Among this concourse, like precious jewels, in baser settings are the women ever ready and willing to lend inspiration to mans good and noble deeds. No wonder we feel inspired! Dame nature, as though she realized the importance of the occasion, has with her magic wand converted the earth into a veritable flower garden, and used every effort to make this the most auspicious day of the session.

But what means this concourse? Another tribute is being paid to education. Today there go forth from the portals of this institution twenty-six young men, who with to-morrows sun lay aside the duties of cadetship for the more