

LITERARY.

Valedictory Address.

W. A. HARRISON, '98.

JUNE, with its accompaniment of flowers and sunshine, is the graduating time of spring into summer; the ripening of the youth of the year into more perfect maturity. During this month, on such platforms as this, there will stand thousands of people to receive diplomas which will be symbols of past work well done and a stimulus to future efforts. And so we, today, not unlike our compeers in other parts of the land, have gathered here for the purpose of receiving our diplomas and celebrating an occasion which, to some of us, may be the most auspicious in our lives; and I feel deeply honored in having been delegated to express the sentiments of my class on this momentous occasion.

We feel the inspiration of the hour, and no wonder, when surrounded by such an assemblage of beauty and chivalry as I see gathered before me. I behold those who have pursued life's rugged path to such an extent that they can now look down from their superior height of wisdom and experience and lend advice to us, young and untried, as will guide our steps in honorable paths during our future lives. It is with pleasure that I see so many of those present who, not so many years ago stood upon this same rostrum and received their diplomas just as we do today and who now give their presence and encouragement and celebrate with us, this, our commencement. But the day and occasion would be far from complete were it not for the ladies whose gracious presence and inspiring smiles have ever been man's best incentive to success.