

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

Principal Smith Gratified With Upper Classmen's Work—Oratorical Contest and Literary Society.

THE session of the high school for the year 1901 closed Friday, and for three weeks the students will rest and store up energy for the desperate battle which terminates with the semester exams two weeks later.

In his greeting, Principal Smith expressed himself as well pleased with the work which had been done by the school as a whole during the term just closed.

Then, with the expressions of good will and the witticism of the senior president still lingering in their ears, the pupils stacked up their books and filed sleepily from the building.

In consequence of the closing, this column will be discontinued until the reopening of school on Jan. 13, '92.

Oratorical Contest a Success.

In Friday's contest for oratorical honors the Juniors showed themselves to be fully as apt in discussing abstract and current event themes as their fellow upper classmen, the Seniors. From start to finish there was not a dull moment. Every subject showed careful preparation on the part of its declaimer, both as to delivery and thought.

The subjects spoken on were varied, ranging from reviews of the lives of the world's great men to practical discussions of current political situations. In every theme many ideas were expressed in fitting terms, and every topic thoroughly discussed in a condensed form, and appropriate pleas set forth at the conclusion. Certainly Mr. Thomas has every reason to feel satisfied with the results produced by his efforts along the line of work he has taken up this winter.

The first oration was a masterful review of the life and works of Joan of Arc. This subject has been gone over time and again by orators at different times, yet its portrayal by Miss Harsh was original and pleasing. In delivery the young lady was very effective, and much of her success may be attributed to her manner of setting forth her ideas.

Miss Harsh was followed by Simon Cook, whose theme was one in which all are more or less interested at the present time: "The Lesson of Tammany's Defeat to American Citizens." The speaker carefully detailed the principal points in the administration of the great Democratic organization during its last four years in power, pointing out its defects in a way which showed perfect familiarity with the subject in hand. Mr. Cook put not the blame on Tammany, but on the great mass of American citizens, who, by remaining away from the polls, allow dishonest officials to be elected to positions of power in the municipal government. In concluding, he urged upon his audience the duty of every American to safeguard the morals of the city by taking as active an interest in its affairs as he does in his own home. Mr. Cook's plea was very good, and his discriminate use of metaphor gave to his oration a polish and evenness which surpassed the others.

Miss Xenia Woolman spoke on the struggle for freedom which has been carried on for so long a time by "The Dutch Inhabitants of South Africa." Miss Woolman presented a well prepared oration forcibly and clearly, and deserved the applause tendered her.

Mr. Joe Harrison had for his subject "The American of Today." The broad and comprehensive theme was well handled, and as ably set forth. A condensed review of the history of the American people composed the greater part of the oration, which was indeed very good.

"Harriet Beecher Stowe," an oration embodying a description of the life and literary work of the great advocate of abolition, was presented by Miss May Whelan. This was one of the finest of the series, and merited the praise which it received.

Lucius Whipple, the sixth speaker, held the attention of the athletically inclined in his effective plea for the great college game, football. Whipple is a player, of no little renown, on the high school team, and the oration on "Football of Today" was doubly interesting from the fact that it came from "one who knows." The young man spoke straight from the shoulder, and his ideas were unornamented by any rhetorical flourishes. Despite the fact that it was his first public effort, he spoke freely, although a little too low.

The judges decided on the following as those to make up the junior team: Miss Harsh, Miss Whelan, Mr. Cook and Mr. Harrison. They will at some future day meet the '02 team, which is composed as follows: Miss Forsyth, Miss Mondschine, Mr. Smith and Mr. Zalk.

The High School Literary Society.

The literary society held its last meeting of the term after the oratorical contest Friday. As usual, an excellent program was rendered before a good sized audience. No business was transacted, and with the conclusion of the program the society adjourned.

Mr. Harry McMartin led with a well delivered piano solo, and reaped a harvest of deserved applause.

The next number was a recitation by Miss Lottie Mondschine, whose excellence in that line has earned her much praise from the students. Effectively as ever, she carried out her part nobly.

A cello solo by Miss Virginia Wilcutts was well received by the audience. Following that, Miss Burbank recited a short selection as a closing number, and her work was enthusiastically applauded.

Senior Spreads Are Planned.

During vacation the students intend to enjoy themselves. This fact is attested to by the number of spreads, exclusive and open, which are to be given by the various classes.

On Jan. 9 the Seniors will act as hosts, and a goodly attendance from the other classes, to whom an invitation was extended, will no doubt be had to enjoy the hospitality for which the first classmen are noted.

The sophomores will banquet themselves at Harmony hall on Jan. 2, and the Freshmen talk of falling in line on some other date. As to the Juniors, they probably will use up the time in recuperating after a four months' battle with physics and solid geometry.

Striving for Indoor Baseball Team.

Yesterday the indoor baseball team held its first practice at the Armory. Captain Cummings reports a sufficiently large number of candidates on hand, and predicts a successful series of games. Nearly every man who played on the outdoor team is trying for a position on the new nine, and in personnel the two aggregations will be about the same.

Manager Dash has arranged for four contests, and negotiations for others are now in progress. The first game will be that with Company A on Jan. 10. The high school fans will be out in force, and will help all they can to bring the men off winners in their first contest.

Alumni Return for Holidays.

Many alumni and former students of the school are in town to spend the holidays, and the corridors were the scenes of many happy reunions last week. Among those who returned are: Gordon Wood and Victor Rakowsky, Michigan College of Mines; Miller McDougall and Marshall Alworth, Andover; Douglas and Martha Ryan, Shattuck and St. Mary's; E. H. LeTourneau, Troy Crandall and nearly all of the Duluth contingent from the "U."

Getting Ready for the Fray.

Both Sophomore and Freshman polo teams are working for the fray in which the leadership of the lower classes is concerned, and when the battle comes off, which will not be until some time next semester, the men will be in excellent form.