

A FEW WORDS ABOUT CHRISTIAN COLLEGE.

As our special correspondent in another part of this issue has given a somewhat detailed report of the commencement exercises of Christian College last week, a few words only from us will suffice. We had the pleasure of being present at most of these exercises, and as the HERALD is not the organ of the college save only in the same sense that it is the organ of all institutions and enterprises for the advancement of the cause of Christ, we hope to be able to look at the merits and demerits of Christian College and her exercises from an impartial and Christian point of view. Our readers will therefore understand that we alone are responsible for what we write. We will first notice the merits, and then point out what we conceive to be some of the demerits; for it must be admitted inasmuch as infallibility in such matters is not claimed that both these are to be found in a greater or less degree connected with every good work controlled and carried on by fallible men. It is the province of the true critic to impartially examine *both* sides of the question; and this course becomes more apparent in view of our obligation to God.

1. The past history of Christian College need not be repeated here, for her thirteen years of incessant labor and love in the interest of intellectual culture, morality and primitive Christianity fully speak for themselves. Her graduates are scattered over the country, many of whom are filling stations of trust and honor, and are thus doing valuable service to their country, are an honor to their *Alma mater* and a blessing to the churches of Christ.

2. The President and teachers of Christian College are not only men and women of acknowledged ability and culture, but they have evidently labored faithfully and earnestly to develop the full mental and moral powers of those under their charge; and that they have succeeded measurably well in this respect was plainly to be seen in the essays and addresses of the various exercises of the past week. The young ladies and gentlemen with a few exception did well. The exercises of the graduating class deserve special mention. The prescribed course of study is all that could be desired of an institution of its kind.

3. While the attendance on the commencement exercises was not so large this year as usual, it was reasonably good and not without interest. The number of students attending the last session was much larger than heretofore, and a

general interest has been maintained throughout. The President is enthusiastic over the future prospects. We are informed that inquiries from those desiring to enter college are coming from all parts of the country, and that the prospects are flattering for a larger attendance the coming session than ever before. We hope that these brightest anticipations may be realized.

We come now to one or two things which we think might be improved to advantage.

1. There is an evident lack of promptness in beginning some of the exercises on time. In a few instances during the session the programmes have been entirely too long, and when this is the case, the slightest delay after the appointed

time of commencement disarranges the whole order of exercises and detains the people too long. When the interest is allowed to flag and the people become restless on account of delay, the best oratory of the day can not regain the interest and command the desired influence over the audience. And this by the way is as applicable to some of our churches as to our college exercises. All public entertainments should begin promptly at the appointed hour and not hold the audience over a reasonable length of time. Of course every thing like preliminary arrangements after coming on the platform is out of order, and should be strictly avoided.

2. The churches of Oregon and others interested need a college that is strictly and solely under their control, one that is absolutely free from all outside and denominational influences. In other words, they want a *Christian college* in the highest and fullest sense of the word. Their college should simply be a central and concentrated form of their church work throughout the brotherhood directly interested. We fail to see how this can exist under the present management. It is not our purpose to find fault with the various denominational ministers who were called to participate in the commencement exercises of last week, for they did exactly right in responding to the in-

vitations extended them, and they did well in their efforts. Their lectures and other assistance were good and appropriate, and their course straightforward and manly. But it is a simple fact that the denominations are not in full sym-

pathy with our plea for primitive Christianity which requires a complete destruction of all their creeds, party names and denominationalism; and how a college professedly engaged in such a grand and distinctive work can consistently, for the time being, partially and practically push aside her own brotherhood and call others to do the work that rightfully belongs to the *brethren*, is a mystery to us. If we did not feel a profound interest in Christian College and the cause it represents, we would not write thus plainly. These are matters which will naturally present themselves to the brethren, they have become public property and hence we can not shrink from discussing them in a frank and Christian spirit. Besides, fortunately or un-

fortunately, as the case may be, our mouth was made before the day of padlocks. If the State must control the Normal School, then let it be so; but by all means, let the churches have a college of *their own*, entirely free from all outside or sectarian influence. We believe in making clean work of it. If the brethren pay their money and give their influence to support a college, we imagine they will want their sons and daughters to have the benefit of the *pure bread of life*.

Now let no one suppose from our frankness in this matter that we are not in sympathy with Christian College, or that there is the least element of discord between any of its members and the HERALD, for we are at peace among ourselves, and we pen these lines without the knowledge of a living soul save the writer. Every good work shall have our sympathy and influence to the fullest extent possible. Then with love for all and malice towards none, we thus volunteer our opinion that this mistake may be promptly corrected, and we give it to our readers for simply what it is worth.

A SENSIBLE ANSWER.

The other day we had occasion to jokingly remark to a young lady who has just completed her course in Christian College that we hardly knew how to approach her since she had got to be a *graduate*. She

very promptly replied, "You can approach me just as you have always done." We thought at the time that this was a strikingly appropriate and sensible answer, and so impressed us that we have been unable to pass it by without draw-

ing a few practical lessons therefrom. We repeatedly asked ourself the question, How many graduates fully realize the true and noble sentiment expressed in these words? The month of June is the month when countless hundreds of young men and young women will go forth from the colleges with diplomas in hand to take their respective stations in life. Many of these will make their mark in the world, while some will fall out by the wayside. In making one's mark of distinction in the world, much depends on a correct view of life which may be properly laid at the root of all success in business, intellectual development or religion. If one does not dig deep and lay a good solid foundation, he may expect that the whole building may

totter and fall at any moment. This is true in religion, and it is true in education. Alas, how many otherwise useful careers have been cut short by an incorrect knowledge of what it takes to constitute real manhood and womanhood from an educational point of view. The young man or the young woman who leaves college with the idea that he or she is not to be approached and does not approach others in the same way as before graduation is but poorly qualified to grapple with the obstacles that lie in the way to distinction.

The idea that a college course makes the man or the woman is a curse to any one. This is only a means to the end. A thorough mental training in college is but the passport into the vast field of practical knowledge and usefulness. Hence the young lady who imagines that her education is completed on graduation day is a failure. After her formal valedictory address on the college platform she is to step down and out to be the same approachable, earnest persevering school girl that she was before. She is now only at the foot of the mountain ready to ascend step by step till she shall have found her place in the sphere of true womanhood. The grandest and most extended view of the surroundings can only be had at the top of the mountain. Graduation does not take place there, but al-