CHAPEL EXERCISES

In John Boynton's letter of gift, occurs the following passage: "Whereas, in making provision for the security of piety and good morals in connection with seminaries of learning, the statutes of the Commonwealth contain the following article (Gen. Stat., Chap. 38, Sec. 10), it is therefore enjoined upon the Trustees to see that these provisions are applied faithfully to this school, and that, while all sectarianism and all control of one religious sect over another is strictly prohibited, the Bible, in the authorized version, shall be in daily use, and such devotional exercises as consist with a due sense of our dependence upon the Divine blessing."

The purpose of the founder in this connection was carried out by the Board of Trustees. A commodious chapel was arranged for in the plans of the first building, Boynton Hall, and from the very beginnings of Institute life, chapel exercises were made a feature. These exercises were held from the opening of the Institute until 1875-76, at 5:55 P.M. and each day of the week except Sunday; from that time until 1885 they were held five times weekly and at 9:50 A.M., students in practice being excused from attendance. In 1890, the hour was made 9:45 A.M., and it stood at this hour until 1892. In February, 1892, the Trustees, at the suggestion of President Fuller and the Faculty, voted that after March 1, 1892, compulsory chapel exercises should be abolished, attendance being made voluntary. Until this time, attendance at the exercises had been compulsory on all students except those engaged in practice. The Principal or President was in charge, or, in his absence, some professor, usually the oldest one in order of appoint-
ment. The exercises consisted of Bible reading, a prayer and the singing of one or more hymns under the leadership of a small choir composed of students. Instrumental music was furnished by a small organ, played by a student or some member of the Faculty. The original organ, purchased in September, 1870, at an expense of $100, had become so worn after twenty years of service that the gift of a new organ at Christmas, 1890, by Mr. A. H. Hammond, a well-known organ manufacturer of Worcester, was most acceptable. Mr. Hammond's son was a member of the Junior class at that time.

The reason why chapel exercises were made voluntary was that they seemed to have lost their religious and reverential character. There was much disorder during the exercises and matters

The exercises were conducted by different members of the Faculty, under the general supervision of Professor Alden, who, in November, 1894, had been appointed Dean of the Faculty by the Board of Trustees. Few members of the Faculty attended the chapel exercises and few students. All singing was, of course, out of the question. Even this form of voluntary chapel exercise was given up during the year 1896-7, and since that time no chapel exercises of any sort have been held at the Institute. Efforts have been made from time to time to establish some form of student assembly, but these have come to no result. Opinions among the members of the Faculty have been widely divergent as to making such an assembly compulsory. This divergence of opinion has been an obstacle to any definite action. Moreover in late years the Institute has had no room available to accommodate the entire student body.

Chapel exercises, entirely voluntary, were resumed with
the beginning of the second term, 1925-6. They have been held in the Library, under the general direction of the Secretary of the Institute Young Men's Christian Association. At first the exercises were held each day at 9:50 A.M., classes being dismissed at 9:45, and being resumed at 10:05. Later, the Saturday morning exercise was given up. The President, various members of the Faculty, local clergymen of practically every denomination, and representative laymen from the city, have addressed the meetings.
LECTURES

Lectures as a form of instruction were much used from the very beginnings of the Institute. The catalogue for 1870-71, the first real catalogue issued, has the following note: "Lectures.-These are given by the professors and by non-resident professors, on various subjects. The students are in all cases required to pass an examination on the lectures." In those earlier days practically all of the instruction in Physics, and much of that in Chemistry, was given in lectures. Furthermore, all work in Geology, and much of that in Architecture, as long as this department was conducted at the Institute, was given by non-resident lecturers. It was customary from the first to introduce as often as possible speakers from outside, to address Faculty and students. This did not occur frequently in those earlier years, but several lectures were given that may be mentioned. In February, 1888, Dr. Lemuel F. Woodward gave a lecture on "Emergencies", outlining the course to be followed in case of any accident. In May, 1890, Gen. O. O. Howard gave an address to the Faculty and students, in the chapel on Practical Work. He illustrated this address by many examples drawn from his Civil War experiences. On the 19th of October, 1891, Hon. Joseph H. Walker, Congressman, from the Worcester District, gave a lecture on the silver question which created much interest among members of the Faculty and students. Later, more lectures were given, and Dr. Mondenhall, on assuming the duties of President, inaugurated a regular course. The announcement of this innovation appeared in the catalogue of 1895. It read:

LECTURES

The Institute is greatly indebted to the gentlemen who have from time to time addressed the students in the lecture courses of the year 1894-95. The special course was given to the Senior Class in connection with their study of econ-
omics. The general course was addressed to the entire body of students. A list of lecturers and subjects is given on page 12. The work of the gentlemen who so generously contributed to the success of these courses was fully appreciated and is gratefully remembered by officers and students alike.

The list referred to above is of interest, and it follows:

LECTURERS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

Special Course.

Hon. P. Emory Aldrich
Hon. Frank P. Goulding
Col. W. S. B. Hopkins
Chas. G. Washburn, Esq.

On Constitutions and Law.
On Municipal Law.

General Course.

Dr. G. Stanley Hall
Dr. George Lincoln Goodale
Prof. Edward S. Morse
Mr. Gustavus C. Henning
Prof. N. S. Shaler
Capt. F. W. Green, U.S.N.,
C. J. H. Woodbury, Esq.
Hon. George F. Hoar
Hon. Joseph H. Walker

On the Brain.
On Relations of Australasia to the United States.
On the Principles of Evolution.
On Testing Machines and Appliances.
On Glaciers and Glacial Epochs.
On Work of the U.S. Navy in Marine Meteorology and Exploration.
On Light and Fog Signals.
On Mill Construction.
On American Citizenship.
On Congress and Congressmen.

Dr. Mendenhall's wide acquaintance among men of national reputation will explain how he was able to secure such excellent speakers. The catalogue of the following year modifies the general statement somewhat. It is appended.

LECTURES.

A general course of lectures by gentlemen of distinction was addressed to the entire body of students in the year 1894-5, and a similar course is planned for the current year, the list of lecturers and subjects being found on page 12. The work of the gentlemen who so generously contributed to the success of this course was fully appreciated, and is gratefully remembered by officers and students alike.
The list referred to is as follows:

INSTITUTE LECTURES FOR 1896

Partial List.

J. M. Allen                     Hartford, Conn.
E. S. Corthell                  New York City
B. E. Fernow                    Washington, D. C.
Almon Gunnison                  New York City
William Kent                    Cleveland, O.
Daniel Merriman                 Salem, Mass.
Edward S. Morse                  New York City
E. Harlow Fussell               Boston, Mass.
W. T. Sedgwick                  New York City

The lectures were given during the first two years on Monday mornings. Later an hour, from 11 to 12, was reserved on Wednesday morning. There was no compulsion as to attendance, but the great majority of students considered the lectures an opportunity and never failed to attend. The public also were invited. The plan of offering a course of lectures was continued through the year 1897-8, though a smaller number was offered during this year. The plan was given up with the close of the Institute year, 1898-9.
COMMENCEMENTS

The first Commencements were exceedingly simple, the exercises being confined to the space of one day. All arrangements for those early Commencements were in the hands of the Faculty, acting under the advice of the Board of Trustees. The increase in the number of graduates, the formation in 1873 of the Alumni Association, which was to become so powerful a factor in the Institute's development, the tendency among the undergraduates to adopt the customs long in vogue at liberal colleges, all these causes led to a great expansion in Commencement activities.

For many years the morning of Commencement Day was given over to the reading of theses, later of thesis abstracts. In the afternoon came the formal exercises, the delivery of the addresses, the conferring of diplomas, the announcement of prize winners. In the evening came the reception of Hon. Stephen Salisbury, President of the Corporation, to the graduating class, the Trustees, members of the Faculty and invited guests.

As time went on, a longer period was demanded for the festivities of Commencement week. Class Day exercises were early introduced; a Baccalaureate sermon became a feature in 1893, and has continued to be a feature ever since. After the death of Mr. Salisbury, in August, 1884, a new order was introduced in the matter of receptions. President Fuller entertained the graduating class and their friends at his home on the evening of Wednesday, the day before Commencement, or on that afternoon. This custom was continued during Dr. Fuller's administration. It was taken up by Dr. Mendenhall and continued as long as he was President, and Dr. Engler kept up the same custom until his departure in 1911. During the two latter administrations, the
reception was made an important social event in the city, a large number of invitations being issued.

The graduating classes have at many Commencements conducted dances or receptions of their own. These dances have been held Tuesday or Wednesday evenings, although on one or two occasions in recent years they have been held Thursday evening. Other forms of entertainment for members of the graduating class and their friends have been devised but have hardly become permanent fixtures. Most of the fraternities keep open house on some day during Commencement week; many of them have dances one or more evenings, and house parties for the entire week are not infrequent. In 1899, when all Class Day exercises were given up, the Senior Class spent the Monday of Commencement week at an outing of its own at Bebboli's Grove. Later classes had their outings at Lake Quinsigamond. At these outings a clambake was usually a feature and baseball games and various athletic contests were held. This custom has been kept up to the present time. In 1900 a concert was given by the Glee Club in the Chapel, Boynton Hall, for the entertainment of the graduating class and their friends. In 1913, the Dramatic Association repeated its play, Eldern's Uncle, on the evening of Commencement Day.

In 1896, the Senior Class challenged the Faculty to a baseball game. The challenge was accepted, the game being played on the old Fair Grounds to the pleasure and amusement of a large number of friends. This Faculty-Senior ball game has become a fixture in Commencement Week, having been played each year, except 1910 and 1915, since 1896, on Alumni Field. Once or twice, other athletic events have been scheduled for Commencement week. For instance, in 1908, the Institute baseball team closed its season
Wednesday afternoon, June 10, the day before Commencement, in a game with Boston College. This game was played on the rough field on West Street, then called Alumni Field. Most of the spectators had to stand, few seats being provided, and it was hardly possible to collect an admission fee. The field was very rough, hence scientific playing was out of the question. The Institute lost, 6 to 1. Again, on Tuesday, June 8, 1915, a baseball game was made a feature of the Celebration. The Institute played the team from Massachusetts Agricultural College, losing by a score of 8 to 1. This game was played on the new Alumni Field, in the presence of a large attendance. In other years efforts have been made to hold track and field sports during Commencement week, and once or twice the concluding games of the spring tennis tournament have been played at that time. Such efforts, however, can hardly be said to have gained popularity. As at present arranged, Commencement week is so crowded with events that interest in any athletic contest seems to flag. The success of the W.P.I.-M.A.C. game noted above, however, may form a precedent for years to come.

Of course, the concluding event of the week, the Alumni Dinner, has risen to the utmost prominence and importance. At the dinner various addresses are given, reviewing the work of the year, noting gifts, etc., and furnishing a general conclusion to the activities of the Institute year. For many years the graduates have formed by classes and, headed by the band, have made a longer or shorter tour of the grounds, finally marching to their places at the banquet tables. In 1914, as the new Alumni Field was practically complete, the procession took a longer route, marching by Salisbury Street and Park Avenue to
the field, where impromptu sports were held, to signalize the opening of the field. In 1915, the especial feature of Commencement Day, for the Alumni, was the laying of the corner stone of the new gymnasium. The attendance of Alumni was larger than usual, nearly 700 being present. The line formed in front of Boynton Hall, and, headed by the Worcester Brass Band, marched to the scene of the ceremony. The stone was laid by Mr. George I. Rockwood, '88, President of the Alumni Association, after which the various classes re-formed and marched to the Electrical Engineering Building, where the dinner was held. For this parade of the Alumni Professor Z. W. Coombs has, for a number of years, acted as Chief Marshal, at the invitation of the Alumni Association.

Of course, the returning classes mark their particular anniversaries by class dinners and reunions, in addition to the general Alumni Banquet. The classes which celebrate are especially those which have been out three, five, ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty-five years. The place of honor is given the twenty-five year class, but the ten-year class is generally most conspicuous in its demonstrations.

The class of 1914 marked an epoch in the general nature of Institute Commencements: It appeared, for the first time of any graduating class, in cap and gown. This costume was worn on all official occasions, from the Baccalaureate sermon until after the Alumni Dinner. In 1915, the graduating class followed the example of its predecessor in wearing academic costume during Commencement week. Moreover the members of the Faculty and instructors appeared in cap and gown for the first time. This costume was worn by them at the Baccalaureate Sermon,
at the celebration exercises in Mechanics Hall, and at the commencement exercises in Tuckerman Hall.

At the present time, and this has been true for several years, the activities of Commencement extend from the Baccalaureate sermon Sunday afternoon or evening, through the Alumni Dinner, Thursday afternoon at 2.

A pleasant feature of the earlier Commencements, which was kept up until the death in 1884 of Hon. Stephen Salisbury, the first President of the Board of Trustees, was the presentation by the graduating class of photographs of its members to Mr. Salisbury, in an album. After Mr. Salisbury's death, this presentation was continued, to the Institute. From 1890 to 1896, inclusive, the classes gave their photographs in a large frame, and these framed pictures now hang in the corridors of Boynton Hall. After 1896, the custom of presenting photographs was discontinued by the classes, one reason being that the annual class book usually contained half-tone reproductions of the members of the class.

On the death of the second Mr. Salisbury in 1905, the albums of the earlier classes were given to the Institute, and are now carefully preserved. When the graduates in the first class, 1871, returned in 1906, their thirty-fifth anniversary, it was found that not one of the seventeen graduates in that class had died. This was a remarkable record. To signalize it, the photographs of the class at graduation, together with their photographs in 1906, were collected and placed in one frame. This notable group now hangs in Boynton Hall. Of course, the photographs of the class at graduation were in the possession of the Institute at that time. The photographs of the graduates, as they appeared in 1906, were collected by Mr. Edward F. Tolman, '71. It was a task of great difficulty, but was successfully accomplished. Mr.
Tolman was the first member of the Class to die, his death occurring in January, 1910.

In the following pages will be discussed more in detail, the regular Commencement exercises, the Examining Committees, the Baccalaureate Sermons, and the Class Day exercises.
The first Commencement at the Institute was held on Wednesday, July 26, 1871, in the Chapel, Boynton Hall. In the morning of that day, at 8:30, was held an examination of the members of the Senior Class, conducted in Boynton Hall by a committee of scientific gentlemen, selected, as the contemporary accounts tell us, "with especial reference to their familiarity with the various subjects on which the class were to be examined". The committee and their specialties were, in Chemistry, President William S. Clark of the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst, George P. Rockwood, Esq., of Manchester, N. H., in Mechanics, Charles H. Parker, Esq., of Boston, Professor John Trowbridge, of Cambridge, and George Crompton, Esq., of Worcester; in Civil Engineering, George Faymond, Esq., of Fitchburg and Hon. Phinehas Ball of Worcester; in Architecture and Design, Hon. David H. Mason, of Boston, Professor William P. Trowbridge of New Haven, Conn., and Professor William R. Ware, of Boston.

The catalogue of 1871-2 had made the announcement that "at the annual commencement the Senior class is subjected to a public examination, conducted by a committee invited from the community at large". This practice of having an examining committee was continued until 1893, the class that graduated in June of that year being the last class to undergo this examination. The catalogue of 1870-1 had made a similar announcement with regard to a public oral examination. This, it said, was held the last Friday in June, and was conducted by a committee invited from the community at large. In 1870, the committee consisted of the following gentlemen: Rev. Lewis Sabin of Templeton, Hon. P. Emory Aldrich of

This examination at the Commencement of 1871 was conducted by the presentation on the part of the class of theses, accompanied by explanatory drawings and plans. The members of the graduating class discussed their theses, though, as contemporary accounts state, "in too scientific and abstruse a manner to be thoroughly enjoyed by the large audience in attendance." At the close of the examination, the theses, plans, drawings, etc., were submitted to the Examining Committee for examination and report.

During the morning of this first Commencement Day, shops, laboratories, and drawing rooms were open for inspection, and were visited by the many friends in attendance. At noon a collation was served to the Trustees, the Examining Committee and the guests in one of the rooms of Boynton Hall. At 2:30 P.M., the formal exercises were held, in the chapel, as has been said. The invocation was asked by Rev. E. Porter Dyer, of Shrewsbury, followed by the introductory address of Hon. Stephen Salisbury, President of the Board of Trustees. The Commencement Address was then given by Professor William P. Trowbridge of Sheffield Scientific School, on the subject, "What are the principles and merits of the applications of science to active business? At the conclusion of this address the valedictory on behalf of the class was delivered by Elmer P. Howe, of Worcester. The diplomas were then awarded by President Salisbury of the Trustees. The exercises closed with benediction by Rev. Mr. Dyer. Music was furnished during the exercises by an instrumental quintette. In the evening of Com-
mencement Day, Mr. Salisbury gave a reception to the graduating class and a number of invited guests, including members of the Trustees, of the Examining Committee and prominent residents of Worcester.

The general plan of the first commencement was followed for many years. In 1872, the day was July 31, the examination coming at 9:30 A.M., the regular Commencement exercises at 2:30 P.M. Addresses were delivered by Hon. George F. Hoar, on behalf of the Trustees, and by Principal Thompson. The chief address of the day was given by Rev. Andrew P. Peabody of Cambridge, whose subject was, "The worth of an extended education to the manufacturer, the mechanic and the artisan."

No radical departure in any detail was made from the general plan outlined above for many years. As time went on, the formal address on the part of the Trustees was given up and only the Commencement address was delivered by some distinguished scientist or statesman, or some member of the Corporation. The award of prizes to the six students of highest standing, from the graduates' Aid Fund was made a feature of the Commencement exercises, following the award of the diplomas. As the graduating classes became larger and the attendance at the exercises greater, more adequate quarters had to be sought for the exercises. From 1885 to 1889 inclusive, the graduation exercises were held in Mechanics Hall; from 1890 to 1894, inclusive, they were held in Association Hall of the Young Men's Christian Association Building on Elm Street. In 1888, the hour of the graduation exercises was changed from 2:30 in the afternoon to 7:30 in the evening; the following year the hour was made 7:45, an hour which was continued until 1893, when it was made 8. In 1894, the hour was 8 P.M. also.
of theses had been held in the morning in Boynton Hall, generally at 9:30 A.M. In 1894, 1895 and 1896, this general reading of theses was replaced by the reading of one thesis from each of the departments in which degrees were conferred, this reading taking place at the exercises of graduation.

No valedictory address on the part of the graduating class was given after 1893. The address on the part of the Trustees, which had been a feature of all commencements from 1871 until 1881, was not given after that year. In 1882, an address on the part of the Alumni was delivered by Henry P. Armsby, '71, in place of the address on the part of the Trustees. In 1883, Principal Fuller, elected in 1882, gave the Commencement address on the subject, "The Present Place and Work of Technical Schools". Again in 1894, as he laid down the duties of his office, he summed up the history of technical education and of the growth of the Institute in a commencement address entitled "A Quarter Century Review."

In 1895, the first Commencement over which President Mendenhall presided, the exercises were again held each year until 1907, in which year they took place in the quiet laboratory of the new Electrical Engineering Building, marking the dedication of this building. Beginning with 1908, and continuing until the present time, these exercises have been held in Tuckerman Hall of the Woman's Club Building.

Instrumental music has generally been introduced as a feature of the Commencement exercises. In 1896, the Institute Glee Club sang several times during the exercises, replacing the instrumental quintette and orchestra.
In the early days of the Institute, the Governor of the Commonwealth was often present at Commencement, usually making a short address. In 1885, Governor George D. Robinson was present and spoke; in 1895 Governor Greenhalge; in 1896, 1898 and 1899, Governor Wolcott addressed the gathering briefly; in 1907, Governor Guild, and in 1914, Governor Walsh.

The date of Commencement in the early years was the last Wednesday in July. This date was gradually brought nearer the beginning of the month, standing in 1875 at July 7th. For some years it fell always during the first two weeks of July, then in 1881, it was June 30th, for the first time on a Thursday. It has been on a Thursday ever since. In 1891, it was again brought nearer the beginning of June, standing that year at June 18th. In 1901, it was definitely fixed as the second Thursday in June, coming that year on the 13th. Since then it has varied from the 8th to the 14th.

From the earliest times, the members of the graduating class have, at Commencement, marched in a body to their places, either upon the platform, or in the front part of the hall. Since 1912, they have formed at the Electrical Engineering Building, and, under the direction of the Chief Usher of the day, usually the President of the Junior Class, have marched to Tuckerman Hall. In 1915, Faculty and instructors, with the speaker of the day, the Trustees and several of the delegates to the Celebration, formed at Boynton Hall and marched to Tuckerman Hall, preceded by the Senior Class. At the entrance to the hall, the Seniors formed two lines, through which the remainder of the procession passed into the hall, the Seniors following.
President Engler, early in his administration, introduced the custom of handing to each graduate his own diploma as he came upon the stage. In former years the diplomas of graduates in each course were handed out in a bundle. At the commencement in 1914 and 1915, the graduates went upon the platform grouped by courses, each man receiving his own diploma from the President. This plan had all the merits of the former one, but saved much time.

The seating arrangements for the Baccalaureate sermon and the exercises of Commencement Day have from the beginning been in the hands of ushers chosen from the Junior Class, headed usually by the President of the Class.

The speakers at the various commencements have almost without exception been men of national prominence, and their addresses have been not only interesting but of great value. It is impossible to quote from these addresses, but mention must be made here of the remarks of Senator Hoar at the Commencement exercises of 1900. Senator Hoar was present, as a member of the Board of Trustees, and was called upon by President Mendenhall to speak, after the regular address of the day had been delivered. He said in part:

"My words will be but a salutation and a congratulation. Dr. Mendenhall was for once not accurate when he said that there were two of the original board of Trustees surviving. There is but one. I am the only one alive of the little company which met in my office in 1865 and adopted the plan of this institution and promised John Boynton to do our best, in so far as in us lay. Mr. Morgan came in later. The single most pleasant recollection of my life is the recollection of that transaction. I do not think there is anything more delightful in the world than to help plant a tree and see it grow. This tree has grown and its shade has been for the building of the nation.

We have sent out year after year from our classes young men who have been highly taught in the arts of life,
and who have become all over the country men of moment, who have helped administer great business transactions upon which the safety and prosperity of the nation depended.

I do not think there is any investment of capital which brings such a return as that given by such an institution as this. Suppose we graduate each year, as we hope to do shortly, a class of 30. The man without the training which we give him could not at the best earn more than $1000 a year. We give him an education which is worth $2000. at the least to him. Thus we have created $100000 a year of value to the community in a single class. And it is lodged where moth and rust do not corrupt and where thieves do not break through and steal. In 30 years it has grown to $3,000,000, and in 30 years we have graduated 30 classes, which has given the country $90,000,000."

These words from Senator Hoar were listened to with profound attention, and form, perhaps, one of the most valuable contributions to the early history of the Institute on record.

In the appendix of this book will be found a complete record of the dates of Commencement, of the speakers on the various days, with their subjects, also a list of the valedictorians of each class, as long as the custom of having a valedictorian was followed.
The first Baccalaureate Sermon was delivered before the Class of 1893, with members of the Board of Trustees, of the Faculty, and many friends as their guests, on the evening of Sunday, June 18th, in Central Church, by Rev. Daniel Merriman, pastor of the church. This custom of having a Baccalaureate has been observed ever since. A list of Baccalaureate preachers is given in the Appendix. The sermon has been preached each time in Central Church, except in the year 1904, when it was given in Plymouth Church.
BACCALAUREATE PREACHERS


Sunday, June 17, 1894, Rev. A. Z. Conrad, of Old South Congregational Church, Worcester.


Sunday, June 14, 1896, Rev. A. Z. Conrad, of Old South Congregational Church, Worcester.

Monday, June 21, 1897, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D.D. of Boston.


Sunday, June 18, 1899, Rev. Almon Gunnison, D.D., of the First Universalist Church, Worcester.

Sunday, June 17, 1900, Rev. Spencer B. Meeser, of the First Baptist Church, Worcester.


Sunday, June 8, 1902, Rev. Willard Scott, D.D., of Piedmont Congregational Church, Worcester.

Sunday, June 7, 1903, Rev. Albert W. Hitchcock of Central Congregational Church, Worcester.


Sunday, June 4, 1905, Rev. Francis J. Van Horn, D.D., of Old South Congregational Church, Worcester.


Sunday, June 9, 1907, Rev. Edward P. Drew, D.D., of Old South Congregational Church, Worcester.

Sunday, June 7, 1908, Rev. Shepherd Knapp, of Central Congregational Church, Worcester.

Sunday, June 6, 1909, Rev. Austin S. Garner of the First Unitarian Church, Worcester.

Sunday, June 5, 1910, Rev. Shepherd Knapp, of Central Congregational Church, Worcester.

Sunday, June 4, 1911, Rev. Allyn King Foster, of the First Baptist Church, Worcester.
Sunday, June 9, 1912, Rev. Allyn King Foster, of the First Baptist Church, Worcester.


Sunday, June 6, 1915, Rev. Edward C. Moore, of Harvard University.

Sunday, June 4, 1916, Rev. Allyn King Foster, of the First Baptist Church, Worcester.


Sunday, April 14, 1918, Rev. Henry B. Washburn of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Worcester.

Sunday, June 22, 1919, Rev. Wm. R. McNutt of First Baptist Church, Worcester.

Sunday, June 6, 1920, Rev. Maxwell Savage, of the First Unitarian Church, Worcester.

Sunday, June 5, 1921, Rev. Shepherd Knapp, of Central Congregational Church, Worcester.

Wednesday, May 31, 1922, Rev. Edward Cummings, of South Congregational Church, Boston.

Wednesday, June 6, 1923, Dr. A. Z. Conrad of Park Street Church, Boston.

Wednesday, June 4, 1924, Rev. Henry W. Hobson of All Saints Episcopal Church, Worcester.

Wednesday, June 10, 1925, Rev. Maxwell Savage of the First Unitarian Church, Worcester.

Wednesday, June 16, 1926, Rev. R. W. McLaughlin of Piedmont Congregational Church, Worcester.

Sunday, June 19, 1927, Rev. Wm. R. McNutt of First Baptist Church, Worcester.
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

Wednesday, July 26, 1871. Prayers by Rev. E. Porter Dyer of Shrewsbury, Mass. Address by Professor W. P. Trowbridge of Sheffield Scientific School, New Haven, Conn. Subject: "What are the principles and merits of the application of science to active business?"
Valedictorian: Elmer P. Howe of Worcester.

Valedictorian: Parkman T. Denny of Leicester.


Wednesday, July 12, 1876. Professor William Thompson, D.D., of the Hartford Theological School, Chaplain. Address on behalf of the Trustees by Rev. E. H. Hall; address of the day by Professor F. A. March, of Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., subject; "The Educatice Power of Manipulation." Valedictorian, John C. Woodbury, of Charlton.

Wednesday, July 11, 1877. Rev. C. M. Lamson of Worcester, Chaplain. Address on behalf of the Trustees by Rev. B. D. Marshall, Commencement Address by President P. A. Chadbourne, of the University of Wisconsin, Subject: "Physical Sciences as the Product and Promoter of Civilization." Valedictorian, Bernard F. Booker of Buffalo, N. Y.


Thursday, June 30, 1881. Rev. George A. Bartol, D.D., of Lancaster,
Chaplain. Address on behalf of the Trustees, Rev. Daniel Merriman. Commencement Address by Professor William R. Ware, of Boston. Valedictorian, John I. Souther, of Worcester.


Thursday, June 25, 1885. Chaplain, Rev. A. S. Walker, of Spencer. Commencement Address by President Daniel C. Gilman, of Johns Hopkins University. Subject; "Handy-Craft". Governor Robinson spoke also. Valedictorian, Joseph Beals, of Westfield.


Thursday, June 21, 1894. Chaplain, Rev. G. F. W. Scott, D.D. of Leominster. Commencement Address by President H. P. Fuller, Subject; "A Quarter Century Review". (There was no Valedictorian after 1893.)

Thursday, June 20, 1895. Chaplain, Rev. Alexander H. Vinton of Worcester. Addresses by President Stephen Salisbury of the Corporation; President T. C. Mendenhall of the Faculty and Governor Frederick T. Greenhalge. Selected theses were read.

Thursday, June 18, 1896. Chaplain, Rev. Elijah Horr, D.D., of Worcester. Addresses by President Salisbury, President Mendenhall and Governor Roger Wolcott. Selected theses were read.

Thursday, June 24, 1897. Chaplain, Rev. John E. Tuttle, of Worcester. Commencement address by President G. Stanley Hall, of Clark University. Subject: "The New Personal Hygiene." (No theses were read after 1896.)


Thursday, June 21, 1900. Chaplain, Rev. Daniel Merriman, of Worcester. Commencement address by Professor Edward S. Morse of Salem. Subject: "Can City Life be Made Endurable?"
Thursday, June 13, 1901, Chaplain, Rev. Henry B. Washburn. Commencement Speaker, Professor Nathaniel S. Shaler, subject: "The Place of the Engineer."

Thursday, June 12, 1902, Chaplain, Rev. A. W. Hitchcock. Commencement Speaker, Dr. John K. Fees, subject: "Recent Progress in Astronomy."

Thursday, June 11, 1903, Chaplain, Rev. Austin S. Garver. Commencement Speaker, Mr. O. H. Tittman, subject: "The Work of the United States Coast & Geodetic Survey."
Thursday, June 9, 1904, Chaplain, Rev. L. Call Barnes of Worcester.

Commencement address by President Ira Remsen of Johns Hopkins University. Subject: "The Practical Man."

Thursday, June 8, 1905. Chaplain, Rev. Albert W. Hitchcock of Worcester. Commencement Address by Professor Robert Fletcher, Director of the Thayer School of Engineering, Dartmouth College. Subject: "A Definition of Engineering Education."


Thursday, June 8, 1911. Chaplain, Rev. Allyn K. Foster, of Worcester. Commencement Address by Professor William T. Sedgwick, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Subject: "Scientists and Technicians in the Public Service."


Monday, April 15, 1918. Chaplain, Rev. Leslie Willis Sprague. Commencement Speaker, Spencer Miller, W.P.I. '79, subject; "The Graduate Opportunities for National Service."


Thursday, June 10, 1920. Chaplain, Rev. Henry Stiles Bradley. Commencement Speaker, Dr. G. Stanley Hall, subject; "Psychology and Industry."

Friday, June 10, 1921. Chaplain, Rev. Shepherd Knapp. Commencement Speaker, Hon. Everett J. Lake, Governor of Connecticut, subject; "Relatives Values in Education."

Friday, June 2, 1922. Chaplain, Rev. Shepherd Knapp. Commencement Speaker, Frank Farnum Drewser, subject; "The Next Step in Industrial Development."

Friday, June 8, 1923. Chaplain, Rev. Maxwell Savage. Commencement Speaker, Col. Benjamin O. Johnson, W.P.O., '00, subject; "The Trans-Siberian Railways."

Friday, June 6, 1924. Chaplain, Rev. Maxwell Savage. Commencement Speaker, Professor George F. Swain, subject; "How to become a Successful Engineer."

Friday, June 12, 1925. Chaplain, Rev. Shepherd Knapp. Commencement Speaker, President-elect Ralph Earle, subject; "The Naval Defense of America."

Friday, June 18, 1926. Chaplain, Rev. William R. McNutt. Commencement Speaker, Mr. John E. Aldred, subject; "Conservation Vs. Waste."

Monday, June 20, 1927. Chaplain, Rev. Shepherd Knapp. Commencement Speaker, Mr. William E. Wickenden, subject; "Technology and Culture."
CLASS DAY EXERCISES

The custom of having Class Day exercises was introduced early. On Commencement Day, July 31, 1872, at the close of the regular graduation exercises in the afternoon, the graduates in the Class of 1871 and 1872 met, and, marched to a point on the road leading up from Boynton St. to Boynton Hall. The class tree of 1871 had already been placed in position along by this road. Around the tree the two classes formed; an address was then delivered by H. P. Armsby, '71, at the conclusion of which the members of the two classes joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne". Each class then cheered the other, after which '71 escorted '72 to the spot selected for planting its tree. Here the class song was sung, composed by a member of the class of 1872, and the tree was planted. The two classes then formed in line and marched about the grounds, cheering the Trustees, the Faculty and the buildings, closing their exercises with a parting cheer for the Institute.

For many years this general plan of Class Day exercises was followed, with more or less variation. In 1873 a class oration was delivered for the first time, the custom of having a class song still being observed. Until 1885, the exercises took place after the regular exercises of graduation; that is, late in the afternoon of Commencement Day. They were held about the class tree, the location varying naturally and shifting to different parts of the grounds. In 1885, the Class Day exercises were held at 12 o'clock noon, immediately on the conclusion of the reading of the theses. This hour was chosen in 1886 and 1887.

In 1888, the exercises were held on Wednesday afternoon,
the day before Commencement. More elaborate preparations had been made than ever before. A platform for the speakers had been erected in the grove at the north of the Institute grounds and a band furnished music. The custom of holding the Class Day exercises on the Wednesday before Commencement Day, inaugurated in 1888, was followed for many years, and this day came to be looked upon as Class Day.

In 1890, the reading of the Class History was made a part of the program of Class Day. In 1891, a Class Poem was read, in addition to the Class Ode which was sung. In 1892, a Tree Oration was added to the Class Oration. In 1893, the Class Poem was given up, but a Banner Oration was added, also an Address to the Undergraduates. The Banner Oration dealt with the prowess of the Class in retaining the Cross Country Championship. This year the exercises were held on Monday, June 19, the Commencement exercises falling on Thursday, the 22nd. In 1892, Class Day had been on Tuesday. In 1894, Class Day was observed on Commencement Day, Thursday, June 21, at 2:30 P.M. The regular Commencement exercises came in the evening.

In 1895, the exercises were held on the afternoon of Commencement Day, the speakers departing somewhat from the formal orations of previous years and giving general discussions of various phases of their Institute life.

A Farewell Address was delivered as one of the features. In 1896, Wednesday afternoon was again chosen and the earlier form of orations was followed. A Class Prophecy was added. In 1897, there was no departure from the programme of the preceding years. In 1898, a similar programme was followed, but, as the day was
rainy, the exercises were held in the chapel, Boynton Hall.

The Class of 1899 held no Class Day exercises and succeeding classes held none through the Class of 1908. The Class of 1909 resumed the custom of holding Class Day exercises. Tuesday, June 8, was the day chosen, the hour being 2 P.M. A boulder with the class numerals was dedicated, a class tree was planted, a class oration was delivered, and the class history was read. The Class of 1910 held no Class Day, but instead gave a lawn party after the President's reception, Wednesday evening, June 7, and at midnight presented to the Institute the sundial which now stands on the lawn in front of Boynton Hall. The Class of 1911 held only a lawn party, its gift to the Institute being the Class of 1911 Scholarship. This scholarship, awarded under present rules to a resident of the State of Ohio, was first held by a member of the Class of 1917.

Class Day was revived by the Class of 1912 which held its exercises Wednesday afternoon at 2:30. There were the usual features on the program, the class oration, class history, class prophecy and ode. The class gift was a pledge to raise and pay the Institute the sum of $2,500, within three years, this amount to be a contribution to the Alumni Fund. Similar exercises were held by the Class of 1913, whose gift was a set of gates for Alumni Field. The classes of 1914 and 1915 also held their Class Day exercises, the hour being the same as in the two preceding years, 2:30 P.M., Wednesday, the day before Commencement. The gift of the Class of 1914 to the Institute was

The gift of the Class of 1915 was a pledge of $4,615., divided among various Institute activities.
DESCRIPTIVE.

The history of Institute Glee Clubs and their formal appearances has been given elsewhere in this volume. On several occasions, however, students at the Institute have attempted a more ambitious undertaking, in nature more or less dramatic.

The first of these attempts, referred to as the Tech Minstrels, took place in Horticultural Hall, March 25, 1892. It involved a chorus, soloists, the appearance of the Tech Banjo and Guitar Club, all assisted by a company of local instrumental performers called the Elberon Orchestra. Contemporary accounts speak of the performance in high praise.

The following year saw produced, May 12 and 13, in Worcester Theatre, a more ambitious affair. This was a musical comedy based on the old nursery tale and named from it "Jack and the Beanstalk"; it was often referred to as the Tech Burlesque. The music of the play was written or arranged by E. W. Marshall, '93, and he was really the author of the entire Burlesque. It was an unqualified success.

On the 26th and 27th of April, 1895, "Shylock, Jr." was given by Institute students with some outside assistance. W. S. B. Dana, '97, wrote the music, and the libretto was written by Harry W. Doe, a well-known newspaper man of Worcester. Mr. Doe also took an active part in the play. The plot was borrowed with many changes from the Merchant of Venice. Musically and artistically a success, this play was certainly, though the financial returns, which were for the benefit of the Athletic Association, were not large.

The skill of Institute men as actors lay dormant from 1895 until the spring of 1911, when a play, "Eldern's Uncle", by a Tech
man, H. P. King, formerly of the Class of 1911, was produced April 29, 1911, in Worcester Theatre. The play was not perhaps of great merit as a play, but it called out a crowded house, and was a great success. This success resulted in the formation in the spring of 1911 of the Dramatic Association made up of members of the cast, managers, assistants, etc., to undertake the annual production of some form of dramatic performance. The association started with a handsome balance in its treasury, although its purpose is to aid other worthy Institute enterprises so far as it can, and, with this object in view, has already given money to the Tech News. Under its favoring auspices, successful performances have been given as follows: On May 1, 1912, in Worcester Theatre, "The Flirt", by C. A. Gray, who was connected with the office of the Institute, on April 11, 1913. "Man Proposes", by H. L. Tilton, of the Class of 1914, this also in Worcester Theatre; on March 26th and 27th, 1914, in Tuckerman Hall, Woman's Club Building, "Lost - A Fortune", by Windsor R. Davis of the Class of 1916; on March 25th and 26th, in Tuckerman Hall, "The House that Jack Built", by Windsor R. Davis, '16. Each of these plays was most creditably given and was received enthusiastically by large audiences. Each was a financial success, also, and the Dramatic Association was still further strengthened financially.

In this connection it may be noted that for several years Tech Night has been celebrated at one of the local theatres, practically all the seats in the body of the house being taken by Institute men and their friends.