

LAGRANGE FEMALE COLLEGE HAS BRILLIANT EXERCISES

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

LAGRANGE, Ga., June 4.—Out from the roses and the beautiful flower gardens of LaGrange a tall hill lifts its head, a hill from whose eminence one may see palatial homes, the smoke of many industrial enterprises and further out the green forests kissed of the summer sun.

Crowning this lofty hilltop is the LaGrange Female college, an institution which for many years has been the pride of western Georgia, an institution whose faculty embraces some of the state's most noted educators; and whose pupils have illustrated its thorough training in many fields of endeavor.

The commencement exercises of this far-famed institution are now being held, the commencement sermon being preached on last Sunday.

The magnificent chapel, whose seating capacity is said to be the greatest of any hall in the south, was filled to overflowing on Sunday morning, people being present from many neighboring cities and towns.

The organ voluntary, offertory, and batiste was rendered with that wonderful skill and exquisite touch which has made Professor George Wilson so noted among musical connoisseurs. The anthem, "Jehovah's Praise," was next given by the choir of trained voices. Then followed the offertory, "Rejoice Greatly," by Handel. This was sung by Mrs. Alwyn M. Smith in a magnificent rendition of this very difficult and wonderfully attractive piece. The prelude by Bach was delightfully performed by Professor Wilson.

The baccalaureate sermon was delivered by Rev. H. S. Bradley, the distinguished vice president of Emory college at Oxford.

Mr. Bradley's text was the 32nd verse of the 8th chapter of St. John, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." No more deeply, thoughtful, earnest, convincing and eloquent sermon has ever been delivered in this city, where so many magnificent commencement sermons have been delivered. It was a sermon bold, fearless, original and the great audience listened spell-bound by the vast knowledge, deep conviction and powerful earnestness of the orator. It is useless to attempt in a short space to portray any kind of conception of a sermon which was in itself so compact. A few of the thoughts of the preacher were that the revelation of truth is gradual. Christ could not have given to the people of his own time anything save a mere fragment because they were not prepared to receive it; in even so simple a matter as the geography of the earth, if he had gone far enough to reveal to them what is today the common knowledge of a school boy, they would have thought him insane, and his usefulness would have been destroyed. God has never revealed a truth in its entirety, but has been forced to give it slowly because we can only grasp it that way. Our idea of God is slowly approaching a loftier conception. From the time of Abraham we have learned more and more of Him. God is gradually leading us into all the truth. The speaker showed how religion marches hand in hand with the fullest developments of science and knowledge, that they are not antagonistic, but that science only reveals God back of all things. The knowledge of the truth shall make us free, first, from toll; second, from superstition; third from pain, and, fourth from death.

It was pronounced a great sermon by all who heard it, and made a deep impression.

Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the college chapel Miss M. L. Gibson, of the Scarlett Training school, of Kansas City, held most interesting and instructive services, and was greeted by a large crowd, and Sunday night Dr. M. J. Cofer, presiding elder of the LaGrange district, preached a fine sermon at the First Methodist church.

On Monday at 9 a. m. the board of trustees

and the visiting board from the North Georgia Conference met, and at 10 a. m. was held the elocution contest and debate upon the subject, "Resolved, That woman should have the same education as man." This was indulged in by six young ladies. Last night was given the cantata, "Tyrolle Queen," which proved very interesting. This morning at 9:30 o'clock were read essays by the juniors, at 11 o'clock an address by Mr. Lawton B. Evans, of Augusta. Tonight will close the exercises, when the graduating exercises will take place. An address will be delivered by Rev. Walker Lewis, D. D., of Atlanta, and the degrees conferred.

A wonderful degree of interest is being manifested by the people of LaGrange and the surrounding country in this commencement, and the city is filled with visitors. The faculty has spared no pains to make the exercises creditable, and their efforts have not been in vain.

DAVIS' BIRTHDAY OBSERVED IN MACON

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

MACON, June 4.—Macon's Daughters of the Confederacy and Gresham High school appropriately celebrated the anniversary of Jefferson Davis' birthday yesterday afternoon. The Daughters of the Confederacy were given a number of Confederate relics that had been given by Mr. Davis to parties in Macon. These were turned over to the Daughters of the Confederacy by the Macon Public library, and there arose a discussion as to what should be done with them. Some of the ladies favored sending the relics to Richmond, but others thought they ought to be kept at home to be used to inspire the youth of the community. It was suggested that they be given to Wesleyan or Mercer, but this was opposed. It was then suggested that they be given to Gresham High school so they could be used for the benefit of both boys and girls. It was finally agreed to leave their disposition to Mrs. T. O. Chestney, who is president of the society.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

John Lee Holmes, who assisted in the slaughter of another negro a few weeks ago, was sentenced yesterday to three years in the penitentiary. Monroe Blackshear, another negro, who was convicted of killing a boy over a baseball game a couple of months ago, was given six years.

Mr. Ellis M. Talbott has petitioned the United States court to annul the bankruptcy proceedings that were instituted against him some time ago while he was absent in New York and Canada. He alleges that the service of the papers was not legal, and he should not have been declared bankrupt under such circumstances.

In the city court yesterday the suit of Mrs. A. H. Kemp for the life insurance carried by her husband in the State Mutual Life and Annuity Association of Rome was up. The insurance company resists payment on the ground that Mr. Kemp, who was manager of the Western Union Telegraph company at this place, committed suicide. The point was raised that the city court has no jurisdiction over the case, because of a defect in service. This point was sustained yesterday. The first quarter of the first year's annuity was paid by the company within a couple of hours after Mr. Kemp's death, but the company afterwards decided to hold up on the payments.

J. D. Upson, a farmer of Upson county, has filed a petition for bankruptcy relief.