

Commencement Orations

Russell Raymond.

Class of '55.

A modest defence of Female Education.

Education is our theme; — Education, the great civilizer of the human race, and the mighty engine of progress; Education, the key that unlocks the mysteries of Nature, and develops truths more sublime than fiction; of it will we treat. Like a ponderous fly wheel, Education does most effectually preserve the equilibrium of the mental machine and regulate its action. And as an expositor of Nature, it interprets not only all sublimary wonders, but all phenomena that ~~are~~ ^{are} superlunary in the grand orrery of Creation.

Deeply profound a subject as Education itself is, doubly profound is our theme when we speak of Female Education. Men long ago did ponder on its feasibility and its utility, — pondered perhaps under the honest impulse of warm and unprejudiced hearts, with souls brim full of Charity; yet never could they put to the rout their mighty doubtings, or determine for themselves, whether or not in perfecting her intellect, woman remained in sex unchanged.

Those long venerated and long established notions, that an original difference between the mental capacities of men and woman existed, and that the mind of the female was really impervious to general lore, have been effectually undermined by growing intelligence and practical experiment.

Woman now stands on an equal footing with him, who had been constituted her lord merely with a view to the temporary relations of society. Those human rights, to which as a human being she has a title, have been restored. Those functions, duties, and responsibilities, which as the helpmate of man are incumbent upon her, and as his companion give her equality, have been

Main Entry:

College of the City of New York.

Title:

Commencement orations, 1855-1891, 1855-1871

Physical Description:

Mss. 360 items (6v., 137 unbound)

Organization and Arrangement:

Manuscripts arranged chronologically.

General Note:

Lacks orations for 1862, 1867, 1868, 1872, 1874-1883, 1885-1890.
One undated oration.

Scope and Contents:

Autograph manuscripts of orations (speeches) delivered by graduating seniors of the College of the City of New York between 1855 and 1891 (originally the Free Academy of New York from 1847 to 1866). Each manuscript for the years 1857, 1858, and 1859 and 1873 includes a pasted down photograph of the speaker. Some of the 1860 manuscripts include photographs. Orations worthy of note are those by Adolph Werner (Class of 1857) who would spend the next fifty years at the College as a Professor of German ("A National University") and Francis Markoe, Jr. (Class of 1860) who would hold the rank of Colonel in the Army Confederates States of America ("The American Union").

Preferred Citation:

College of the City of New York Commencement Orations, 1855-1891, City University of New York, City College Library, Archives.

History:

Between 1855 and 1861 all graduating students delivered orations; after that leading members of the classes were selected to do so in most years. General topics included the patriotism, literature, education, and citizenship as well as imaginative topics.

Subjects:

College of the City of New York. Baccalaureate addresses.

Photographs.

Class of 1855.

Class of 1856.

Class of 1857.

Class of 1858.

Class of 1859.

Class of 1860.

Class of 1861.

Class of 1863.

Class of 1864.
Class of 1865.
Class of 1866
Class of 1869.
Class of 1871.
Class of 1884.
Class of 1891.
Free Academy of New York. Baccalaureate addresses.
Commencement orations.

Added Entries:

Markoe, Francis. American union. 1860.
Werner, Adolph. National university. 1857.
College of the City of New York.