

SOLEMN OBSERVANCES THIS EVENING—THE LAST OF THE FREE ACADEMY—GRAND CELEBRATION OF THE STUDENTS.

By act of the legislature of this state the New York Free Academy will become to-morrow "The College of the City of New York." The name of the Free Academy has long been unacceptable to the faculty and the students; it did not compare very favorably with the title of Yale or Harvard, or Columbia, or the University; its degrees did not carry with them the honors that were given by these institutions, though the course of education of the academy it was claimed was not as a whole far below the standard of the foremost schools. To set all this right the academy needed a new appellation. Last year a vigorous effort was made, but without success, to have the institution declared a college; this year the new title was conferred.

Such an event, so full of significance to the students especially, could not be allowed to pass without a suitable commemoration; so it was determined to bury the academy with due pomp and ceremony. The professors could not, of course, engage in any such proceeding; they could not even know of it; therefore, the students resolved to officiate at the funeral, and to raise it far above the dignity of the ceremony of "the burial of the ancient," in which the release from scholastic drudgery is so frequently celebrated. The arrangements will be completed in the course of the day.

The procession will form at about ten o'clock to-night, at the intersection of Forty-second street and Fifth avenue; and a band of musicians will march at the head of it. It will be a torch-light procession. As yet it has not been decided whether the torches will be many or few. On the one hand it is urged that there should be much light, to add to the effect of the pageant; but on the other it is said that so sad an event as the burial of the Academy ought to be commemorated in gloom and darkness. It is likely that the proposal to have numerous torches will prevail, so that the brilliancy of the occasion may in some sense represent the situation of the students, who, while professing to mourn, are rejoicing.

Next to the band will march the committee of arrangements. These young men who have initiated and arranged with great care the method in which they and their comrades are to mourn, will be formed in hollow square, and will conduct the orator, the poet and the prophet. After them will come the grave-diggers, and the pall-bearers. The coffin is four feet and eight inches in length, and is to contain what the students will bury as the symbol of the Academy. For this purpose some rolls and registers have been selected. The ashes only are to be interred. Following the coffin will be the appointed mourners. They will be dressed in black, and will frequently have occasion during the march to brush away their tears with the great handkerchiefs specially provided. It is expected that between three and four hundred students will march in the procession.

The route selected is from Forty second street along Fifth avenue to Twenty-third street, and through Twenty-third street to Lexington avenue—the Academy building.

At about 11 o'clock the funeral services will begin. They will consist briefly of the humorous sermon of the orator, who will do honor to the memory of the Academy; the recitation of the poem; the prophecy, in which will be foretold the greatness of the new college; the ceremony of the burning, the burial, &c., &c. The Academy bell will toll its knell during a quarter of an hour before 12 o'clock, and precisely at midnight the coffin will be lowered into the grave.

Immediately after midnight—the beginning of the month of May—the existence of the new college will be ushered in by a grand demonstration of the bell-ringer, who will have ceased his tolling, and by such other recognition as may be thought proper.

The students intend to make the whole ceremony exceedingly entertaining.