

COMMENCEMENT.

Henry Merritt Wriston Wins Rich Prize. Degrees Conferred.

The oratorical contest for the Rich Prize took place in the M. E. Church at 10 a. m. Wednesday. The prize was awarded to Henry M. Wriston of Boston, Mass., while honorable mention was given to Constantine M. Panunzio, of Molfetta, Italy. The committee of awards consisted of Dr. Potter of Hartford and Mr. J. C. St. John, head-master of the Choate School, Wallingford, Connecticut.

H. P. Frost of Waterville, Me., opened the contest with a speech entitled, "The School and the State." He pleaded for each and every one to use his influence to bring about school reform in order that our schools may maintain a high moral standard.

"Tendencies Toward Socialism" was the subject of the oration of F. S. Garman of Haddon Heights, N. J. He showed how efforts are being made to make those who possess unreasonable wealth to bear the part of the public burden.

F. C. Brodhead of Philadelphia, delivered the speech, "Thomas Jefferson, The Founder of Democracy." He said that Jefferson was the leader of the first democratic organization in the country.

The title of H. M. Wriston's oration was, "A Plea for Conservation." The speaker said in part: American institutions are forever changing. However proud of our institutions we may be, we are not content unless we are tampering with them. We do not pause to consider whither the initiative, the referendum and the recall will lead us. We simply feel that they are in accord with the spirit of the age because they are dinned in our ears by a host of men who have secured the public attention with the catchy style of the fifteen cent magazine. We are moving away from the representative government to the democratic government. Washington, Jefferson and Adams dared to brave the heat of adverse public opinion.

Since that time, what a change! Are we no longer to have men with ideas for representatives, or shall we have mere delegates instead,— who may simply register the popular whim and be cast aside when they dare express an opinion of their own? Is the business of government a proposition to be solved overnight by a novice? And yet we are urged to take the greater task of government from the hands of the experts and turn it over to a vast, ignorant body, which follows the ideas of the muckraking magazine.

We should weigh well the consequences ere we institute a form of

government which has always sounded the doom of the very liberties it sought to protect."

The fifth speaker, G. C. Mahle of Peoria, Ill., delivered, "William Makepeace Thackeray-Gentleman" He said that Thackeray's idea was not to write one word which shall not further the purposes of mankind.

"The Hope of Democracy," was the subject of the address of W. R. Montgomery of Stamford, Connecticut and he told how, with the rising generation lies the hope of popular government, and the opportunity to guarantee to all a chance to live.

The next speaker, C. M. Panunzio gave "A Call for Men." "To us comes a challenge to face the intellectual situation of the day. The church is facing a critical intellectual situation. The last quarter of the nineteenth century has brought to us great discoveries; has belittled our spiritual life and widened our intellectual horizon. Men yearn for an interpretation of life in the terms of the spirit. It is for this that strong men from our college halls are challenged to-day."

The eighth and last oration, delivered by J. R. Simmons of Hobart, N. Y., had as its subject, "The Brotherhood of Man," and he said that Brotherly assistance should be extended by broader education and religion.

After the contest diplomas were awarded to the members of 1911.