

TPR Wed 7-1-1885

The First Commencement of the Petoskey High School.

A Big jump from Mrs. Alley's board shanty in 1874, to the white dresses, flowers, Diplomas, and enthusiasm of June 23, 1885.

THE CLASS OF '85 GRADUATES WITH HONORS

In 1874 Petoskey's only educational institution was a board shanty located a few rods Northwest of the RECORD office, in which Mrs. R. Alley presided over a few barefooted urchins. To-day Petoskey boasts of a graded school system second to none in the state; nine large school with nearly 500 pupils in attendance; and a corps of thorough and efficient instructors trained for their work by the ablest normal teachers of the state.

The development of our educational system in so short a time, and the high state of discipline and efficiency to which our schools have attained, is a matter of great pride to the people of Petoskey. Last Thursday evening, the first class completing the prescribed course of study was graduated, and the occasion called out an immense concourse of citizens. Long before the hour announced Mitchell Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, and scores and hundreds of disappointed people were turned away from the doors. The stage was elaborately decorated by class "B" ('86) assisted by Prof. Ewing, Miss Ruddiman, Miss Burt and Miss Petrie, and presented a beautiful appearance from the front. Upon the stage were seated the orator of the evening Rev. W.S. Potter of Ionia, ex-President Col. J.D. Toll, ex-President W.L. Curtis, and President P.B. Wachtel, the School Board, Ministers of the several churches and Prof. Ewing and Miss Mina Ruddiman of the High School. Owing to the limited capacity of the stage members of the graduating class were seated on the floor of the auditorium immediately in front of the stage.

The first number of the programme was the "Grand Galop de Concert" of Ketterer, for four bands, finely rendered by Mrs. Lou Blood and Miss Stella Brackett.

2nd. Prayer by Rev. H.E. Davis,

3rd. Salutatory- by Frank W. Howe, which was well considered and well delivered.

4th. Song- by Mrs. W.J. McCune.

5th. Address- by Rev. W.S. Potter. Mr. Potter's address "The School of Life" was both eloquent and practical; and we would be glad did space permit to give a synopsis of the argument

6th. Coming thro' the Rye, Clarionette Solo- by Walter Connable.

7th. Presentation of Diplomas.

The class took position upon the stage and Dr. H.T. Calkins President of the School Board in a neat little speech conferred Diplomas upon the class of '85 as follow:

Frank W. Howe, Matha A. Wame, Ella M. Hutchinson, Millie M. Hichcock, Flora M. Davis, Mary E. Gauner, Jennie C. Seibert and Fred A. Howe.

8th. Esmerelda Song- Mrs. W.J. McCune.

9th. Valedictory- Fred A. Howe.

This young gentleman made a very favorable impression indeed. His address was simple, unaffected, direct, and gave abundant evidence of both culture and good taste.

10th. Corrine, Clarionette Solo- Walter Connable. Not only this but the other selections were greatly appreciated by the audience.

Following the exercises the benediction was pronounced by Rev. G.W. Sherman and the first commencement of the Petoskey High School was over.