The question of the profitability of our present graduation day is now under discussion among the members of '83. A number of the class express themselves as decidedly opposed to the present method, while the majority of the class appear indifferent, or speak but lukewarmly in favor of the day. We are of the opinion that the exercises as at present carried on give but little either of pleasure or of profit to the Senior Class or the school at large. The exercises are severely simple, and for the day, which should be remembered by the graduate as the climax of his four years' course, it must be adjudged rather irksome and disappointing. The address by the president is the only interesting feature of the occasion. The reading of extracts from the graduates' theses can scarcely be considered of general interest, as these papers usually treat of subjects which, if not intricate, are in nearly all cases of such technical bearing and expression as to be, we think, dry and uninteresting to the greater part of the audience, if not — although this is scarcely a compliment — beyond their comprehension. If this occasion is to be used by those in power as an opportunity for the Institute to show off the wisdom of its graduates in a series of uncomprehended abstracts, well and good: we shall have nothing to say; but if the idea of the day is, as we think it should be, to make for the graduating class, after their four years of mental and manual discipline, an occasion to which they may look back with pleasure, and which their friends would enjoy at the time and remember afterwards, why can it not be so arranged that the exercises may appear less like the “exhibition” of a private school and more a day of pleasure to all concerned? We do not by any means advocate a “Class day” or expensive “Commencement,” after the college fashion, but, by the admission of music and, perhaps, singing, with some little floral decoration, and exercises of a less irksome nature, it seems to us the graduation day of our Institute would be looked forward to by the Senior, not as a necessary evil to be endured, but as a day to be enjoyed and remembered as marking the close of a very pleasant and very active period of his existence, and, as well, the end of all his school life.

In this number we give a portrait of Mr. Ralph Huntington and a short sketch of his life. It will be remembered that at the beginning of the year it was proposed to publish a series of sketches of the lives of the benefactors of the Institute, each to be accompanied by a portrait. One such sketch was given in the second number of this volume, the subject being Dr. William J. Walker. For various reasons the editors have been unable to carry...