

Commencement.—Again we hear the notes of preparation for this event which annually, for a few days, changes our quiet and sober little town into one of bustle, confusion, and noise. The Commencement (comparing little things with great ones) is to Athens what the carnival is to Rome or Paris. Here, in a few days, again will congregate the talent and the wealth, both real and pretended, of our state—the plodding, calculating, political aspirant, dreaming of preferment and ambitious of honors, with his artful intriguing attache who plies the wires behind the scene—the devotee to literature, the arts and the sciences, and the empty, inflated and pompous pretender to that distinction—the fortune hunter with his snares and plans well laid and concerted, and the gay and heedless object of his wiles fluttering on the brink of destruction—the pleasure loving fraternity without a purpose or an object, other than that enjoyment which the passing hour may afford. And in fine here will be collected together all that is dignified—all that is amiable—all that is excellent—all that is liberal and all that is contracted.

To administer to the tastes of such a diversity of feeling and character successfully, would be a most useless, if not preposterous undertaking. But on no former occasion, we believe, have our good citizens been more anxious to cater successfully for the tastes, both physical and intellectual, of those who intend honoring them with a commencement visit. The politician will be furnished with cancesses and dinners to his heart's content, and a wide field for the display of the ingenuity and address of his puppets—the devotee to literature and the arts, as usual, will be provided with a dish of "salmagundi," on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday—the lovers of the "divino art" on Wednesday evening, will be presented with a rare treat, the Oratorio—and on Thursday evening with a concert by Mr. Marek, and to those who like to suit the "action to the word" and "trip the light fantastic toe," the ball on Wednesday evening will furnish its gay and joyous hilarities—to the lovers of the Histrionic art, Mr. Sol. Smith (who we understand has arrived) will throughout the "whole season," furnish a "standing cover" of wit, sentiment and fancy; and on Friday afternoon it is expected that the patriotic and public spirited abroad who wish to join our citizens in a dinner to our worthy fellow citizen and distinguished member to Congress, Judge Clayton, will have an opportunity of doing so. All these good things together with the hospitality and courtesy of our citizens, we pledge to those who intend "visiting Athens at the Commencement."