



6-13-1889

## "Foul and Fair" by Frances Allen, First UND Commencement: June 13, 1889

Frances M. Allen

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“The first essay was ‘Foul and Fair’ by Miss Frances M. Allen. Her paper was gladly received by all. Among other things she said:

Man can conceive the idea of total darkness; an instantaneous terror inspiring thought that departs and leaves no impression. Perhaps we can think of it only in connection with that which separates man from God, the shadow of death. When we turn to the book of nature where man must read, if he reads at all, the connection between the mind of God and the mind of man, there we find every where life and death and life springing from death. Poets are the interpreters of nature. If we leave out poetry from our lives, we leave out the highest truth, and confine ourselves within the very narrow limit of what can be demonstrated. But poets in general seem to be dazzled by the glimpses they catch from heaven so that the images of truth they give us are blurred and indistinct. Shakespeare, however, so communed with the inner soul of nature, that he could think her thoughts. He alone could reflect the light of truth on the darkness of sin. He alone could write Macbeth. An excellent review of Macbeth was presented, showing careful study and earnest work on the part of Miss Allen who concluded by saying: ‘With all its blackness, Macbeth teaches us that sin is its own avenger, that evil in man’s nature is only the absence of moral uprightness, as darkness is absence of light, and that God is always ready to dispel the darkness and bring forth from evil, more than any other of Shakespeare’s dramas ‘As darkness shows us words of light we never saw by day.’”

*Grand Forks Herald* (evening edition), 13 June 1889, page 4

