

VALEDICTORY

*Read by Cornelius J. Campbell at the Commencement Exercises
May 27, 1926.*

"These studies nourish youth; delight old age; are the ornament of prosperity; the solacement and refuge of adversity; they are delectable at home, and not burdensome abroad; they gladden us at nights, and on our journeys, and in the country."

Since the dawn of civilization, education has been one of its most essential features. The heights which civilization has reached in different periods of history have been attained by the extensive cultivation of letters and real estimation of truth, and we find that when education was neglected and truth consequently obscured, that a corresponding decline of prosperity followed.

The great men who adorned the different eras of progress, and whose works have, in succeeding ages, fostered and promoted the welfare of mankind, have become famous not only because their teachings were expressed in faultless diction but principally because they were expressions of truth.

We may say then that the dissemination of truth promotes civilization, happiness and prosperity. This has been the glory of our Alma Mater for over seventy years. Since her foundation she has yearly sent forth bands of Christian gentlemen, nourished in the atmosphere of truth and service, who have built up a tradition honourable to themselves and St. Dunstan's, a tradition that will tax us to the utmost to maintain.

During the past six years we have been taught the principles which constitute the foundation of a good education. They are based on eternal truth, and such principles can never become antiquated. They combine physical, moral and intellectual education. Physical—so that with health and vigor, our duties may be more efficaciously performed; moral—in order that we may attain our natural destiny, which St. Dunstan's regards as paramount, and intellectual—that we may be better able to fulfill our duties with respect to God, ourselves and mankind. This education, crowned by the invigorating influence of a pure philosophy, gives us confidence and we gird ourselves for the battle.

Today our Alma Mater has summoned us together for the last time, to impart, as it were, her benediction, and give us her final admonitions before we leave her protecting walls. The realization that we must part from her, who has been our guardian and instructor, fills our hearts with an inexpressible sorrow. Like the companion of Telemachus in his wanderings, she has been our Mentor and has encouraged us to noble efforts and raised our minds to higher planes. We owe her a debt of gratitude which we can never repay. We shall never forget the benefits which she has showered upon us, or those with whom we have lived as friends in this atmosphere of learning. Among our most cherished memories shall be the days we spent within these hallowed walls, shielded from the strife and turmoil of a restless world. These memories shall console us in adversity, and the precepts which she has taught us shall be as a beacon to guide us safely to the shores of eternity. Adieu, St. Dunstan's.

"A thousand suns will stream on thee,
A thousand moons will quiver;
But not by thee our steps shall be,
For ever and for ever."

Rev. Rector, Rev. Fathers and Gentlemen of the Faculty:

Before the class of '26 becomes a memory it is our duty to pay a tribute to your genius, and to express our gratitude for the interest you have taken in, and zeal you have displayed for our welfare. You have instructed us in the truths enunciated by great men, and your success has been due to the fact that you possess to a marked degree the clarity of expression for which these great men were distinguished. The care which you have bestowed on us who were placed under your guidance can not be fully rewarded. May God preserve you to continue your noble work. Farewell!

Fellow Students:

The day is not far distant when you also shall bid farewell to your Alma Mater. Uphold her traditions as her pupils, and when you go out into the world, always conduct yourselves so that your actions may reflect credit upon her. She reflects the glory of her sons, and as time goes on, and these become more numerous, so does she

become more resplendent. Avail yourselves of every opportunity which she affords you to acquire knowledge; for your success will depend greatly on the use you make of the time spent within her walls. Farewell!

Fellow Classmates :

"Yet ah! that Spring should vanish with the rose,
That youth's sweet-scented manuscript should close."

To-day we are assembled as a class of St. Dunstan's for the last time, and words cannot express the emotions that fill our hearts. We, who have lived so long together, must part, and it is improbable that we shall all meet together again on this earth.

The days when we were free from care are gone; henceforth we must shoulder the burdens of men. The world, which hitherto appeared to us so bright and pleasant, now assumes a sterner aspect, and we realize that we shall have to labor hard and earnestly to attain success. The names of some of us may echo down the corridors of time, but the most of us shall soon be forgotten. However, the performance of our duty is all that is required of us, and, if we do it faithfully, it matters little whether or not the plaudits of the world commend our actions.

Classmates, this is the greatest, the most poignant moment in our lives. The future can never be to us what the past has been, for to-day we turn the last page in the chapter of our youth. Farewell!

A picture is a poem without words.

—*Horace*

If we make religion our business, God will make it our blessedness.

—*Adams*

Respect is better secured by exacting than soliciting

—*Greville.*

Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control,
These three alone lead to sovereign power.

—*Tennyson.*