

Valedictory

My Lord, Your Grace, Reverend Rector, Your Honor, Your Worship, Reverend Fathers and Gentlemen of the Faculty, Fellow Students, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In the attainment of any goal we experience both a consumation and a change. The consumation, bringing with it the cessation of effort relative to that goal and the realization of long-cherished hopes, is the climax of some certain period in our lives, and is in itself an object of joy. But the ensuing change, if it be from stable, certain, and peaceful conditions to a vague and insecure order of things, cannot fail to be attended by sorrow.

Today we, the graduates of 1921-1922, have attained the goal for which we have long been striving. Today we, arrive at the second milestone of our lives. Our hopes are realized. And yet, we cannot say that we are happy. We are beset by mutually conflicting emotions. We realize today that we must leave our hitherto happy home, to take our place as citizens of the world. Today, we must break the ties of friendship formed by our long association here. Today we must step from the realms of sheltered imagination into the realms of reality.

During the past few months there was not one of this class who did not at some time pray that this day would speedily arrive. There is not one of us but longed for it with eager longing, bewailing perhaps the seeming sluggishness of time.

The day has arrived. The day has arrived, and we are powerless to prevent its passing. We can but snatch a few moments from the fast-flowing stream of time to pay our final respects, as best we may, to our Alma Mater, our our Loving Mother, who has trained us, developed us, lab-

ored for us and sacrificed for us, that through her our journey through life might be crowned with success.

Success does not come unsought, nor does it come to those who are unprepared for it. To insure our success, our Alma Mater has endowed us with the two essential means for its attainment, the one preparing us for the success of the spirit, for happiness, the other, for the success of the world; Faith and Knowledge.

We have been privileged to drink from the fountain of knowledge; to imbibe those truths, which, stimulating and strengthening the mind, fit the student to take an eminent place in whatever profession he may choose. But education means more than the mere training of the intellect. The will also must be developed.

Alma Mater realizes that man is an animal redoubtable alike for his passions and for his reason. His passions if unchecked, direct him to great evils; his reason, a double-edged tool, too often supplies him with the means for the attainment of these evils. To train this animal, to discipline his actions, to instil in him the principles of justice and of virtue, to fashion him for society and to insure the salvation of his soul, can not be accomplished by knowledge alone. Reason is insufficient, inadequate to so great a task. The human reason may be thoroughly developed; knowledge of every description may be accumulated; intellect, memory, social inclinations, all may be cultivated with great success, but the heart would still be a waste space, as dry as earth without water; and the will, that dangerous faculty, if left undisciplined and unguided by a light far superior to that which reason alone can furnish, would be liable to become the scourge of its possessor and the bane of society.

The light which reason alone cannot give, and which must be had if man is to escape destruction, is the light of faith, of faith the backbone of the social fabric, the root and foundation of our ultimate happiness.

It is upon this force, the greatness of faith, that Alma Mater moulds the integrity of her sons. Upon this as foundations are built the principles with which she shapes the lives of her subjects. By means of this, she hopes to fulfil her high mission upon earth. None may have true wisdom without faith, for in faith alone lies the recognition of the providence guiding the affairs of men. Through faith alone can man achieve to truth. Virtue, valor, and greatness, are all the three handmaidens of faith, without which they are but superficial and vain. Knowledge can not be without faith, for faith is the highest knowledge of all.

It would be impossible to recount the many benefits which St. Dunstan's bestows upon her students. Nor have we any need to express in words what is being daily expressed in deeds. The lives of her alumni form a eulogy which no tongue or pen is capable of producing. From the first day of our entrance, from the time when first we crossed the threshold of our college and submitted our selves to her protection and her guidance, we incurred a debt which we can never repay. Nor does our Alma Mater desire that we repay. Her reward will be in our achievements.

How clearly can we recall that first day, when half in fear and half in hope we began the ascent toward the goal which we so much desired. We were bewildered for a time. Everything was new and strange. The order and the steady regularity of the things about us filled us with awe. Many times, perhaps, during these first few months, we were tempted to give up or to turn back; but the encouraging words of some new-found friend, or the sympathy

and understanding of our professors, inspired us to renewed effort. With the passing of time, we became accustomed to our surroundings, we grew to like this once strange environment, we made new friends, in whom we could confide, and on whose judgement we could rely; our duties were no longer irksome; the very name of old "St. Dunstan's" was a stimulus to our work.

Numberless are the memories of his student days which the graduate carries away with him, to gladden him when life has lost for him his former glamor, and to guide him along the path of true virtue, when the evils of the existence about him would seem to lead him astray. They shall be to him the most cherished of his possessions, not to be bartered for gold. Surely the poet had been thinking of his college days, when he wrote:

There are moments of life which we never forget,
Which brighten and brighten as time steals away;
They give a new charm to the happiest lot,
And they shine on the gloom of the loneliest day."

Well do we remember the friendly contests on the campus, where we learned for the first time to be men of action and of strength; where first we learned the quality of self-control, learned to bear the brunt of many a hard-fought game and to meet the sting of defeat with a smile. Well do we remember our class-rooms, where, more often than not, we dreamed, of a fine spring day, of what we should do when time had made us men. And well, too, do we remember our college chapel. Here, in the quiet of the morning, did we come to offer to our Creator, for his honor and glory, the work of the coming day. To this silent refuge from the cares of the life outside did we again return at noon and at night, "to praise Him for the blessings of the day, and to implore His protection for the night to



STAFF OF ST. DUNSTAN'S RED AND WHITE 1921-22

Top Row from Left—W. O'Leary, Ed. Chronicle; B. Walsh, Ed. Exchange; S. Trainor, Asst. Business Manager; M. McCarthy, Asst. Business Manager; F. Campbell, Ed. Funny Man and Jungle.
Bottom Row from Left—P. Hughes, Ed. Alumni; W. J. McDonald, Ed. Athletics; S. DesRoches, Editor-in-Chief; R. D. Howatt, Business Manager.

come." It is neither to the campus nor to the class-room that we shall owe whatever fortune shall be ours. We have been shaped already, and the place of our shaping was our Chapel.

The time has come for us to depart. We must now sever the ties that have to the present held us together. Reluctantly we now bid farewell to those who have assisted us during our life here.

Beloved Rector, Reverend Fathers and Gentlemen of the Faculty:

The gladiators of old, when they were about to enter the combat of the arena, greeted their master, the emperor, with the words, "We who are about to die salute you." To-day we are about to enter the great combat of life, not to die, but, through your instruction and through your example, to learn rightly to live, salute you. You have taught us much. You have taught us what is true and what is noble. You have furnished us with the armor necessary for our battle with the world. For years we have been your care, helpless without you. Now, as we go under your guiding hand, we have but one wish to wish for you, one prayer to pray; "May God be with you!"
Fellow Classmates:

We have come to the parting of the ways. Till now we have labored together. Henceforth each one of us must travel alone that road of life which he has chosen. It is no easy life that lies before us. There are temptations, there are discouragements, which must be met and overcome. It may be that some of us will fall by the roadside, stricken by the plague of the flesh, or lured from our pathway of truth by the call of the world. It may be that some of us will deny those very things which here we love and cherish. Perhaps, and perhaps not. We have our own lives before us, to make of them what we will. We know