

## Valedictory.

(Following is the Valedictory, read at the Convocation of St. Dunstan's College on Tuesday, June 2nd, by Mr. Henry Fitzgerald.)

My Lord, Rev. Rector, Rev. Fathers of the Faculty, Gentlemen Professors, Fellow Students, Ladies and Gentlemen ;

Another collegiate year has passed into the realm of bygone days, and we of the graduating class of 1913-14 must go forth into the world to struggle with the ups and downs of real life.

No doubt the student, who has not yet completed his course, and to whom the pleasures of the past year are still fresh in memory, looks joyously into the near future and beholds a delightful vision. There is nothing to mar the prospect of a happy summer vacation. He is now free from care, and, after an enjoyable holiday he will return again to college, to continue his studies, where he will renew old acquaintances and form new ones.

But to the graduate, this day is of far greater importance. Peering thoughtfully, far into the dim and uncertain future, he surveys a very different prospect. Behind him he is leaving forever his Alma Mater, he bids a final farewell to college life.

Before him is spread out the great real world of actualities where, in the future he must abide. There he beholds good and evil, joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain intermingled in frightful confusion. There too, he recognizes the abode of hope and fear, with all their following of subordinate apprehension and desires; and sees the dangerous snares by which the unsuspecting are easily entangled, and there also floating at large are numerous events and chances, awaiting as it were, to yield up their great store of opportunities, to him who is eager and capable of turning them into advantage.

Reflecting on the joy and harmony of college life, and pondering on the perplexing scene of the future presented to his mental gaze, the graduate shrinks at the very thought of leaving forever this tranquil port to set sail on the turbulent sea of life. But sustained by hope and trusting in the training he has received, he takes a final step, he enters a new world, he is now become a member of a world wide society.

When out in this world of society, he finds that he is ever confronted with a host of difficulties with which he must always do battle. At every turn, there are obstacles to be overcome. Here he meets strife, envy jealousy and disappointment, and here hidden in the shadows by the wayside, anxiously awaiting the first signs of despair, lurks defeat, eager to add one more to its already large number of victims.

On every side he is beset with discouragements. How many young men enraptured by the thoughts of a brilliant career, and lured on by the siren voice of the world, have joyously entered the lists, only to be overcome and trampled upon in the fierce struggle for existence! Without sufficient deliberation, and influenced by false visions of success, they enter the new path and proceed a few paces with great celerity; but soon they discover difficulties and intricacies wholly unforeseen and consequently for which they are unprepared, and in the first moment of surprise and fear they become entangled in the terrible meshes of despair from which they are unable to extricate themselves and so they wander aimlessly along with the stamp of failure upon them.

Thus the graduate standing as it were, on the boundary line of two worlds, realizes that he is face to face with one of the most serious events of his life, he realizes the necessity of possessing those qualifications which are indispensable to a successful career. And to develop these is the admirable work in which Alma Mater is engaged, preparing her children to become good and useful citizens, fitting them for their different stations in life and guiding them on to their ultimate end.

And now that our course is completed, and the portals of Old St. Dunstan's are about to close upon us forever, we are brought to a full realization of the importance of the education we have received during all the years of our college life.

Within these protecting walls sheltered from the storm and strife of the outer world, we have received a thorough education for future years. During the past we have been led gently but firmly over the rough and uneven ways, safely have we glided down the pleasant stream of learning, successfully avoiding the dangerous shoals, currents and counter-currents, ever directed and guided by experienced and trusted pilots.

After a serious and impartial retrospect of the past we realize that when we first entered this institution, we possessed but few of the elements of education, we were but the raw material out of which Alma Mater had to fashion finished products. But under her fostering care we were soon inspired with a genuine love of learning, and thence we have advanced step by step along the beaten path of Faith and Science, which have always been held out to us as the true essentials of a proper christian education, and which are embodied in our beautiful motto "Ex eodem fonte Fides et Scientia."

We do not wish to presume that our education is now complete and that we are finished scholars, but we do hold, that what we have received is a solid foundation, which qualifies us to proceed in the way of enlarging and perfecting our knowledge, and by which we can regulate our conduct while in the pursuit of further learning

Not till we are launched forth, strangers in a strange land, compelled to rely on our own resources in coping with the difficult problems of life, will we fully appreciate the real significance of the training we have received at the hands of our instructors who, during all the time of our course, have labored with untiring zeal to prepare us for a prosperous journey among men, by forming us into good moral charact-

ers, and revealing to us the necessity of ever practising the virtues of Honesty, Sobriety and Industry, the three main gateways to success.

Here month after month and year after year, Alma Mater has labored to fit us for the world, teaching us the proper armor to wear against the conflicts of tomorrow. She has taught us to live openly and honestly, she has endeavored, faithfully, to foster and develop these qualities which are best in us, and to eradicate these evil tendencies, which hamper and check our moral and intellectual growth.

Here we have learned the duties we owe to God to ourselves and to our fellowmen, and the best method of performing these duties with the true religious spirit. Our intellect has been trained to know that which is right and desirable, and our will to desire and pursue that which is good and to follow courageously, regardless of all obstacles, the dictates of conscience, which never fails in pointing out the right.

Here we have lived in a cosmopolitan community, surrounded by a circle of influence including the world at large, which affords infinite opportunities of a thorough study of human nature, and of learning the art of living in harmony with our fellowmen.

But, if we are to reap the utmost benefit from this mental development, if we wish to direct our energies, so that they may flow along the proper course, and if we desire to overcome our animal nature and subdue our evil impulses, it is necessary that we be in possession of those deep religious principles which will serve to regulate our actions and direct them to worthy ends. And in this important branch of education Alma Mater has instructed us with particular care, revealing to us the sublime principles of the science of Faith, which is the true light of human life, and can alone guide our steps in the ways of virtue, honor and happiness: for however important human science may be, it can only succeed in forming a body as it were, without life, for the knowledge of religion is the vivifying soul and without it no education is complete.

Nor have our physical wants being neglected; for as the body is the temple, in which the soul dwells, and the channel through which we receive all our knowledge, it is essential that the development of mind and body be equally attended to. And here by means of all the different branches of athletics, and other forms of recreation, we have been afforded excellent opportunity of developing into sound physical manhood.

And so throughout the long procession of years does old St. Dunstan's fit her sons for the world. Long may she flourish to continue the good work she is performing.

Today our collegiate studies are come to an end, and but a few fleeting moments remain, before we must take our final leave, and enter into the "World's broad field of battle." Longingly do we gaze back on the pleasant scenes of bygone days; fond and lingering memories steal out of the past arousing in us, feelings which are delightfully pleasant. How we love to lose ourselves in reflection of those blissful days that are no more, days of rare and fleeting joy. How sweet to dwell upon the various episodes of college life which will forever remain fresh and vivid, never to be effaced.

Yet we may not linger. Our work is now completed, and we must harken to the voice of duty, calling us to go forth and join the ranks of our predecessors, we must sever the golden links which bind us so affectionately to Alma Mater, we must break asunder these pleasing ties of friendship; but we will carry away with us memories which will ever gladden and brighten our paths: and

As onward we journey, how pleasant  
To pause and inhabit a while,  
Those few sunny spots, like the present,  
That mid the dull wilderness smile.

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

Before bidding you farewell, it is our duty to express our sincere appreciation of all you have done

for us in the past To you we owe a debt of gratitude which we can never fully repay. By patient vigilance and careful guidance, you have directed us safely over a seemingly impossible course. We have known you as instructors, advisors and benefactors, always willing to assist us in our difficulties, and ever endeavoring to inculcate by word and example the necessity of living a virtuous life.

Faithfully have you performed your duty. And now that we must part, we fain would express our feelings of regret, but owing to our inability of framing them in fitting terms, they must remain hidden in our hearts.

So now we say farewell, but we shall always cherish and strive to practise those principles which, with such great care, you have imparted to us.

Fellow Students:

We are about to depart from your midst; but the memory of the many pleasant hours we have spent together will remain with us forever. You are now in the springtime of life, and may you acquire, while your minds are fresh and fertile, a love for useful knowledge, remembering that a blighted spring is followed by a barren year.

May success smile on all your efforts; and when the time comes, when you must bid farewell forever to St. Dunstan's, may you be fully prepared to perform your duties in the particular walks of life you have chosen for yourselves. Farewell!

Classmates:

At last has come the day when we must meet together for the last time; the day when we must bid farewell to those we hold most dear, and separate ourselves from all the pleasant associations of fond and happy years. During the past, we have been linked together, by the sacred ties of a close and tender friendship. We have lived in perfect comradeship, experiencing all the joys that flow from a true communion of hearts.

Here in this miniature world we have partaken of all the pleasures surrounding a college career,

here we have lived amidst friends tried and true;  
here our days have passed as in a delightful dream,  
the memory of which will ever awaken the fondest  
recollections.

But today our journey in consort has come to an  
end. No longer may we enjoy the peace and happi-  
ness of these blissful days. No longer shall we hear  
the voice of friendship, pouring fourth its tuneful notes  
on every side.

Everything of the past has become sacred to our  
memories, and a solemn sadness falls upon us as we  
realize that the time has come when we must part  
forever.

We meet to part, no more to meet  
Within these hallowed walls,  
No longer wisdom to her shrine  
Her wayward children calls.

We met as strangers at the font  
Whence learning's waters flow,  
And now we part and say farewell  
Mid parting tears we go.

We part as friends at duty's call,  
And break the pleasing spell,  
And leave to other feet the haunts  
We've loved so long—Farewell.

HENRY J. FITZGERALD.



At Christmas be merry, and thankful withal,  
And feast thy poor neighbor, the great with the  
small.

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Absence of occupation is not rest ;  
A mind quite vacant is a mind distress'd.

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A favour does not consist in the service done, but  
in the spirit of the man who confers it.