

**Haledictory**

Read by J. Clarence Murphy at the  
Commencement Exercises on May 29, 1934

For the St. Dunstan's graduates of 1934 this day has a significance which can be fully appreciated only by those who have experienced a similar event in their lives. While the parents and friends of the students have a particular interest in this program, to the majority of you who are assembled here today as welcome guests of St. Dunstan's at these Eightieth Commencement Exercises this is merely another occasion for the manifestation of your interest in education. For the twenty-one members of the senior class, however, this is graduation day, a time for retrospection, satisfaction, appreciation and anticipation. The culmination of our career as students at this seat of learning writes finis to a very important act in the drama of human life and awakens us to a realization of the fact that the comparatively tranquil life of college is over and that henceforth we shall find ourselves left very much to our own resources, without the reassuring guidance of an institution which has sheltered us, for some years, from the hazards of the world. This day is, as it were, the link connecting yesterday with tomorrow, and it is but natural that as we participate in these closing exercises our minds should be occupied with thoughts of the past, of the future, and of the present.

A thoughtful reflection upon the activities in which we as students have been engaged assures us that we have been fully justified in attending college. Our every act has been performed for a definite purpose and our college training has been what it should be—a preparation for life in the world. The friendly competition of class room and campus has been of assistance in the development of both mind and body. We have learned, among other things, that it is always best to play the game for the game's sake and that every opponent is worthy of our consideration. Association with fellow students, particularly with our classmates, has resulted in the formation of friendships which undoubtedly will prove a source of happiness to us as the years pass, and has, in many instances, made us realize more fully our own imperfections. In close contact with our professors, men of learning especially trained for their positions with a thorough knowledge of the subjects which they teach, we have learned more than would have been possible from the mere study of textbooks, and our knowledge has been acquired with



greater facility, for our studies have been made less intricate and more inviting by these men who have been so interested in our welfare.

These advantages of our college education, however, are of secondary importance when we consider the general lines upon which our training has been guided and as we reflect upon the educational policy pursued by St. Dunstan's we are moved by a feeling of gratitude towards those who inaugurated and those who have maintained such a program. Our education has been regulated in accordance with principles of Christianity. We have learned that there can be no conflict between true science and religion, but that one supplements the other. Above all, we have had impressed upon us the fundamental truth that man's life should be a preparation for eternal happiness and that such a preparation necessitates the strict observance of the moral law. The general purpose of education has not been overlooked, for our intellectual, moral, and physical development has received careful attention, but our spiritual welfare has been the first consideration. Material progress is to be desired, but we must not lose sight of more important things. The desire for fame, riches, and recognition among men, has led many to disregard the fact that no matter what pursuit we may follow, if we are to be truly successful our life work must have a firm foundation to serve as a guide in our actions. This foundation St. Dunstan's has supplied by the inculcation of true ethical principles, by teaching us to think rightly and clearly and to face responsibilities with courage.

It is not surprising, therefore, that retrospection is a source of gratification to us and that we face the future imbued with a spirit of confidence and optimism. Visions of that future rise before us and, fired with the enthusiasm of youth, we plan for the years ahead. That there will be disappointments is inevitable; but, secure in our faith in the Mercy and Wisdom of our Divine Ruler, we shall be enabled to endure bravely any difficulties with which we may meet. Success, too, will undoubtedly come to many of us, and when we shall have attained the goal for which we have striven we shall be able to attribute our victory, in large measure, to the training which we have received here. We do not expect that all will be sunshine and we are prepared to taste the bitter with the sweet. We ask only that we be given a fair chance to make our way in the world in company with our fellowmen. The success which has attended the efforts of men who graduated from this institution in former years serves as an encourage-



ment to us and we are animated with a zeal at least to emulate their example. The future beckons to us, and we might spend hours in a happy contemplation of the years ahead, but the duties of the present claim our attention and we now find ourselves confronted with the task of saying to each and all,—Farewell.

Reverend Rector, we find it difficult to give expression to the feeling of indebtedness and of gratitude which we have towards you. Your patience and sincerity, combined with the ability with which you have directed the affairs of St. Dunstan's during our years here, have won for you our deep respect and the interest which you have manifested in our welfare is, we assure you, greatly appreciated. Our parting wish is that success may attend your future work and that we shall prove worthy of the trust which you have placed in us.

Reverend Fathers, and Gentlemen of the Faculty, we are indebted to you also, and we thank you for the assistance and encouragement you have given us, for we realize that your task has been by no means an easy one. Your efforts in our behalf have helped immeasurably in our acquisition of learning. May the spirit of co-operation between faculty and students which has characterized past life at St. Dunstan's continue to prevail in the years ahead, and may we make good use of the knowledge which you have imparted to us.

Fellow students, as we bid you farewell we recommend that you avail yourselves of every opportunity presented to you during your remaining years here so that when the day arrives for your graduation you will be in a position to look with satisfaction upon your record. Do not be content with the knowledge derived from your textbooks; acquire the practise of delving more deeply into your studies if you wish to obtain the fullest degree of benefit from your college course.

Classmates, our life at St. Dunstan's will soon be but a memory, a memory which will grow more cherished as the years pass. We have a life before us, let us guide that life in accordance with the principles which we have been taught. *Bene fac quod facies*. Whatever we do, let us do it well, ever mindful that we have a glorious tradition to maintain. Today we part, probably never to again meet in complete reunion, and though this final parting brings with it a momentary twinge of sadness, we are solaced by the thought that this separation serves but to strengthen the bond of affection between us, and that our friendship for each other will become even more firmly established with the passage of time.

FAREWELL.