

## Valedictory.

(Following is the Valedictory, read at the Convocation of St. Dunstan's University, Wednesday May 23rd, 1917, by Mr. J. Wilfrid Curley.)

*My Lord, Rev. Rector, Your Honor, Rev. Fathers and Gentlemen of the Faculty, Fellow Students, Ladies and Gentlemen :*

**A**NOTHER commencement day has come, once more a graduating class is about to step forth from the halls of Alma Mater to renounce the quiet, easy-going student life and to blend with the pulsating tide of humanity. Soon will it seem lost in the broad expanse of mankind, but ever shall its members bear the principles of truth and right drawn from the fountain heads.

Ere we mingle with the ocean of the world let the memories of the past rejuvenate and refresh us. In fancy we can roam to the home of our childhood, the fountain whence flowed the crystal waters of innocence that sparkled in the outward joy of youth, truly, reflecting the image of Heaven; the source whence the stream of life took its way and eagerly hastened on a happy, care-free course to join the river of manhood. How thrills the lengthening chain of memory with the thoughts of old familiar haunts and happy playmates—thoughts not in vain—that lend to sober manhood the glimpse of childish gladness. It is but natural that such recollection would lead us to remember those who cared for and guided us in our tender years—who instilled into our hearts the principles of love and obedience, which formed bonds of confidence—who piloted us past the turn of life “where brook and river meet”—that danger zone where too many, dizzied by the counter currents of temptation and relying on

their own forces, have been drifted astray by the false maxims of the world. To the labors and sacrifices of our parents we are indebted for all our good fortune. "May God bless and reward them" is our heartfelt wish; may our success reflect their worth, our earnest desire.

Now we turn to our Alma Mater, our second home, the fountain whence faith and science flow to broaden and deepen the channels already formed so that a uniform current is given which indicates the river's course, and shows to others what we are and whither our lives are tending. What pleasant memories again crowd the mind—memories of the happy years we spent together, of our friendly struggles in the class room and on the campus, of the good fellows we have met and the warm friendships we have made, all these are borne back upon us with an intensity which makes us realize, in some measure, our good fortune. In the midst of our conflicting emotions of pleasure and pain we would fain delay our parting but the ceaseless current of Time that no man can stay hastens us onward to the sea of life whose waves are years.

Would that our lives could be as calm as the summer sea, but alas, Father Adam's legacy reads: "Cursed is the earth in thy work, thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee and in the sweat of thy brow thou shalt eat thy bread until thou return to the earth from whence thou camest, for dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return." So life is destined to be a struggle—its troubled waters seek temporal rest in vain. Are we going to be "dumb driven cattle or heroes in the strife?" We cannot truly realize the pressing needs of these awful times. The lines of the poet philosopher express an insistent and pertinent appeal:

God give us men; the time demands  
 Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and willing hands.  
 Men whom the love of preference does not kill;  
 Men whom the hopes of office will not buy;  
 Men who possess opinions and a will;  
 Men who have honour, men who will not lie."

Such are we in honour bound to be if we are worthy sons of St. Dunstan's—if we cherish and perpetuate the ideals of our noble Alma Mater,—if we follow the brilliant example of those who have gone before,—graduates of old S. D. C., who hold high positions in church and state,—who have shed the last drop of their blood in defense of their country,—who today are upholding the cause of justice and freedom on the war-worn fields of Europe. We must acquit ourselves as men.

To St. Dunstan's as an educational institution we are deeply indebted. Here, we have received a thorough course. We do not boast of our intellectual knowledge. It is no guarantee because a man is highly educated, because he is talented, because he is ingenious, that he will therefore be an honest, loyal and law-abiding citizen. The education that is to make a pure, high-minded, patriotic and honest man, is the education of the heart rather than of the mind. This, our Alma Mater, as a wise and prudent mother has provided for, and while she has applied herself first to the education of the will, to the affections, and to the mind, she has at the same time endeavored to instill into the intellect every power of knowledge so as to make an intellectual as well as a holy man. Consider a moment, the great scholarship that has placed itself at the service of German militarism, has influenced it, fed it, and justified it to itself. It has fitted it with bitter hate, fed it on intense vanity, till bursting with low ambition it has flung the black ruin and hideous



fury of war across the world. What an awful example of misdirected energy ! How thankful we should be for an education which eradicates the bitterness of heart and mind and inculcates truth. Truth alone, whose function is to cleanse the mind and heart from ignorance, superstition and error and saturate it with the love of God,—Truth itself,—can inspire true patriotism which is the love and honor of our country and fellow men. Long may that ensign emblazon the noble motto "*Ex eodem fonte fides et scientia*" which embosoms the sublime ideals of our Alma Mater and may it be our part to mirror in our every deed, we pray, the wondrous beauty of her soul's true thought.

To St. Dunstan's as a residential college we owe much. By our dwelling together, in this miniature world, we of the student body come into the closest contact with each other ; we are imbued with a spirit of friendly emulation ; we are linked together in one large happy family and many dear and lasting friendships have resulted ; our knowledge of men has been expanded ; our characters have been developed ; little oddities have been rubbed off ; peculiar notions and narrow ideas rooted out and a broader view of life implanted. We are sent forth with developed faculties, a knowledge of human nature and a knowledge of ourselves. What return can we make ?

Our scope is large. A grand forward movement under the leadership of our bishop is now on. St. Dunstan's has already reached the status of a university. This is a day of optimism but encouragement and helpers are required to carry on the good work. The people of Prince Edward Island, the graduates, the friends should realize that in this time honored institution they have one worthy of their earnest support. Last commencement day new buildings, an in-

crease of residential capacity, were a possibility, to-day, through the generosity of Sir Charles Dalton they are a probability and next commencement day they will be actualities. Hard work is necessary ; if we follow the steps of our leader we shall make S. D. C., what it should be and what it surely shall be.

Highly successful as have been these advances and successes much remains to be done. It is not sufficient for us to talk most eloquently of "dear old St. Dunstan's" but we must each and all do our utmost to promote her interests. Let our motto be : "Deeds, not words," for when this principle is firmly fixed in the minds and hearts of all of us, then, and not till then, shall we accomplish anything.

And now farewell must be said.—To you Reverend Fathers of the faculty who have shown us such indulgent kindness and forbearance, within these classic walls, we are most grateful. May it be our good fortune, through life to meet with as much patience and the same kind treatment we have received at your hands. We wish you health and strength to continue your noble work, great indeed will be your reward for it is written : "They that instruct many unto justice shall shine like stars for all eternity."

To you, our fellow students, who will remain after we have left, we say farewell. Some of you have just started in the way ; for others the course is nearly ended. This is your time for making preparedness ; let not the call of the future show you to be sluggards. Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of your Alma Mater so that when the time comes for you to go out and take your place in the world, you may feel that you are the better for having attended

Saint Dunstan's and that Saint Dunstan's is the better for your having dwelt within its walls.

Fellow classmates we must now say farewell to each other and to our dear Alma Mater. This is a time of awful import to us. How safe the past! How uncertain the future! Let our aim be to serve God, our king, and fellow men, each of us according to the number of talents entrusted to him, so that when all is done.

Beloved Alma Mater shall be proud of her son.  
So shall each pass to rest when the long way is trod,  
Leaving his name to her keeping, his spirit to God.



He that sweareth  
Till no man trust him,  
He that lieth  
Till no man believe him ;  
He that boroweth  
Till no man lend him ;  
Let him go where  
No man knoweth him.

—Hugh Rhodes.

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A cheerful temper joined with innocence will make beauty attractive, knowledge delightful, and wit good-natured.

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Charity is a virtue of the heart, and not of the hands. Gifts and alms are the expression, not the essence, of this virtue. —Addison.

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The hearts that dare are quick to feel ;  
The hands that wound are soft to heal.