

## VALEDICTORY

Most Reverend Excellency, Reverend Rector, Your Honor, Your Worship, Rev. Fathers and Sisters, Gentlemen of the Faculty, Fellow Students, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are assembled here today on what is perhaps to most of you simply one more occasion to manifest your kindly interest in the welfare of St. Dunstan's. As regularly as the years roll by the University throws wide its doors to the public and proudly invites you to enter and receive an account of her stewardship. Beyond that circumstance the affairs of today may have no special meaning to you; but for us who are today about to take our final departure from the hallowed precincts of St. Dunstan's the occasion has a vastly different significance. Years of toil and study have gone into our preparation and on this auspicious day we finally realize the reward of our labor. We have completed our course at St. Dunstan's. Today we stand on the threshold of a new life, a life in which we shall find ample scope to put into practical use those eternal principles and noble ideals which we have imbibed from the inexhaustible treasury of our Alma Mater. *Ex eodem fonte fides et scientia!* Faith and science, how intimately connected are they at St. Dunstan's! And how undeniably conditions in the world about us vindicate her wisdom in so uniting them. Science without faith is as futile as it is dangerous. It is the godless science of our day which is the greatest contributing factor to the continual fluctuation of intellectual and moral standards of the twentieth century. That is the only real knowledge which proceeds hand in hand with faith; and it is such that we are taught at St. Dunstan's.

To these commencement exercises St. Dunstan's welcomes you one and all. She welcomes especially the parents and guardians of her students; for today she can demonstrate to them that the noble sacrifices which they have made in order to educate their children have not been in vain. Today she also welcomes for the first time His Most Rev. Excellency Bishop O'Sullivan. Divine Providence would seem to have some special favors in



store for the devotees of St. Dunstan's. On May 19th, the feast of this our patron saint, the solemnity of the usual celebration was enhanced by the inaugural ceremony in which His Most Rev. Excellency was installed as Bishop of Charlottetown. This circumstance renders the event unique in the annals of our diocesan history, and augurs well for the future relations between His Excellency and our college. In behalf of the students I wish to extend to your Most Rev. Excellency congratulations and welcome to our small Island Province.

During the past years we looked forward with eager anticipation to this day of days. But now that it has arrived our enthusiasm is strangely damped, and our minds are occupied with memories of the past, rather than with visions of the future. Our journey through St. Dunstan's has been a happy one; and the poignancy of the thought of separation from scenes which years of intimate association have blended into our very lives is soothed by the balm of hallowed memories. There is no room in our mind today for doubts or misgivings as to the future. No doubt we shall meet with trials and obstacles, even as we did in the past. But we trust that our patient efforts to surmount these obstacles will be rewarded in the future as they have been in the past by golden hours of calm and sunshine such as we enjoy today.

We, the members of the class of '31 are about to close forever that chapter of our lives in which is written the record of those days which we shall remember as the shortest and happiest of our existence—our student days at St. Dunstan's. Let us take a retrospective glance at those days now past. Let us abstract, as it were, from the panoramic view of failure and achievement, of hopes and disappointments, of joys and sorrows which fill a student's life, and try to realize just what we have derived from our college education. Have we partaken as freely as we might from the springs of faith and science which St. Dunstan's has placed at our disposal? Have we developed as fully as we might the qualities of mind and character which are the requisities of a truly educated man? These are questions which each of us must ponder, and the answer will concern only himself. If we can conscientiously say that we have corresponded faithfully with the educational means provided by this institution,



then we may claim to be truly educated. Perhaps few of us may claim such perfection, but the deficiency arises from ourselves rather than our university. St. Dunstan's has but one purpose, one ideal, which is the actuating motive of her existence. It is to enlarge and improve the youthful minds entrusted to her care by implanting therein true principles of intellectual, moral, and religious progress.

The essential purpose of our intellect is to perceive truth; and education which does not adapt the intellect to the perception of truth is not true education. That college whose aim is to give to the world graduates whose minds overflow with a heterogeneous collection of facts and formulae has not a true concept of her duty. Such is not the aim of St. Dunstan's; but with her customary thoroughness she elevates the student's intellect by habit and discipline to a higher plane from which it can distinguish the true from the false; and from which it can derive new knowledge from intelligent comparison of facts already known. Such intellectual training St. Dunstan's deems essential to true education. But the intellect by no means receives her exclusive attention, for if such were the case our education would be sadly incomplete. There is another faculty which if neglected makes intellectual training a vice instead of a virtue. It is the will whose privilege it is to choose freely between good and evil. But it has not been neglected. Daily and hourly whether it be by example or precept our reverend superiors have impressed upon our minds the value and necessity of a well trained will to choose between the good and evil in life. Our intellectual and moral training has proceeded hand in hand with the practice of holy religion. St. Dunstan's is not satisfied merely to fit her sons to become materially successful. Her aim is a higher and nobler one and is apparent in all her works. It is to teach her children the great eternal truths of religion. With zealous care she protects the seed of faith in their hearts; daily she nurtures the delicate bloom upon the sustenance of the Living Bread, until the tree of faith rears its spreading branches superior to the poisonous growth of intolerance and neo-paganism in the world about us.

We, fellow class-mates are about to face that world



today. Henceforth we shall follow different paths. The hour has come to break forever the ties which bind us to each other and old St. Dunstan's. That we realized this hour must inevitably come lessens but little the pain of parting. St. Dunstan's has been our second mother; we her devoted children. During our few short years within her sheltering walls we have slowly but surely grown away from the world outside. We have created for ourselves a blissful haven in which discord has been unknown; in which intimacies born of daily association and community of interests have blossomed and grown into true friendships, never, we hope, to be dissolved. Today we leave all that to go forth and fight the battle of life. In the present state of society the struggle will surely afford the supreme test of our manhood. To whom the victory will ultimately go is knowledge obscured, perhaps mercifully, by the mists of the future. This we do know, that we do not enter the field unprepared. Armed with the double armor of faith and knowledge, inspired with lofty ideals of true service to God and humanity, and filled with the spirit of steadfast courage which permeates the atmosphere of Alma Mater, we may confidently hope to win from life victory and salvation.

Now while the slow curtain is dropping on the last scene of our life at St. Dunstan's it is fitting that we say to each and all, farewell. Farewell to you, Reverend Rector. On your shoulders lies the sacred responsibility for the welfare of each and every student. May we assume and discharge the duties of our future state in life as cheerfully and nobly as you have yours. To you, Reverend Fathers and Gentlemen of the Faculty, we say farewell. Your kindly sympathy and encouragement have marvellously smoothed our halting progress along the path to knowledge. God grant that you may long continue in the work which He has given you to do. Fellow-students, we must say farewell. Perhaps the keenest pang of parting comes from the realization that we shall never more experience quite the same spirit of genial goodfellowship as that which marks the carefree life of students at St. Dunstan's. Sooner or later you too must face this hour of parting. We can but wish you success and happiness here and hereafter. One last farewell we must take, and it is the hardest one of all. Fellow-classmates, time and again during our years at St. Dunstan's



we have parted without regret for we knew that we should meet again at the beginning of another term. Those partings and reunions served but to strengthen the bonds of affection. Today we part once more and we are sad, because it may be that we shall never meet again. There are but twelve of us going out to carve our destinies. Let us each reserve in our hearts a tiny spot sacred to the memory of each other and of our glorious, carefree, student days at old St. Dunstan's.



The Chinese have a saying, that an unlucky word dropped from the tongue, cannot be brought back again by a coach and six horses.—*Goldsmith*.

Godless science reads nature only as Milton's daughters did Hebrew, rightly syllabing the sentences, but utterly ignorant of the meaning.—*Coley*.

