

Haledictory

John A. MacDonald, '38

Graduation:—"The conferring or reception of an academic degree; a regular progression; a marking into degrees or parts." How inadequately does the dry definition of the dictionary express the wave of thoughts, emotions, memories and aspirations which engulfs us as we stand to-day before beloved parents and teachers, distinguished guests and dear friends. As, with one foot on the threshold of our new life, we pause for a brief moment to bid farewell to our Alma Mater, a host of memories crowds in upon us, memories of work and play, of joy and sorrow, of dreams and their fulfillment.

During the early impressionable period of childhood we acquired in primary schools the rudiments of the three R's, reading, writing and reckoning. Minds and bodies developed rapidly. With the boundless enthusiasm of youth in the full bloom of its hopes we dreamed of future greatness. At the same time, the innocence of childhood was nourished and protected by the simple lessons learned at a loving mother's knee and by the firm exemplary principles of an ever solicitous father. Thus we learned early that a virtuous life is the only successful one.

Our parents recognizing their obligation of preparing their children adequately for the duties of adult living, and realizing the advantages of education, decided to send us to college. They sent us to a Catholic college because they realized that they had a noble heritage to transmit, a pearl of great price which had come down to them from the past and which they owe to the future. It consists of a fundamental conviction, a basic attitude, a definite point of view rooted and founded in the acceptance of Jesus Christ and in the knowledge that only in His name is our salvation. We trust that, by the successful completion of our college course we have, in some measure, rewarded our parents for their love and sacrifice. Their faith in Christian education needs no justification; it is for us to prove worthy of our inheritance.

During our college course we came to understand more and more that the aim of education is not so much to train a man to earn a living as to train him to live. In other words, progress in virtue must keep pace with progress in knowledge. As Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, president

of the University of Chicago, has so well expressed it in a recent article: "The object of education is the production of virtue; for virtue is that which makes a man good and his work good, too. As virtue makes a man and his work good, so also it makes him happy, for happiness is activity in accordance with virtue. As virtue makes a man good and makes him happy, so also it makes him a good citizen, and this is the aim of general or liberal education."

We found this true conception of education at St. Dunstan's, where religion is not merely taught as a subject of the curriculum but pervades the whole atmosphere of the school. Trends in modern education are towards a stress on the development of mental and physical faculties while the most important, the moral faculties, fail to develop due to lack of direction. Recently a questionnaire was sent to the older alumni of a large American University asking, among other things, what they most regretted having missed during their university course. The answer of a surprisingly large number was: "moral direction." Lord Baden-Powell has well expressed this dangerous trend in the same words: "Our educational system is exactly upside down; the order of importance should be: character, health, knowledge." Good character is a product of daily, hourly words, thoughts and actions that are in accordance with virtue. The many "isms" and "ologies" and other social ills of the present day will disappear only when it comes to be universally realized that true education consists in the development of Christian character. Only this education will ever save mankind from anything or for anything.

In a small college like ours we enjoy a close personal touch between teachers and students. It is, therefore, with deepest regret that we break the ties that have grown closer with the years. Very Reverend Rector, Reverend Fathers and Gentlemen of the Faculty: We can never really express our gratitude to you. We realize now, with Pius XI, "That perfect schools are the result not so much of good methods as of good teachers." You have given us of your best, for you have ever been keenly aware of your responsibilities as educators. We can, to some extent, reward you by proving worthy of the training we have received.

Fellow Students: During the years we have been together, we have lived in an atmosphere of genial good-fellowship, which we may never experience again. It has

been our good fortune to make many close friendships which, we trust, will not be broken by our graduation. The Greeks had a torch race in which the winner was not the swiftest, but he who crossed the line with his torch still burning. If we may be permitted to offer a word of advice, we would say: Keep burning the torch of Truth which St. Dunstan's places in your hands. Aim to arrive at the Final Convocation with its flame still bright.

Classmates: During the past few years we have worked together towards a common end. Although to-day we are happy to receive honourable dismissal and to carry with us a bit of parchment as a token of success, yet our happiness is tinged with the sadness of parting. Though we may never all meet as a class again, the friendships so firmly established, cannot be broken by the distances which henceforth will separate us. Our education is only beginning but we have imbibed the fundamentals from an excellent source—old St. Dunstan's. To-day she sends us forth as Christians and Canadians to take our places among the shock troops of a troubled world. Remember, in parting, that we will "make by force our merit known." Let us, therefore, see to it that we be always an honour to our college, a credit to our church, worthy members of society and good citizens of our country.

*"Farewell, a word that has been and must be,
A sound that makes us linger — yet — farewell!"*

PROSPERE PROCEDE

ST. DUNSTAN'S COLLEGE—

THE FERTILE MOTHER OF MANY
NOBLE SONS WHO HAVE BEEN
NOURISHED AT HER AMPLE BOSOM
AND HAVE BORNE HER MAJESTIC
STRENGTH OF LEARNING, PIETY AND
RELIGIOUS ZEAL TO THE FOUR COR-
NERS OF OUR CANADIAN NATION
WITH HONOR TO THEMSELVES AND
CREDIT TO THEIR ALMA MATER.

Floreat semper in his
Canadensis Civitatis partibus
Hoc religionis et scientiae
Monumentum.

(The above is a tribute recently paid our College by a distinguished visitor).