

**Haledictory**

Read by J. Douglas MacDonald at the  
Commencement Exercises on May 30, 1933.

Just as an Alpine climber feels a thrill of wonderment and fear as he sees that the easy part of the mountain ascent is past and that the precipitous peak awaits him, so we perceive the end of college life and the day of graduation. Hitherto, our lives as students have been tranquil, with very few cares to worry our placid days of sport and study; but now we are at the commencement of our lives proper. For the last few years it has been our task to imbibe facts and to learn principles; from now on we must put our knowledge into practice. But our life at St. Dunstan's has been more than an automatic learning for there is a spirit at our college which one cannot define except that it has permeated our college life and made it pleasurable and unique.

The lower slopes of a great mountain rise easily, green with grass, and fragrant with the perfume of flowers. The one who essays the assiduous climb loiters here enchanted with the beauty and grandeur of the scene which takes his mind from the laborious climb that lies before him. His esthetic sense is touched; his idea of the great and the infinite becomes more developed so that he is strengthened for the weary toil to come. During the time we have spent at St. Dunstan's we considered our graduation as something vague and unreal because of its seemingly long futurity, but now we see how short that period has been. We have lingered in the paths of study and sport; our foundation of erudition has been laid and developed, and we have also learned the true principles of Christianity which are so needed in the world today.

Those who founded St. Dunstan's were actuated by the intention of building an institution where Catholic young men could assimilate both a religious and a secular education so as to be fully capable of attaining their aims and also the design God has in view for them. The Church primely wishes her people to save their souls, but she wants them to gain temporal advantages also so that they may help their neighbors. Our college has borne good fruit, the testimony of which is depicted by the success of her sons in Church and State. Archbishops, bishops, a



multitude of regular and secular priests, doctors, lawyers, statesmen, businessmen, and men in every path of life have come forth from her portals and taken enviable places in the world. We may be and are proud of their success because it reflects upon old St. Dunstan's. These men have put into practice the ideals nourished in them by our college, and we must try to emulate both their success and the quality of the methods which they used in attaining it.

*" 'Tis not in mortals to command success,  
But we'll do more; we'll deserve it."*

As we stand upon the threshold of life today we are not a little fearful of the responsibilities which we must from now on bear. But as we go back in retrospection and view those who have gone before us, their perseverance, their success, we gain in courage and confidence. The world neither wants nor welcomes those who enter her lists unprepared and slipshod. She desires only those who have equipped themselves to meet the different problems which life engenders. If one is to presage concerning a man's future success there is no better way of making an accurate augury than by apprehending what preparations he has made. At St. Dunstan's we have obtained an efficient general training, and now the rest lies solely in our own hands. We have had the instruction; we must apply it.

The education which we have received at St. Dunstan's is as clear and unmottled as is possible, and differs in purity from the instruction in Godless colleges as much as the clear mountain spring is distinct from the slimy swamp. St. Dunstan's passes on an undefiled erudition by the procurement of which a man obtains a grasp of things and a peace of conscience; it does not form a conflict in his soul as do some of our so-called advanced teachings which cast their disciples into despair. It is no wonder then that we sadly see the end of the days when we knew that we were receiving accurate knowledge. But with the help of the training which we have gained we may be able to separate the gold from the dross in the theories and ideas which are now going about the world wholesale.

*" Half of our knowledge we must snatch, not take."*



Reverend Rector, Reverend Fathers of the Faculty, to you we owe more than we can ever hope to repay. You have passed on to us principles which will be our guide-stones through life; with patience and constancy you have designated the right path to follow and veered us from the wrong. Your mark has been imprinted upon our characters, and it will be our aid in the struggles to come. Therefore any fortune which may later come to us should be ascribed to your untiring efforts. With a knowledge of this debt to you we say—Farewell

Fellow students, the sands of time will soon run their course, and you also will be standing at the entrance of your careers. Take advantage of the teachings to be gained at college by applying yourselves assiduously to work, and above all enjoy the friendship of your fellow-students while you can because, in a short time you will be separated, as we are being separated, from them forever. You have both the chance and the leisure to prepare yourselves for life.—Farewell.

Classmates, of all the friendships formed by us while at college those among us have been the closest, and without doubt they will be lasting. For the last few years we have formed a coterie, as it were, and we were justly proud of our class. The words we have spoken to one another, the light quips, the mutual jokes, and the friendly satire will remain forever in our memories. Soon we shall be scattered over country and continent, the mere thought of which afflicts us with an oppressive tinge of sadness. But, although this feeling is natural and although it betokens the strength of the ties of our friendships, we must face the future cheerfully.

*"Friend after friend departs,—  
Who hath not lost a friend?  
There is no union here of hearts,  
That finds not here an end."*

Even when we have been parted we shall yet remain united mentally, and the success of one will be felt by all. If we but remember the teachings of our Alma Mater there is little aptitude for failure but a fitness for prosperity, happiness, and peace.

*"Farewell! a word that must be, and hath been—  
A sound which makes us linger."*