

### **Baledictory**

Read by Louis F. Monaghan at the Commencement Exercises, May 28, 1935

Today the graduates of St. Dunstan's welcome your presence on what is for them a very momentous occasion. Several years ago, fired with enthusiasm for greater knowledge, we enrolled here, even then looking forward in pleasant anticipation of the day when we would sit on this platform, perhaps for the last time together, to take our departure forever as students of this hallowed seat of learning. But now that the day has arrived we find a tinge of sadness coming over us, as we realize that the many happy hours and the pleasant associations must now end. These Eighty-First Commencement Exercises serve to warn us that we have lingered long enough within the sheltering walls of our college, and that now we must put our knowledge to practical use in the world and live in conformity with those immutable principles with which we have been imbued.

But all is not sadness on this parting day. When we reflect on the splendid training we have had as students here we may justly hold up our heads and look forward with confidence and optimism to the future. Only too well each of us knows the untiring efforts and sacrifices made by others in quest of knowledge. If we can be assured that we have availed ourselves of all the opportunities placed at our disposal, then we may reasonably hope that, if our past work is any criterion of what our future will be, a fair measure of success must inevitably be ours. To some of us graduation will mean the furthering of our education in a higher institution, to others the beginning of the actual struggle for a livelihood. Which-ever it may be, we should always keep in mind the noble thought expressed in that most striking motto of ours: "Whatever you do, do well."

Reverend Rector, Reverend Fathers, and Gentlemen of the Faculty, before we depart we wish to acknowledge an immense debt of gratitude which we know we can never repay. You have always patiently endeavoured to imbue us with such virtues and qualities as would make us men of character. You have continually sacrificed your own interests for our well-being, and have always had our



real happiness and welfare at heart. Your constant purpose was to inculcate in us the first principles of purposeful, resourceful, creative and independent thinking, and to make us model gentlemen by word and example. Above all you have tried to impress upon us the fact that education is only a means to an end and that the training we receive at college is of value only in so far as it has prepared us to lead noble and useful lives; moreover, that while knowledge of itself is of use, yet what you are is of much more importance than what you know. To you we pay our last homage before we depart and express our sincere gratitude.

To the general public which is represented here today by such a large number it is fitting that we express at this time our appreciation of the great interest it has always manifested in educational activities. Your presence here today inspires us with confidence that our past work has not gone unnoticed by you and that you will follow our future activities with the deepest concern. We trust you will always grant to our successors the same measure of assistance and encouragement that you have so faithfully given to us.

But there is a section of you to which in particular we would address our remarks. The parents of many of us are assembled here on this closing day of our college course. Their presence is a source of joy to us, for we feel that the happiness that they will experience at this hour will reward them in some small manner for the labors of self-denial and the many sacrifices they must have undergone to make this day ours. We confidently hope their expectations in us will not be without fulfilment and we tender to them our loving gratitude.

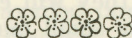
Fellow Students, sooner or later, the hour will arrive when you too will be standing where we are now standing taking a last farewell of all your associates. Meanwhile learn to be proud of your college and appreciate all the efforts and sacrifices the faculty is making in your behalf. Remember that should you fall you drag your Alma Mater down with you and should you rise and triumph you raise her in the estimation of those who know you are her children. Your limited number enables you to get the benefit of that close personal supervision which is denied to students of larger universities. We who are leaving exhort you not to squander your time away in frivolities but to apply



yourselves assiduously to all the tasks that confront you. In this way only can you be a credit to yourselves, your parents, and your university.

Classmates, the long awaited day of our graduation is at hand. Hitherto we have met and coped with many of our problems together; but now we must part and face the cruel realities of the world, each one for himself. Many of us will be active citizens. Let us then know our duties as members of our respective communities. Pre-eminently it will be our duty to study the problems of our community and contribute to their solution. We must not be indifferent to the difficulties of government and the masses in general, especially in these days when there is a pressing need for men of strong character and firm conviction. To society we owe the duty of noble living and to our country we owe that love which will demand of us often the sacrifice of material welfare for the common good.

Finally let us always uphold the honour of the college which nurtured us and the class which we formed. The friendly rivalry in the classroom and on the campus, the well-meant satire, and the witty sallies, in which we were all involved at one time or another, will always linger fondly in memory. And so, regarding the past with satisfaction and the future with confidence, let us bid each other a fond—farewell.



Thought is deeper than all speech  
Feeling deeper than all thought;  
Souls to souls can never teach  
What unto themselves was taught.

—Cranch.

