

Rev. Dr. Holmes Preacher Of Baccalaureate Sermon

Faculty and Students of the University of New Brunswick Attended Divine Service in a Body at the Wilmot United Church—The Love of Truth for Its Own Sake, Should Be An Inspiration, Says Preacher.

The encaenia program of the University of New Brunswick began on Sunday morning, when the students and faculty attended the Wilmot United church and listened to the baccalaureate sermon delivered by the pastor Rev. F. H. Holmes M. A., D. D., The Rev. gentleman chose for his text John 8 32; "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." His address was an able one scholarly and appropriate to the occasion and was followed by the large congregation with the closest attention and interesting musical program was carried out by the choir under the direction of Prof. Harrison.

The sermon of the parson was as follows:

"Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free." John 8: 32.

These words have usually been interpreted in a spiritual sense only, but they are capable of wider application. Knowledge, Truth and Freedom are comprehensive terms.

In a very real sense these three words represent the value of a college education.

The first and most obvious advantage of a College training is the acquisition of knowledge. We cannot overestimate the value of knowledge. Knowledge is power. The present age has been quick to recognize this. The Middle Ages crowned the soldier, but the present generation gives its laurels to the scholar. It is a fact that everything we have in this modern and complex civilization of ours is the product of knowledge. Every invention was first of all a scholar's thought. A Morse dreams of communication and we have the telegraph, a Stevenson dreams of locomotive traction and we have the railroad, a Bell conceives of speaking by a wire and we have the telephone. It will be to University-trained men that we must look more and more in the future for that creative genius that fills the world with inventions and discoveries.

A Vantage Ground

While men may attain special knowledge without the aid of a College training yet it provides a vantage ground and preparation that should not be ignored. It is like the little tugs that handle the great steamships in our sea-ports. Their duty is to lead out from their docks and moorings the great ocean liners to the place where they can point their prow toward their destination and go forward under their own power.

The second great word in this sentence is Truth. "Yet shall know the Truth." "What a wonderful promise, wonderful spiritually, wonderful in every sense of the term. There is nothing God would hide from us, he bids us come forward and take it, he asks us to see with our own eyes, and to handle with our own hands the priceless treasures of Truth. There are some who are afraid of this unchecked investigation which Christ bids us make, yet it is a danger He would have us run.

Christian Truth

College men and women are often hazy about their beliefs, and are sometimes misunderstood by those who are out of touch with the life and spirit of the Campus. But to my mind this is just as natural as any other sphere of student life. The College provides the opportunity for adventure and search for Truth, Christian Truth, so called must come under its purview and be questioned just like all other truth.

When Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark from falling his lack of faith caused his death, and so all efforts to preserve the Truth by avoiding investigation have proved futile.

Many a student finds his religious ideas questioned when he begins his

College course. It would be a poor College indeed that had no influence over a man's ideas of life, duty, God and the hereafter. He would be a poor specimen of student too who could take classes in Economic, History, Ethics, Science, and Philosophy and retain the religious outlook of a child. To advance in all other knowledge and still have the spiritual conceptions of childhood would be tragic indeed. We must all some time or other find a reason for the hope that is in us. Unless we are content to live in a glass case so to speak, we must sooner or later face the spectres of the mind and lay them." We must traverse the passage from an inherited religion to an experienced religion. This passage is very materially hastened by a College education.

The Truth Important

One of the greatest needs in a human life is to find out the truth about things. Your teaching and discipline have done much to help you separate the chaff of mere propaganda from the wheat of real truth. You can detect the false and appreciate the true. I firmly believe that if you will keep the windows of your heart open to the influences of God's love and goodness, you will come to find that the teachings of Christ are at the basis of all truth.

The love of Truth for its own sake should ever inspire you. It was a fateful day when Constantinople, the guardian of the precious learning of the past fell into the hands of the invading Turk. The priceless treasures of all that best in Greek civilization were threatened with destruction. But brave and faithful keepers of the Truth, hiding the beloved manuscripts in the folds of their garments left all behind, and fled into the mountains and deserts. There they braved hunger persecution and death that they might hand on the sacred Torch.

We are everlastingly indebted to them. Let us never forget that the real mission of the University, that cloistered school of learning set in the midst of a busy world is to hand on the Torch of Truth for Truth's own sake. I sincerely hope that everyone of the sixty-six who are graduating from this university is infinitely richer than he was four years ago, not simply in the assurance of earning power but in the acquisition of Truth.

Old Omar, the tentmaker sings of the schools of his day:

"Myself, when young, did eagerly frequent
Doctor and Saint, and heard great argument
About it and about, but evermore
Came out by the same door wherein
I went."

I hope there is no graduate who comes out the same door wherein he went, I believe with all my heart that every graduate here this morning has learned to love the Truth and has pledged himself to pass on this Torch to the generations yet to be.

Imperishable Gift

The third outstanding word in this sentence is Freedom. Knowledge and Truth bring Freedom. Christ taught men to value the imperishable gift of freedom. One of the greatest blessings of a College training is that it liberates and releases the mind from superstition, from prejudice, from petty things that spoil happiness and retard progress. This freedom, however, does not imply that we can do as we please. Self-suggestion and a self-centred policy are dangerous. Whether you go into the field of the Engineer, the Lawyer, the Teacher, the Surgeon, the Forester, you must go with the understanding that all life is related and that everything must be weighed in the balance of its relationship to others. Neither should freedom make

our minds a poor lodging-house filled with vulgar tenants, but rather a guest-room for happy memories, high resolves and beckoning visions.

This Baccalaureate Service this morning marks the beginning of the end of your College days. This week you will pass out of the zone within which your teachers have moulded your thoughts and guided your aspirations. Unlike a few generations ago when every College graduate had been through the same curriculum, many of you today have been through the same College, you are graduating in the same year, yet you have seldom met in any class-room because of the variety of courses the modern university has to offer. Notwithstanding this fact that you are one to-day because you are graduating from the same University and wherever you go you will never be beyond the influence of this dead old College. How grateful you will always be to your teachers, for after all it is the teachers that make a College great, how grateful you will be to them, not simply for the subjects they have taught you, nor for the prescribed course in the Calendar they have taken you through but for the outflow and overflow of their personality.

Horizon Enlarged

When Emerson gave at Harvard his Phil Beta Kappa address in 1867, James Russel Lowell was among his listeners, afterwards Lowell wrote, "Emerson's oration was more disjointed than usual even with him, it began nowhere and ended nowhere and yet as always with that divine man, it left you feeling that something beautiful had passed that way, Something more beautiful than anything else like the rising and setting of stars. Your teachers have done more for you than merely solve your problems, they have enlarged your horizon, they have imparted to you their undying enthusiasm, they have given you of the things that are caught not taught.

The School of Life

You may think that you are all through with examinations, but the world outside the University is full of examinations and testings. When the last examination in College has been passed, and you held your coveted diploma, then comes the school of life. Most positions in modern life require constant study and continued application. If you become a physician, every diagnosis you make is a process of inductive reasoning. If you become a lawyer, you will be compelled to marshal every bit of information you have ever gained in the interests of your clients. If you enter public life and become a candidate for office your whole career will be under inspection and all you have said and done for years will be scrutinized. You might just as well get used to these tests and take them cheerfully. You ought to be willing to be tried in this way. Taken in the right spirit the experience may be more or less enjoyable.

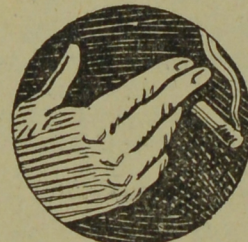
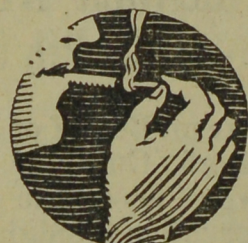
Studies Forgotten

How much of your studies will you take away from these academic hills. Cicero, in defending his friend Archias, defended also the studies which he had pursued through life. He said, "These studies nourish youth and delight old age they travel with us." But how do they travel with us? How much do you remember of the subjects you took in your freshman year? How much trigonometry could you command at the present moment, could you give the pluperfect subjunctive of a Latin verb, how many chemical formulas can you remember beyond H. O. 2. We forget our studies just about as quickly as we can, how then do they travel with us? They travel with us in this way, they give us the power to understand and interpret man's minds. It is said that the great failures in engineering are due not to lack of technical knowledge or mastery of details but to lack of insight into human nature. The engineers understand their materials better than they do their men. They can estimate strains and stresses. They know what will support a bridge, but not what will make for complete

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