

PROF. UPPVAL'S ADDRESS IN PRAISE OF FOUNDERS

The Address in Praise of the Founders, delivered by Prof. Axel J. Uppval, B. A., LL. A., at the U. N. B. Encaenia was as follows:

May it please Your Honour, the President and Members of the University Senate, the Chancellor and the members of the Faculty, Graduates and Undergraduates.

Ladies and Gentlemen.—When the famous Danish critic, George Brandes, was asked by an American reporter to state what he considered August Strindberg's greatest contribution to contemporary letters, he answered that it was his unconquerable spirit of opposition and his absolute disregard of conventionality. On the other hand, his greatest weakness, according to the same authority, was inconsistency.

To the intelligent, unbiased student of Strindberg, this characterization of the great author is a compliment. But to the majority who are not students of Strindberg, and who may know but very little about him, the statement is not satisfactory. In all its brevity it is apt to be misleading. For an unconquerable spirit of opposition is, without further qualifications, an attribute strongly suggestive of qualities which are neither rare nor admired, and hence capable of creating pre-empting prejudice against a man.

His Inconstancy.

Furthermore, a man who refuses to comply with the innumerable conventionalities of modern life is a man not to be tolerated in society. For such a man will purposely forget the saying that language was invented in order that man might conceal his thoughts, or again, that an act which was not sanctioned by great-grandfathers and other infallible human beings must for that reason alone be improper and inadmissible.

If to this we add what the great critic regards as Strindberg's cardinal fault—inconstancy—we are dealing with an individual who, in addition to a host of other weaknesses, may be suspected of too often proving untrue to principles and ideals which when once embraced, professed and sworn to, are principles and ideals from which a man may not be divorced without seriously endangering his reputation.

In the main, Dr. Brandes' opinion will no doubt be shared by most literary critics. August Strindberg's greatness was his steadfast refusal to be the cat's paw of any party, sect, school or faction. As a mere boy he dedicated his life to the service of truth, and swore to be true to his convictions and fearless in his decisions.

He was too great a thinker to be an optimist; too scrupulous to sell himself and to betray the masses whose cause he had espoused even before he was of age, and to which he remained faithful until the end. His mind was too universal to allow him to come to false conclusions in questions of vital importance, and he seems to have firmly believed that "no axioms, even though divine and inspired, will dispense us from looking straight at the facts."

It was this philosophy that kept him at sword's points with the majority for more than forty long years; but this was no disgrace, it seems to me, for it has become one of the axioms of reform that God works with minorities, and Lily, in his "Right and Wrong," contends that "not majorities, but minorities, are the helpers and friends of mankind on the path of ethical progress."

Campaign a Godsend.

This Strindberg campaign, which at first was a purely literary one, but which in due time exerted a tremendous influence on Swedish national life in general, was a godsend. For the innumerable battles which he fought, now at home, now in exile, were all actuated by the one supreme desire that superstition, mendacity and hypocrisy might not prevail against the truth.

This is the reason why Strindberg fought; the reason why he gave no quarter and asked none. These facts also explain many of his peculiarities, i. e., his inconstancy, which later in life was more apparent than real.

Yet, after all, his whole life was little else than a series of adjustments necessitated by a mind that never ceased to grow and which realized gradually the more probable relations of the relative to the absolute. It was truth, rational thinking and a course of action consistent with such thinking that Strindberg ever had at heart. And as truth never has been and probably never will be popular, we can easily understand why this truly good man—for such he was in spite of all his faults—should suffer at the hands of a ruthless press, spitting, potting and

factions of the land, social, political and religious, who used every means, legitimate and illegitimate, against this champion of justice and enlightenment. Such a course was in keeping with traditions; the friends of the humble have always been crucified and burned.

All those who are in sympathy with the idea of emancipation and who look forward to the time when man shall have outlived certain psychic weaknesses, and when liberated he shall turn his face to the stars because he loves truth, not because he fears punishment; all those who truly love humanity and rejoice in whatever force there is at work which shall even in the least further the great cause—the uplifting of humanity to a level of intelligence the base of which shall be more reason and less mysticism—all those, I say once more, must of necessity rejoice in the victorious career of the charwoman's son—August Strindberg.

More Light!

I could not but think of this man in connection with my duty on this day, which is to say a few words in praise of the founders of this institution. For all those whom we are wont to look upon as truly great and good belong to all times and to all races. And although all of them are not equally good or great, they are nevertheless of the same fraternity, inasmuch as they have all been actuated by noble motives. More light! so whispered the Sage of Weimar when Death laid his icy hand upon his brow. More light! That was the thought which reared the walls within which we now stand. More light! This we solicit and nothing more. More light, in order that truth, honor and justice may prevail, for hither shall come unborn generations to taste of the accumulated experiences of the age.

We praise the founders of this Pharos which for an hundred years has sent its bright beams across lands and seas. May its future be even more glorious. May it continue to send forth men whose motto shall be unselfish service in the interest of humanity; men who shall dare to be honest and to whom position, renown and material blessings shall be less ardently desired than the imperishable laurels of integrity and a clear conscience.

SAYS FAREWELL TO THE U. N. B. GRADUATING CLASS

(Continued from page two.)

ity may say of each member of the class of 1916, he was: One who never turned his back, but marched forward.

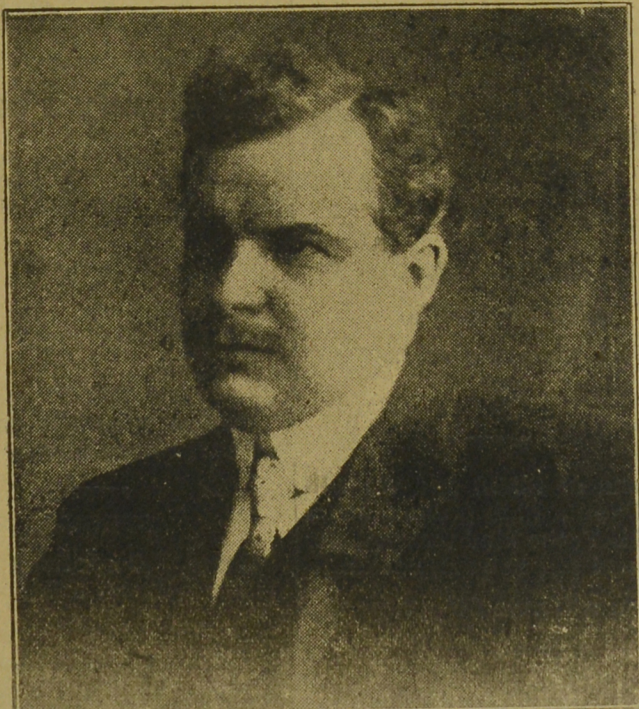
Never doubted clouds would break. Never dreamed though right were worsted, wrong would triumph. Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better.

Sleep to wake.

And now, fellow-classmates, we must part company with the many pleasant associations we have formed at the University of New Brunswick, and say: A word that must be, and hath been, A sound that makes us linger; yet—Farewell!

Worry gives the undertaker more business than work does.

The woman who makes fun of a new style one day is usually trying to imitate it the next.



DR. C. C. JONES,
Chancellor of the University.

DR. WALKER'S ADVICE TO THE GRADUATING CLASS

The address of Thomas Walker, M. A., M. D., LL. D., to the graduating class of U. N. B. was as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Graduating Class.—As I understood the invitation of the Chancellor to address you, the address was to be short. It will be short. For some time I have advocated the shortening of all the Encaenia addresses, and surely I should begin with my own. If I can I wish to set an example of brevity which I hope may be followed.

It has fallen to my lot today to address the graduating class, and to extend to you the congratulations of the Senate that you have gained the prize for which you have been striving for the last four years. I do congratulate you all very heartily, and in doing so wish you every success and happiness in whatever vocation you may choose for your life's work.

We do sincerely hope that while within these walls you have been fitted to become estimable citizens, builders up of this great country, helpers of your fellow men, and a credit to this University.

Wealth of a Nation.

An eminent English divine once said: "The wealth of a nation consists ultimately not in its exports or its imports, but in the number of noble lives that are being lived therein. The capital of a country, whether to use at home or to export abroad, is ultimately the character of its citizens."

Have you fitted yourselves, or, rather, have you fitted you, to take your part in this ideal? Are you ready to take up your life work along these lines?

Dr. Robertson's Words.

It was sixty years ago last January since I matriculated at King's College. I need not say how much the character and teaching of this school has expanded during that period. Sixty years ago you could get here the foundation of a good liberal education. Now we are making in addition civil engineers, electricians, foresters, etc. This serves to show the trend of education in these times to be education for an occupation. Time will not allow me to follow along this line; but I would commend to your consideration a quotation from an address of Dr. James Robertson, delivered to the Dominion Educational Association at Ottawa in 1913, and prior to the present war.

"At this stage of our national growth if we men and women who are here and who are represented here, become seized with the conviction that the adequate education of the young people of Canada is the one thing that matters most, and if we ardently seek to make our own vision the common view of all people, then no one of us will have lived and labored in vain."

"I have one admonition in conclusion. Germany is lauded now because she is rich and great and dominant. In conversation her own best men express to you a fear that the days of her decline have more than dawned; that the people's feet are already on the downward path; that Germany has gone past the zenith and follows the Roman empire on the road to ruin. Why? Because her people have grown rich in a generation, have become arrogant and have begun to think that wealth and power have better meanings than the training of the young. When Germany was poor and menaced the leaders of her people said, 'The salvation of our people, the salvation of our land, the salvation of our nation is through the training of the young.' They

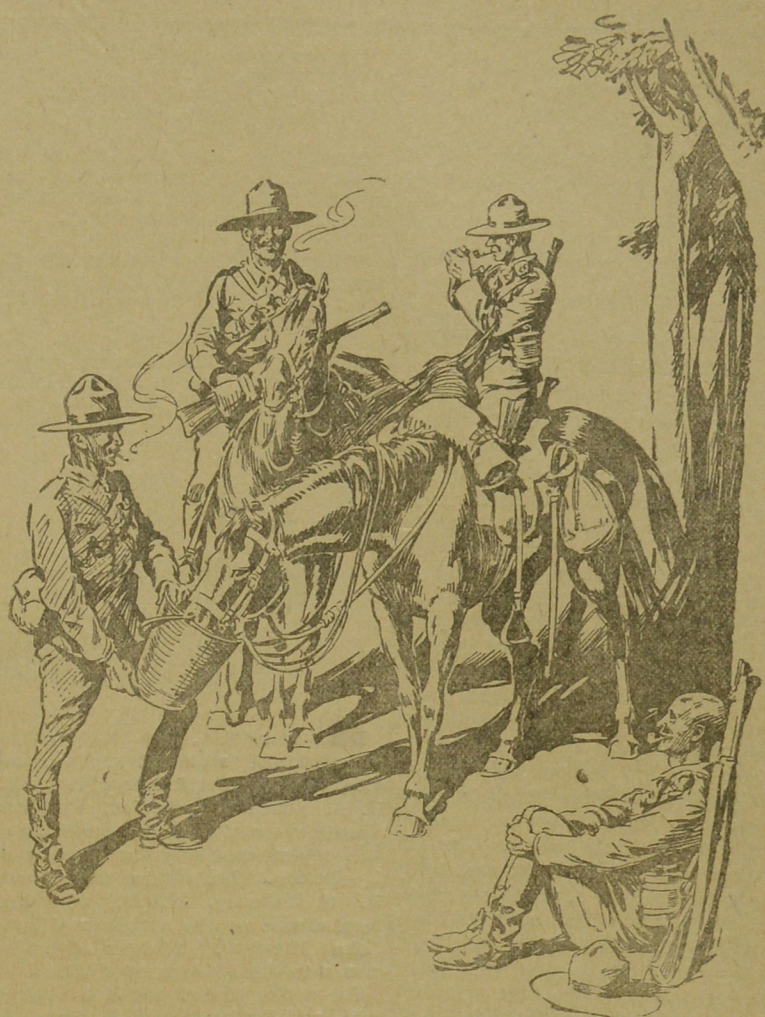
devoted their means to that end and achieved results in part. Their educational leaders discern that they have neglected the formation of individual character on high standards; and they are now seeking to save Germany from its degeneration by bringing back into its schools the old idealism and the old purpose. are just at the stage in Canada when we have the unparalleled opportunity to take that wide and glorious path of vocational education for all the young people. From thirteen to eighteen you can make a nation strong in intelligence, ability, good will and character; or you can debase a nation into all kinds of sordid neglect of the best things in life. Let us choose the better path."

I would commend to you the value of self-reliance. The man who is not self-reliant is weak, hesitating and doubtful in all he does. I would strongly urge upon you the cultivation of self-reliance.

Need of Loyalty.

I would beg of you to be loyal to your university; to remember with pleasure the days that you have spent within its walls, and to always look back with regret to the days that have severed the ties which have connected us during the last four years. When opportunity offers commend the U. N. B. to your juvenile friends. Press the claims of the small university. It brings about a closer intimacy between the teachers and the pupils, and enables the teachers to study the peculiarities of different members of his class. I beg of you to consider it your duty to join the Alumnae and Alumni Association, and help them in the work they are doing now, and have been doing in years past, towards the building up and encouragement of the University, that you may be able to extend to others those advantages which have benefited your own lives.

I am speaking to you as New Brunswickers, certainly as Canadians. Hold fast to your love of this, your native country, and strive for its good, labor for its uplifting and believe that what was said by the psalmist is just as true now as the day it was written. "Put thou thy trust in the Lord, and be doing good dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed."



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