

tive fields in which weeds are found ; but there still remains that of Agriculture, so prolific in these pests, of which some are members of the great "Genus homo," some of the animal kingdom, while there is still the great class belonging to the vegetable kingdom.

Looking first at the human weeds of this division, we wonder what has caused the great deterioration from the image of God in which man was originally created. We often hear such terms as "haysced" and "clod-hopper" applied to some of our farmers, but, mark you, it is only to the weeds of the profession that such terms are applied. The progressive scientific agriculturist demands and receives the respect due him and his profession. The great difficulty in dealing with our careless farmers is to convince them of the great benefits which would follow from the application of scientific methods to their work. In dealing with inanimate weeds, we can exterminate them, but this is rather drastic treatment for the animate ones. They must be shown, in theory and in practice, that a happier and more independent existence, is not only possible for them, but is actually within their reach. It is only when this plan of campaign is successfully carried out that we shall have a rural population free from human weeds.

Then again the live stock on our farms is not by any means what it should be : horses and cattle, are alike in being far below the rank of first-class animals. If it be true that a man may be known by his dog, it should be true to a much greater extent that he may be known by the horse he drives. Judging from this standard, I think most of our farmers would be rated very low. The "scrub curse" is certainly a great and serious one. The many advantages of having "blue blood" in farm stock have so often been shown that we can now only wonder that men still refuse to avail themselves of them. The only remedy for the scrub weed is eradication ; then why give it a place on Ontario farms ?

Let us now for a short time consider what are ordinarily known as weeds, viz., those of the vegetable class, alas far too common in the soil of our fair Province. It is a sad fact that weeds follow in the wake of civilization. See our North West, which a few years ago was practically free from these pests, but as "westward the tide of empire takes its way," these fertile virgin prairies are rapidly becoming as badly infested as our own older Province.

The great difficulty in the way of having clean farms is that their owners are ever ready to submit with calm resignation to the foe. This line of action is however entirely unwarrantable ; for evidence look no further than our own College Farm which a few short years ago was amongst the worst in this respect, but which is to-day a "Model Farm" indeed in point of cleanliness. What is needed is that all our farmers should unite in saying that weeds must go, and since "unity is strength" they will certainly go.

During the past, the great sheet anchor in the battle against weeds has been the tedious and expensive system of bare-fallowing. This is now, however, considered by the best authorities to be in many ways inferior to a judicious system of rotation, embracing in its course the growth of certain crops injurious to the form of weeds to be exterminated, as well as one or more food crops which, while they give ample opportunity for the cultivation of the soil, still yield produce more than sufficient to pay for the labor involved.

There still remains that weed form known as the "noxious weed" (tobacco). But I am glad to be able to say that since the air

and soil were not congenial at the O. A. C., it has never prospered with us.

In conclusion, I would say, we have been over the various fields in which weeds are found, we have seen together that in all the walks and occupations of our worldly life they are by far too common. Therefore I would ask you, one and all, to unite, to rise in your strength to fight against them wherever you may encounter them. Do not wait for some grand opportunity to awe your fellow men by trying to overcome some great evil ; it is the many little things which in the end make up the grand total. Remember that —

" True worth is in being not seeming,
In doing each day that goes by
Some little good, not in the dreaming
Of great things to do by and bye."

Wait for the day of great things and the chances are that day will never arrive. We all should try to remember that the life of each one of us is a seedling-ground, we ourselves are to a great extent the sowers. Let us then exercise all due watchfulness that no foul seeds secure a foothold therein. Each one has the power, by God's help, to so keep his heart and mind pure and free from the tares and weeds of the world, that he may hear the Great Harvester say when he reaps the golden grain of a life of kindly words and noble deeds, "I will gather this wheat into my barn."

And now it is with mingled feelings that we older students look upon the eventful day to which we have so long looked forward. Mingled feelings I say because into them enter so largely the opposing elements, Joy and Sorrow.

Sorrow, because it is the day when so many of us sever our connection with our beloved Alma Mater, and because it now also devolves upon us to partially sever the many, many ties of friendship and brotherly love which have been so gradually but firmly weaving themselves around our hearts. We feel that here we have passed some of the best and sweetest moments of our lives.

But again, we rejoice, because we feel that now is to commence in earnest the battle of our lives, that now is given unto us the opportunity to show to our fellows that our days here have not been wasted ; and that it is not brain or muscle working singly that is the price of success, but that it is the happy union and harmonious combination of the two which is the surety of ultimate victory.

On behalf of our departing students, I would now take this opportunity of thanking all those who have in so many ways assisted in making our stay here pleasant and profitable. To our city friends, our warmest thanks are due for their ever-ready generosity and kind hospitality. But words are inadequate to express our heart-felt thanks to those connected with the institution, who were ever willing to give unto us a kindly word or a helping hand in our times of trouble and perplexity.

Class-mates, the day of our separation has at last arrived ; may we, each one of us, as we go forth from our little world into the larger world around us, strive to benefit our fellow-men by the knowledge we have here acquired. And, although our paths in life may be widely divergent, may we all strive to follow the same Guide and reach the same goal where partings are unknown.

Finis Coronat Opus.

[Valedictory address delivered at the Closing Exercises, 1893.]