


others buildings but appeared to claim no superiority. Rather it assumed an aspect of grace and mildness as pointing up to Heaven it gave a direction to all who might see and a warning to such as would lend their ears. The tiny crucifix stood in strong contrast to the seemingly wonderful scenes round about us and yet its still impressiveness robbed them of all their power and influence because it turned our minds to God who had created them by His Word and would destroy them by the same means. And as this strange, fearful, disturbing feeling passed through us, we began to wonder how many of the busy inhabitants took heed of that warning, how many recognized the significance of the cross, and how many found in it hope and consolation.

EDMUND F. BYRNES, '09.

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## Advice of Polonius to Laertes.

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He object of this essay is not to enlarge upon the maxims which Polonius gave his son on parting, but to consider whether they are to be regarded as a very high strain of morality, or merely the outcome of worldly experience. Let us first, consider the relative importance of the speech; secondly, its substance; and, lastly, the character of the speaker.

We learn in rhetoric, that "the drama is a form of narrative wherein the characters speak for themselves, *making* the story, as it were, before our eyes." Again, we are told that "every part must contribute clearly and obviously to the completed whole;" and, still further, that "the characters must manifest themselves by more pointed language than in the novel." From this, it is evident that the words of Polonius, under consideration, play an important part in making up the sum total of his character. They were uttered on the occasion of Laertes' departure from home, and entrance into the wide world of affairs. It was surely a serious moment for both father and son. More serious, indeed, than the occasion on which Ophelia is cautioned to beware of Hamlet. The first instance was regarded by Polonius as an event in his son's life; the second as a mere frivolity of youth. In both these cases