

Valedictory

[By JOSEPH H. MCDONALD, B.A.]

Your Excellency, Your Honor, etc.,



THE time has come when we must take of you a final and affectionate farewell. Fate ordained that we should meet in mutual friendship to pass together the blissful days of our college career which comes to a close this morning. For seven years we have partaken of the rich fruits tendered us by Alma Mater, but now she has finished with us, not however without leaving prepared us to engaged with some hope of success in the battle of life. We have reached the goal towards which we directed our humble efforts ; hence the feeling of calm satisfaction which pervades our hearts to-day.

Glancing in retrospect on the life we are now about to leave, sweet memories of all the happy scenes, that have brightened the path by which we mounted, crowd one upon the other in our thought-sick brain. Now we behold the tearing asunder of those ties of friendship which have bound us together. It would indeed be a pleasure for us to tarry longer to live our college days again, but duty, whose calls we must obey, would have us enter into other and larger spheres. If we go forth this morning with the blessing of a Catholic education, we must realize the responsibilities with which we are burdened. We are conscious that the course of studies pursued by us has brought its reward, accompanied nevertheless with grave and serious obligations. We must be, and I am safe in saying for my classmates, we are prepared to espouse the cause of truth and right against contending foes. In this supreme crisis, when rationalism and various other forms of unbelief, have raised their voices in persistent endeavors to hurl from his eternal throne, God himself, who shall be found ready to valiantly struggle for the supremacy of truth and justice? Who, I say, unless the Catholic student, educated by devout Catholic teachers? Our course of philosophy has nprepared us to discern the true from the false ; that which has but external show,