

home-coming. God grant that you may never have less reason to be proud of us than at present. We shall endeavor to repay you for your tender solicitude, and your loving care, by following the example of true, christian piety which your lives have furnished. Then indeed, will we be the solace of your declining years, and your old age will be brightened by seeing us, on whom you have lavished so much care, realize your expectations.

There is another thought, that suggests itself to us to-night. The fact that we are assuming a grave responsibility is vividly before our minds. In spite of our much-vaunted modern educational system, the truly educated man is still a rare article. The number of those who advance beyond the "little learning," proverbially "a dangerous thing," is still comparatively small. Of shallow, flashy demagogues, indeed we have plenty, but it is not to such, that society must look for the solution of the great problems that arise in life. No, rather to men, who by reason of a thorough education, are equipped with all the necessary weapons against error, and falsehood, must be intrusted this great task. How much then will naturally be expected of us? To-night we may be said to make our first appearance on the great stage of life, and we recognize the importance of the part we will be called upon to play. But great as is the task our will is ready, and certainly no blame can be attached to our Alma Mater if our training should prove deficient. She has given us sound and fruitful instructions; she has endeavored to cultivate in us high, and pure literary tastes, and to store our minds with useful, and liberal knowledge; she has made known to us the true grounds, and forces of social, and political well-being. Hence indeed no fault is it of hers if we are not well fitted to take our part with ease and efficiency, in whatever sphere we may be called upon to occupy. The refining influence of our early surroundings will ever be evident to all those with whom we may come in contact, and our College loyalty will be as enduring as life itself.

True it is, the predominating feeling by which we are animated on this, the last night of our college life is one of joy; joy at the prospect of entering upon a broader field of utility, joy arising from the consciousness that our long apprenticeship is over, joy arising from the conviction that we are at last prepared to begin the struggle of life, in real earnest;—these indeed are,