

VALEDICTORY OF '02

THE class of 1902 have reached the parting of the ways: one epoch of our lives is closed; another is just beginning. The blissful days of college life are over; and we are quitting our beloved Alma Mater for the University of the world. And as we stand here to day on the threshold of the larger life and glance in retrospect over the path by which we have mounted, and peer ahead into the vista that opens up before us, what divers fancies flood our minds, what conflicting emotions sway our souls! For seven long years we have trodden the rugged path of knowledge, and now that we have reached the consummation of our pilgrimage, tranquil joy, the reward of perseverance, steals softly over our hearts.

But looking back on the little world we must leave today, there is another sentiment born within us, a sentiment that menaces ruin to our spirit of joy and gladness. Sweet "Memory wakes with all her busy train;" every cherished work in this old grey pile is conjured up; and the thousand happy scenes of our dear old college days are marshalled out before us. Gladly, indeed, would we tarry here, to live those days again; but duty calls us to another sphere.

There is another great thought that possesses our minds today—what does the future hold in store for us?

In the early days of our college life, we believed, in childlike simplicity, that once our course was ended, our labors would be done; the rest would be but the harvesting of reward. But now that we have attained the last eminence in our college career, this puerile fancy has been dissipated and our eyes are met with the prospect of ever increasing labors; "Hills peep o'er hills, and Alps o'er Alps arise." Only now do we see the path of life in its true perspective, with its winding course, its rugged bed, its ever-present pitfalls; and hovering overhead, the dark and threatening clouds of trials and misfortunes. What a contrast does this not offer to the even way of student-life, where all was the sunshine of love and sympathy?