

COLLEGE GRADUATES.

There are two standpoints from which this question may be regarded, viz.: that of the individual and that of the aggregation of individuals—the community, the State. In this paper I shall confine my attention to an examination of the question from the standpoint of the individual. Let us, then, look about us and see if the positions of honor and trust are held by college graduates, and then ascertain to what extent in our history this has been true.

"Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography" contains, in round numbers, 15,000 names. Of that number a few over 5,000 are the names of college graduates; that is, one man in every thirty (approximately) sent out by the colleges and universities has reached some distinction. This proportion seems pitifully small; and our case seems already lost. But only one in every fifteen hundred of the non graduates has attained distinction; while one in every thirty of the college graduates has been equally fortunate. That is to say, the boy who takes time to prepare himself for his work by submitting himself to the discipline furnished by the college or university increases his chances of success fiftyfold.

From the "Official Congressional Directory," supplemented by some correspondence, it has been ascertained that, of the three hundred and fifty-seven members of the House of Representatives, nearly 36 per cent. were college graduates. There are exactly the same number of graduates in the Senate of the fifty-fifth Congress as there were in the fifty-fourth; and the same thing is true of the House of Representatives. Let us be sure that we understand the significance of these figures. Since the college graduates in our male population of graduate age constitute about 1 per cent

of that class, that is, since only one man in a hundred is a graduate, we ought not to find more than one senator and not more than four representatives in either the fifty-fourth or the fifty-fifth Congress who are college graduates. An examination into the percentage of college graduates among all the Speakers of the House discloses one very important fact. Of the thirty-two Speakers of the House, fifteen, or 46.8 per cent., have been college graduates.

In the spring of 1776 the most famous Congress in our history met at Philadelphia—the Congress that passed the Declaration of Independence. John Hancock, the President of the Congress, was a graduate of Harvard. A committee of five was appointed to draft the Declaration of Independence. The members of the committee were: Thomas Jefferson, a graduate of William and Mary; John Adams, a graduate of Harvard; Robert R. Livingston, a graduate of King's College (now Columbia College); Benjamin Franklin and Roger Sherman, both non-graduates. Three of these men—60 per cent of the committee—were college graduates. This committee chose two of its own members to prepare the document to be submitted to Congress. And whom did they choose? Jefferson and Adams—both graduates. Fifty six men signed that famous instrument. Of these, twenty, or 35.7 per cent, were college graduates.

Among the men who detected the weakness of the articles of confederation, and the necessity of a radical change in the form of government, the most active and influential were James Madison, a graduate of Princeton, Alexander Hamilton, a graduate of Columbia, and James Monroe, a student of William and Mary. In 1786 Mr. Madison put through the Virginia Assembly a resolution which