

college record books were a nautical almanac the afterwards might be calculated with all the accuracy of mathematics. But such is not the case. Indeed one of the chief drawbacks to college records, degrees and successes is that they determine nothing. After it is all over the uncertainty of the future is only increased. Standing on the threshold of the new and larger college of the world we look into it, and see only question marks writ large and everywhere. We are not essentially different from classes that have gone before us; we make no claim to distinctiveness. It is this thought that we are not different that gives us pause,—fills us with apprehensions. Shall it be with us to do well or ill, bravely or badly—to scatter hither and thither to settle and do even indifferently—to strengthen, perhaps to weaken the church and cause of Christ—to make locality or fifty dollars difference in salary a condition of going here or there—to be a stake in the wheels of progress—to go into politics and spoil a church, to cease to study, to become sordid, dull, prayerless, spiritless, unenthusiastic—to lose one's grip on God, Truth, Life, Humanity—to be pulled down to a world level, to become fearful for self, disputations, unchristian, common? It has been that way before and men do not change. Neither do conditions. Things will be as they have been. And in that we see occasion for at least some alarm.

Although cast in the same mould we leave college differing widely; and that is well. We are not all Hebraists, but some are; we are not all theologians, but a few may be capable of becoming such; we are not all orators, but in our way we all speak. As we begin and continue our work the college and the church look on, and we, according to the diversity of our gifts, or lack of them, shall succeed or fail. For us, so far, the church has done much. What are we to do in return? The church's standard is high, but it is not impossible; it is not hard. The church looks on sympathetically. It is biased towards men just from college. In new men it forgives more and expects less than in others. It does not say we must succeed. The church sees what we must come to see, that in the ministry there is really no high and no low, no prominent and no obscure. This we must grasp firmly.