

RELIGIOUS DEPARTMENT

THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY

It is said that the Greeks were particularly proud of one large statue they had erected. It represented an old man; he had wings on his feet, a long forelock, but no hair on the crown or back of his head, and he was bending forward as though in the act of running. When asked as to its meaning, they would reply: His attitude indicates that he is ever moving onward; the wings on his feet show how swiftly he goes; and, that he can only be laid hold on before he passes you is manifest from the way his hair is trimmed. His name is Opportunity.

Our present college term, as a reality, will soon be a thing of the past: but its influence will go out into the world to live, and, like the leaven in the meal, will work its way until it has become a part of the great whole. Evil and good, both are likened to leaven; what, then, shall the influence of our present college term be upon the world—good or evil?

The answer to this question can be given very emphatically; and in order so to do, there is no need for a special prophetic vision. How is the present opportunity being used? When this question is answered, the other is practically settled; for, to a greater extent than perhaps sometimes we like to admit, our present action is shaping our future destiny and influence.

There are many ways in which opportunity comes to a student in Wesley. The one we desire to mention particularly is: Decision for Christ. This great question has been kept prominently before us throughout the term. We are glad that the executive of our Y.M.C.A. was successful in arranging a series of special monthly evangelistic services to be conducted by the City pastors. We were visited in turn by the Revs. H. Wigle, W.

L. Armstrong and S. Cleaver; and it is a cause for deep gratitude that some took a noble stand for Christ, and many others were strengthened in their consecration to His service.

Decision has likewise been the chief thought presented in the Sunday morning class. All who have availed themselves of the privilege of this means of grace can testify to the faithful and earnest manner in which the present opportunity has been pressed home by Prof. Riddell, and as a result many are going out into life with the determination to live for God.

There is, however, another side to this question. What about those who have not yet made this decision for Christ? Procrastination will certainly not make the separation from sin and self any easier. "No man can serve two masters" is a word of the Saviour. Our mere indifference will not be reckoned a good excuse for neglect; then can we too earnestly urge upon ourselves the importance of the following lines:

"When prayer delights thee least, then
learn to say,
'Soul! now is greatest need that thou
should'st pray.
Crooked and warped I am, and I would
fain
Straighten myself by thy right line
again.'"

Our responsibility increases with the multiplication of our opportunities. When Christ wept over Jerusalem, it was because she had prostituted her privileges; when He pronounced woes upon Chorazin and Bethsaida, it was because they had neglected their opportunities. How, then, shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation? Surely, great is the present opportunity!

The closing meeting of the Ladies' Mission Study Class was held Sunday, April 8th, in the College parlor. The meetings

throughout were of a most interesting character, and at the same time a great deal of information was gathered concerning work