

## Editorial.

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### THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

No intelligent person will question the wisdom of college graduates organizing for the purpose of advancing the interests of their *alma mater*. Who should stand by a college if not her own sons? Who should be so willing to make sacrifices in her behalf? And by taking counsel together and uniting their efforts, graduates may carry to successful issue enterprises that would otherwise be failures. Princeton's prosperity is due not a little to the *esprit de corps* of her students and graduates. They are Princeton men the world over. Class-mates never lose sight of each other. Therefore Princeton is strong. So should it be with every college graduate. We lose respect for the man with whom it is otherwise—the man who takes all he can get during his college course and then buries himself in his own work, however important. An active interest in college affairs on the part of graduates is good for the men, for the institution and for the Church. And an alumni association deepens and directs this interest.

There are dangers, too, connected with such an association. In Church and State the tendency of the present day is towards organization. Men with common interests combine for mutual assistance and protection. The danger lies in the tyranny of the organization as seen in the industrial unions and ecclesiastical organizations that have become wheels within the wheel, each polling a "corporate vote." Hence the curse of the Hierarchy. But the same thing is possible in collegiate matters. Men may have their loyalty to the Church limited by their loyalty to their college. Questions may be viewed and decided according as they effect their *alma mater*. The measure of support given a man may be determined by the seal affixed to his college diploma. Men may vote as graduates of an institution who themselves condemn Rome for being an *imperium in imperio*. But a corporate Catholic vote is no worse than a corporate college vote. All cliques and rings are inimical to the interests of the Church.

There is little danger, however, of the Knox College Alumni Association becoming an *imperium in imperio*. "The Knox vote" would