

*THE VALEDICTORY OF '89.*

BY W. F. KEHOE, B. A., '89.

The accompanying valedictory was found among the papers of the late W. F. Kehoe, '89. We are glad to be able to preserve it as a souvenir of the lamented graduate and an interesting and valuable piece of college history.---

[EDITORS.]

YOUR GRACE, REVEREND FATHERS, FELLOW STUDENTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

What a checker work of Providence is the life of man ; what strange vicissitudes are met with ; how hope and fear, joy and sorrow are ever struggling for mastery in his breast, and truthfully indeed has the novelist exclaimed " by what secret springs are the affections moved about, as different circumstances permit ! To-day we love what to-morrow we hate ; to-day we seek what to-morrow we shun ; to-day we desire what to-morrow we fear, nay ever tremble at the apprehension of." Such is our position to-night, that we have reason to mourn at the apprehension of it.

Fate ordained that we should meet in mutual friendship ; it has now ordained that we should part to severally pursue what I hope shall ever be the even tenor of our way. We go forth strongly conscious of the responsibilities with which we are burdened. The course of studies pursued by us has brought its reward, accompanied nevertheless with grave and serious obligations. We must be, and I am safe in saying we are, prepared to espouse the cause of truth and right against contending foes ; and in this age above all others, perhaps, there are needed those who are willing and anxious to do their share in safely guiding society out of the dangers that menace her. Infidelity and numerous other systems of unbelief have raised their voices in persistent but vain endeavors to hurl from his eternal throne the omnipotent God himself, thereby striving to undermine the very prop and basis of human society, for society without religion is but a cesspool of lawlessness and crime. In this supreme crisis, who shall be found ready to valiantly struggle for

the supremacy of truth and justice ; who shall enlist under the banner of Christianity ; who in a word shall march in the vanguard of that noble band that has sworn vengeance upon the arch-enemies of social and political order, upon the bitter foes of true progress and civilization ? Who, I say, unless the Catholic student educated under the tutorship of devout Catholic teachers ? Into such a conflict shall we be called and be assured that when the summons comes, we shall not be found wanting.

In the present day, also, when the social problem has become such a bone of contention amongst political economists, it is gratifying to think that we have been provided with the means of judging calmly and sensibly upon questions of this nature. Capital and Labor are pitted one against the other, are watching with jealous eye the actions of each other, are each crouching for the intended leap at the other's throat. Should it be our lot to assist in amicably adjusting these difficulties, we will be prepared to do so, for the reason that in the lectures on this subject received herein, we have been schooled to express ourselves in a just open and fearless manner when a question of division of labor, right of taxation and duties and privileges of the workingman is involved. From our history of Philosophy we are brought into contact with the great minds that have been the moulders of thought during the last 2000 years and noting carefully the " signs of the times " we are placed in a position to see the clouds of error that are likely to appear on the horizon of the philosophical world. History repeats itself ; the same to a great extent may