

if there be any magic in a mere name, without being true to the meaning and spirit of either. It is because I believe that in this matter of electives we have drawn the lines in the right place that I for one support the changes recently made at Acadia.

It must be generally admitted that a liberal education is not to be limited to a period devoted to a college course. All science, all knowledge is "liberal" wherever acquired. It is by no means certain that the college actually provides a liberal education because it nominally stands for that idea. There are always the drones, the dunces, the hangers-on, in every college, who succeed in "graduating" in some unaccountable way, and whose chief education has been acquired by researches into methods of shirking work. Steady, concentrated effort is unknown to such as these. By steadily "cramming" for a few days a young man exceptionally expert may "get up" a subject, of which he would be troubled, the morning after examination, to give an intelligible account. "A special organ—the examination organ—becomes developed, which is as specific as the water-sacks attached to the stomach of a camel, intended only to carry a certain amount of refreshment over a very dry place for a very dry time."

How many of us realize that the pursuit of learning is our first and most important object here? Self-evident as this should seem, it cannot be repeated too often or too impressively. "Axioms are not axioms," says one, "until they have been felt upon our pulses."

There are some who, while recognizing with clear intelligence the superiority and even the obligation of a certain course, remain with only a sentimental recognition of the fact. In truth, most men, whatever may be their general strength of character, leave themselves at times the victims of idle musing over work to be done at some more convenient time. In our relations to nature, to mankind, it is the hardest of all things to rise from susceptibility to energy, and to do our part instead of expecting everything to be done for us. The earnest worker, and he alone, can know that a determined purpose may be as creative as the powerful fancy or the inquisitive intellect.

The most characteristic trait from college life is our influence upon one another. Individual culture is poor and fragmentary without social fellowship. True humanity is not individualized, but associated. We need not go far into metaphysics to prove that each individual shares in the intellectual and moral capital of his associates, for the first principles of our social nature prove this fact. There is a law of gravitation in mind as well as matter. The greater influences the less. A bright day, surely, that sends into a class a few generous, gifted, high-minded youths who are more determined on doing right than the idlers are on doing wrong. In spite of all opposition they are sure to triumph in the end and to establish that blessed consummation—a sound and ascending public opinion in college, such as puts scholarship and fellowship together and brings the true spirit to bear upon the objects of study.

God grant that we may work together for the college, the common mother of us all; that the young men and young women who come here year by year may, under the influences of the place, be strengthened for every good word and work; that the establishment of liberal and enlightened sentiments, the elevation of the standard of scholarly character may become our one, our common, aim.