

pressed and unexpressed, is linked with the historic tales of the surrounding valleys, and even the dullest imagination cannot fail to paint anew old scenes, as they dwell upon the places where great events transpired. The natural beauty of the landscape seems almost marred, rather than enhanced, by the invading works of man, and everything seems appealing to the thoughtful, that they make their life worthy their surroundings. Near four score of students have assembled in the midst of these favoring circumstances. How full of promise is the sky for them, as now they breathe in the hallowed associations of the past, or receive the softening influences of the magnificent grandeur of nature's pencilled scenery, or drink from that rich fount of inspiration that flows from the history of difficulties overcome, and glorious things achieved.

CHOICE OF PROFESSION.

It is certainly a question whether or no a student is benefitted by choosing at the commencement of his college course what line of action he shall pursue in his life-work. After weighing the advantages and disadvantages which arise on taking either position with regard to this question, there will be small difficulty in determining the answer.

It must be evident to everyone that after the greatest precautions have been taken, the square plug will very frequently get into the round hole. Hence the importance of the question. There are two parties to whom a correct decision in this matter is of great importance. They are the individual answering the question and the society of which he is a member. That the success and happiness of the former depends largely on a correct decision, is plain from a fact which experience has wrought out, namely—that this success and happiness cannot be gained fully by any man unless his work is fitted to his capacity and inclination. The amount of good the latter derives from a choice well made is intimately connected with the benefit accruing to the individual, since society depends for its growth on both the amount and quality of the work done by its members.

Of the disadvantages that arise from selecting an avocation at the beginning of a college career, only one of importance presents itself, namely: that a

young man is not so capable of making a good choice then as at the end of his course. Now, admitting this proposition, what benefits has he gained by waiting? If he has merely avoided the possibility of an error which, if made thus early in his University life, would be corrected by the same power of judgment which he has gained from his (college) labors; for the fact that he has made a choice, does not preclude the idea that he is at liberty to make a new decision. Another consideration is that although a mistake in this case can be corrected, the opportunities arising, as helps toward an end, once having been neglected, can never be regained; they are certainly gone forever, and no amount of endeavor can do more than improve the present. This second consideration, beside limiting the disadvantages, is an advantage when considered in connection with this line.

But there are some direct advantages in this latter mode of procedure, the most apparent of which are: first, that the development of those powers in a young man, by whose instrumentality chiefly he hopes to gain the position he has marked out, will lend a stimulus to his actions, while it will have a tendency to increase his love of knowledge for its own sake; for these desires do not conflict. In fact they may exist side by side, each in turn becoming the means by which the other is increased.

Secondly, by calculating minutely the bearing of his studies on the object of his ambition, he will learn the nature of his after-work and something of the manner in which to prosecute it.

Thirdly, he would be in a better position to discern and employ those opportunities for development in any particular direction which occur in the every day affairs of a college community. In short, he would go from college better fitted either to commence a course of special training or to seek the reward of his exertions amid the discouragements of practical life.

ENTERPRISE.

THAT the love of hazard and the desire for speculation have shipwrecked many a bold voyageur, is a lamentable fact. But a wide-awake spirit of earnest, well-directed enterprise cannot be too carefully fostered. Genius should not fear to enter those paths from which others have recoiled in painful dismay, for at her