

## OPENING ADDRESS TO THE STUDENTS OF SWARTH- MORE.

BY E. P. BOND.

We have withdrawn ourselves from the usual activities of our days to place ourselves in conscious communication with the Divine mind, to open our souls, as we would open our windows, to the inshining of the everlasting light. The message that has come to me for this hour—that I would pass on to you, as the key-note for the year just beginning for us, is suggested by the Psalmist's words: "Thou hast set my feet in a large room." The thought is of the largeness of life—of the height, and depth and breadth of life—the richness of the inheritance that is ours. The universe of God is the "large room" in which our feet are set; the life of man has for its scope the universe of God. How are we honored of God that our human life has such setting?

It is the fine purpose of student life to fit us to this setting. Have you come to your work with a lesser ideal? Have you made the "passing mark" the limit of your ideal? Are you saying, "I must make sure that I get '60' for this work that I am taking up?" Then your work will have to be of the ignoble kind that we call eye-service, poor and superficial and crippling to the mental powers. We must pity the intellectual poverty that satisfies itself with meeting the arbitrary standards of scholarship made for convenience. Such student life must be dull and inspired and colorless, hardly worth the living. Happy is it for you, if you can see your work in its broad and vital relations. Happy is it for you if you have the consciousness in grappling with the problems of mathematics and science, or the difficulties of language, that you are not only adding to your store of knowledge, but that you are evolving mental power by which alone you can be fitted to life's

"large room." This consciousness is the secret of enthusiasm in scholarship, and gives the glow and warmth to intellectual work. There is another thought within which I would illumine your tasks—the thought that in our intellectual activity is a sign of our kinship with God. The universe is the expression of God's thought. His seal is upon us, in our desire to know, in our desire to "think God's thoughts after him." Does not this transform our college walls into a temple of God, within which is gathered a small company of his little children, searching into the secrets and mysteries which he seems to have spread before them for their growth! If we could believe that whenever we walk in God's universe we are upon holy ground; that in a very special way where we assemble ourselves for the promotion of the intellectual life is holy ground, how it would eliminate pettiness from our ways, how it would enlarge our view, how it would dignify all our pursuits, and all our relations!

Wide as is the scope of the intellectual life, it alone does not fill the "large room" in which our Heavenly Father has set our feet. The intellectual life is almost wholly lived to oneself, it is, in a sense, a solitary thing; it is the life of the individual, lived along the line of his own intellectual development. There is the possibility of its becoming a very selfish thing. But no man can live wholly to himself. Like the earth, he is invested with an atmosphere that he evolves from himself, and whether he will or no, as he goes up and down in his appointed paths, he touches all whom he meets with this subtle, intangible atmosphere, that we call personality. Think what a power this is that we cannot thrust away from us! Not too often can we remember it, that as we casually pass along our way, we mar or paralyze, or dwarf, or dull our companions, it may be, by the touch of this personality; or if we become centers of light and warmth and strength, then it is our