

College course without this thorough matriculation in all the subjects of an English education. After this why should not every student have an option of several courses to graduation? If, then, a young lady comes to the College for a little self-improvement, let her enter upon an optional course, under proper advice of her teachers, in one of the departments of the school. But if she aspires to graduation, let her know that there is no royal road—she must matriculate and master one of the long and difficult lines of culture. Should she have special taste and ability for the Modern Languages let her thoroughly master a few of them, in a three years course, and receive her diploma. Should Classics be her chosen field, let her master them as a stepping stone to graduation. And so in the fields of Natural Science, Biblical Literature and other studies courses could properly be mapped out affording options in accord with the tastes and chosen vocations of the candidates. Music and Fine Arts require both theoretical and practical courses and examinations, the satisfactory completion of which ought to be rewarded with the laurel crown. The next principle of the higher education is that *character*, and not mere acquirement or skill or accomplishment, is to be kept constantly in view as the final goal of all instruction and discipline. The last principle is that in all the work of training and instruction, divine wisdom, inspiration, guidance and help are to be sought constantly from God.

Friends of Alma College, you have done well to erect, by your benevolent sacrifices and labors, so fine a structure as this, dedicated to the higher culture of woman. The first step is taken; the second is the efficient endowment of this College that it may build and equip a suitable Gymnasium, Library and Reading Room, thoroughly furnish its Fine Art department, and extend the dimensions of the main building, which promises to be a necessity in the near future. Providence has signally favored you in your efforts, and I regard myself as most fortunate in the character of the teachers you have chosen to be my associates. So far light has fallen on our pathway, and hope at the present hour sheds her effulgence upon us. Let us still unite our efforts and prayers that Alma College may become abundant in blessings to our country, and a praise and honor in all the earth.