

I have now a very pleasing duty to perform, that of returning thanks to the ladies for their presence on this occasion. There is not any class or body of men more deeply indebted to woman, more fully alive to her sweetening, beneficial and healthful sway, than are physicians. In all the scenes of pain, of sorrow, of sickness and of death, in which it is the physician's lot to daily mingle, he asks for no better assistant, he recognizes no more sympathizing & zealous fellow worker, than woman. It is her gentle presence, the touch of her soft hand, the melodious tones of her low voice, that soothe and cheer the sufferer, and recall him to life, or that make the death-bed easy. Her gentle and assiduous nursing, and her unceasing watchfulness have often proved effectual, in cases where all the physician's skill and science would otherwise have been of no avail. And in our happier moments, amid all the pleasures of social life, her presence and assistance are eagerly sought. I may truly say that the happiness of the graduates would be very greatly diminished, were the ladies absent from the Convocation; and if the delicacy and refinement of their sex will not allow them to mix in the rougher scenes of every-day life, we may be sure that whenever, by their presence, they add brilliancy to public proceedings, the occurrence which wins from them their smiles and approbation is no ordinary one.

Among the many influences which sway the heart and mind of man, and urge him on to undertake toil and endure privation, there is none more general or more powerful than that which the ladies have it in their power to exert. And when by such means he has achieved success and occupies a distinguished position, he finds his chief satisfaction is in being able to share that position with the gentle beings who are dear to him, and their approval his highest reward. Whatever may be the relations in which they stand to us, whether as mother, wife, sister, or sweet-heart, their influence with us is always potent. And as it is in the second of these relations that the ladies have most frequent opportunities of exercising their beneficial influence over the lives and happiness of men, so I trust that those among the ladies present who do not yet stand in that relation, and if I may judge from the many lovely and bright young faces that I see here, I should say they are not few in number, and I would congratulate all bachelors upon that fact, I trust that these young ladies will soon become the happy wives of happy men and fortunate M.Ds.

As the time to which I am limited is expiring, I will now say to our professors farewell. We will

carry with us affectionate recollections of happy days spent with them in our Alma Mater, and we will always look back with pride and gratification to the time when we sat under them as students, drinking deeply at the spring of medical knowledge, and guided and aided by their invaluable experience.

To you, classmates, I would return my warmest thanks for the distinction and honor which you have conferred upon me, and I would also convey to you the earnest assurance that the remembrance of my collegiate days passed among you will ever be reckoned among the dearest and happiest memories of my life.

And now, my fellow graduates, I will bid you one and all an affectionate farewell. We stand here to-day on the threshold of a new life. In a few moments we shall face the world our own masters, nothing undaunted by the heavy responsibilities we have but just now by the oath of office assumed; but confident in our strength and ability to carve a niche in the Temple of fame, and with bright anticipations of success casting a golden hue over our prospective careers. We ignore, to day, the sad experience of others who have toiled slowly and patiently along the path which we feel we could clear with a bound; we will not allow to ourselves that the world has its caprices, fortune her vicissitudes, friendship its insincerities; we will not permit these facts to appall us, or to cast their discouraging influences around us. We will enjoy to the full the triumph that to-day closes our academical career amid the cordial congratulations of relatives and friends and kindly acquaintances, and we will yield ourselves up to pleasant dreams of the future. But, gentlemen, if it should come to pass that those dreams are never to be realized, if it should happen, as no doubt it will to some of us, that our hearts should grow faint during the weary and protracted struggle on which we are now entering, when we find that our dearest and most cherished hopes, our highest and noblest aspirations, are doomed to disappointment and defeat, and great and unsparing toil on our part is but poorly acknowledged and but grudgingly rewarded, let us not even then abandon all hope, let us struggle against the feelings that may then oppress us, let us remember that as we are toiling and suffering, so have others before us toiled and suffered and conquered, as in the end we will conquer; and that there has never lived a man, whose success in life has ever excited the wonder or the envy of his fellow-beings, but has at some earlier portion of his career, felt despair gnawing at his very vitals. Once more, farewell.