

ACCORDING to established custom Thanksgiving Day was observed by the institutions on the Hill. This is, we believe, as it should be. The circumstances which render student life possible, as well as the special advantages which individual students enjoy during their college course, are surely worthy of commemoration. An acknowledgement of this fact may be seen in the topic chosen for an address by our President. This address we are pleased to note as an acceptable variation from the usual services. At 11 A. M. the members of the three institutions met in Assembly Hall to unite in a special Thanksgiving service. After singing, prayer, and reading of the Scriptures, the President of the College delivered an admirable discourse upon "Civilization." The inquiries made were chiefly concerning the real meaning of the term Civilization, and what it was necessary for a people or nation to possess before they could claim to be civilized. Morality and religion were named as the crowning virtues of a truly civilized people. The influence of the Bible in the work of civilization was a prominent feature in the address. In closing the speaker said:—"The best guide to the best civilization is the Bible." We understand that a Union Service of an interesting character was held in the village in the evening. Many of the students enjoyed the holiday at their homes, or in visiting their friends. To those who remained the dining hall was made unusually attractive. On the whole the day proved exceedingly enjoyable.

A SINGLE PURPOSE.

ENERGY is useful only when properly controlled and rightly applied. The mighty waters on their way from their mountain cradle to their ocean tomb may thus be made to subserve the interests of man; but these same waters—this same force let loose—bursting the barrier of banks will desolate the fairest valleys. The unused energy of one of earth's mighty rivers would provide motive power for all our machinery. The impossibility lies in our inability to apply this force when and where needed. Equally great rivers of intellectual power are flowing in this and other lands and accomplishing comparatively little, whilst an even greater impossibility arises in the attempt to husband this power and apply it to the solution of the problems of life. It belongs to the domain of Art, for cultivated

intellectual power to take possession of these giant natural forces. Not all can be secured at once, so fractions must be seized upon and applied to useful legitimate ends.

The latent force of the minds trained in our Universities must be truly great. The question arises, where are those whom nature prepared to shine in special spheres. Has not experience shown that much of this power has been frittered away by a single person attempting too many things? The necessity seems to be a concentration of each man's energies. There are but few geniuses whose capacities fit them to excel in every department, to stand in lonely grandeur; but there are thousands born who may become eminent in special professions. Lord Bacon says: "He that seeketh to be eminent amongst able men hath a great task; but this is ever good for the public; but he that plots to be the only figure amongst ciphers, is the decay of a whole age." Young men often grow old in listless apathy, simply because of hesitancy, which can in no wise be counted seeming modesty, in choosing some particular profession. An author often finds more difficulty in selecting his subject than in successfully working it out. So the man who has once made a distinct choice of life's work will find the practical difficulties disappearing. Imaginary foes are worse than real ones; and experience urges on every aspirant that "lowliness is young ambition's ladder," and honest effort ennobles every craft.

John Foster in his excellent essay on "Decision of Character" says: "A man without decision can never be said to belong to himself; he belongs to whatever can make capture of him." And again, "It is wonderful how even the casualties of life seem to bow to a spirit that will not bow to them. . . . The strong wind that blows out a taper, exasperates a powerful fire to an indefinite intensity." Throughout this essay he strives to enforce the necessity of bracing up our powers to grapple with distinct issues. This extended to all the phases of life gives rise to determined character. After a decision has been made the next thing desirable is persistency of effort for its fulfillment. But here caution may be necessary, lest prejudice be permitted to warp judgment, or superstition deter from honest investigation. It has been said, "In all superstition wise men follow fools," and it may be added that in all prejudice, men chase the phantoms of folly. Bacon says of men: "If they