

weakness of God is stronger than men. The churches greatest source of danger has ever been from within. The truth of God, when preserved and propagated in its purity, has not only been able to hold its ground, but has over-turned every opposing system.

This is an age in which it is said that the old reverence for the ministerial office has passed away. This is, perhaps to us, a benefit, and not a misfortune. We would not minimize the importance of our office, but we place little value on artificial respect paid to the office itself. If we are not able to abide the tests which are applied to other men we are unworthy of the office to which we aspire. The time has not yet come when earnestness and faithfulness in any profession is undervalued, and if ministers are not characterized by these their official dignity should not and will not preserve them from merit-contempt and reprobation.

There is this encouraging fact to those who are studying for the Christian ministry, that it is never full or overcrowded. It is not so in the other professions. There are lawyers, it is said, who remain for long and weary years before they obtain their maiden brief, and there are complaints that the medical profession is overstocked with candidates, but no one who has a right conception of the ministerial office will say that there are too many to preach the gospel of Christ. So long as sin remains on earth, and human hearts are oppressed with guilt, so long will the message of pardon and deliverance be welcomed and appreciated. And this is the work to which we have been called. In this work there can be no competition, and no rivalry on the part of those who engage in it.

Those who enter upon this work rightly, disclaim being influenced by mere mercenary or selfish motives; if this is really the case, we can afford to rejoice at the success of another as much as we would at our own. We have the advantage in going forth to our work in knowing what our instructions are. We have something definite to teach. Our marching orders are, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." The field is the world, and that field is ripe for the harvest. Never has there been a time so full of hope and encouragement to the church as the present. Almost every nation in the world is open to the reception of the gospel. And the facilities for travelling have annihilated distance, and have brought the furthest corners of the earth within easy reach of civilization. We cannot complain of not having work to do. The work is ready to our hands, and demands that we engage in it with all our powers. Into whatever sphere our lot may be cast, let us seek to fill it well. Let us judge it

"Far better in its place the lowliest bird,
Should sing aright to Him the lowliest song;
Than that a seraph strayed should take the word
And sing his glory wrong."

None of us can complain that we have been spoiled by luxury or wealth, and we will not thus be unfitted by our previous training for any hardships we may be called upon to endure in exercise of our vocation.

To the students who remain we bid you our formal though not final farewell as a graduating class. In view of the increased privileges you are about to enjoy, and the many good things in store for you in the coming years, we almost regret that we are not of your number, and feel as if we had graduated all too soon. But we must submit to the inevitable. The happy associations which

we have formed together must be broken through. No relationship on earth is permanent, and friendship itself is fleeting, but we are confident that in future years many pleasant memories will cluster around the days during which we mingled together within the halls of our Alma Mater. It is encouraging to those who are going forth from the institution to know that those who remain are men who will maintain if not excel the reputation which the college has hitherto attained.

We will not take it upon us to lecture you as to how you should fill up the remaining part of your college course. Your own sense of responsibility, as well as the high aims you have set before you, will lead you to make the best of your opportunities during your period of study.

To our professors we bid a kind farewell. The relations which have existed between the professors and students have been of the most agreeable kind. They have ever manifested in the progress of the students a watchful and friendly solicitude. They have borne with unwearied patience our obtuseness of understanding, and have administered instruction to us as we were able to take it in. They have led us through the intricate mazes of the learning of past ages, and, at the same time, have made us familiar with the latest phases of thought and speculation; while all their teaching has aimed at throwing light and meaning on the pages of the sacred Scriptures. Apart from their official duties they have exercised over us a healthful and beneficial influence, and the students have been led to look up to them as models of learning and of personal worth.

And, now, fellow graduates, we go forth upon the world to our great life work. We know not how it may fare with us in the battle of life; but of this we may be confident, that no faithful service will pass unnoticed or unrequited. There are higher achievements than that of attaining mere material success. Let us enjoy the reward of an approving conscience and the smile and benedictions of the Master Himself. With these let us rest content no matter what reception the world may give us.

And now we bid our Alma Mater a final farewell, and we pray that prosperity and peace may attend her future history, and that she may be blessed and made a blessing to the church and the world.

The Principal then presented diplomas to the seven members of the graduating class.

Rev. A. B. Mackay, of Crescent Street Church, (Lecturer in Rhetoric), delivered an impressive address to the Graduating Class. He spoke as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—You have finished a protracted course of training; you are about to set your hand to your life's work. The occasion is a solemn one, and well deserves some words of exhortation.

To begin with, you do well to remember that, however essential to your success in the ministry your past training will prove, it does not, of itself, constitute your title to engage in this sacred work. Our Presbyterian system, while maintaining tenaciously the importance of an educated, utterly repudiates the idea of a "man made" ministry. From this point in your career it puts you on probation, and calls upon you to make full proof of your ministry. With credit, or even with brilliancy, you may have passed through your literary and theological course, and yet be no true minister of the gospel. That depends on