

loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God ; for God is love."

Love, therefore, is the dominant, the essential, the vital principle of the religion of the Gospel. With this root-principle, even the ignorant and the rude have the life of Christ, and they will grow up into Him in all things and be conformed to His likeness, but without this germ of life all else must perish and be cast out.

This is the general truth of the New Testament, but the particular teaching of the text is that the larger the life, and powers, and resources dominated by the principle of love, the nobler is the spiritual development, and the more full of blessing to the world. It is very true that a man may be in good health without his limbs, and that he may have hands and feet and yet be helpless from weakness or disease ; but true physical well-being is not realized in either of these cases, but only in the man whose body is at once sound and perfect. In like manner, a man may be a true Christian, notwithstanding gross ignorance and rudeness, while he may have no true spiritual life though learned and refined. Yet the ideal of spiritual well-being is not realized in either of these cases, but rather in the man whose possibilities of knowledge and culture are developed, and whose love abounds more and more, consecrating body, soul and spirit to the glory of God his Saviour and the good of his brother man. Such a spiritual manhood as this has not only a heart, but also hands and feet.

This is the original idea of Christian culture. I have no new ideal for you. Eighteen centuries have passed since St. Paul set forth this ideal in his prayer for the people whom he seems to have loved the most. The times have changed since then, but human nature is the same ; its need is the same, and in our own day and all along the ages it has been proved that in the apprehension of the grace of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, there is the same power to lift men from their lowest degradation, and to exalt their highest accomplishments and attainments, and change them as the water into the wine.

This is the ideal of life I would present to you on this occasion, so full of interest in our college life ; this is the prayer that will follow you from your *Alma Mater* and from all who love you best. It would not give us pleasure to know that you had, each one of you, a giant's strength, if we thought you would use it like a giant. It would not give us pleasure to know that you had, each one of you, an inheritance of millions, if we feared you would use it in selfishness and self-indulgence, to oppress the poor and pamper your own lusts. And we would have but small satisfaction in thinking of the knowledge and culture you have gained in your student years, were it not for the good hope that you will use your superior advantages in the superior service of mankind and to the greater glory of the God of love.

The world was never in greater need than it is to-day of the help that only men who are at once wise, and strong, and loving, can give. The age seems to be on the verge of dissolution or of regeneration ; the old heavens and the old earth seem about to pass away. If this should be in strife and blood, it will be because love will not abound. But whether it be by revolution or by evolution, that changes come and the old heavens and old earth pass away, be it yours by every good word and work to help in the new heavens and the new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Men