

he knows. It is uncertain in how far he may either understand or be understood by the great crowd wending its way by different paths across this great area.

Such is the college—such is the world. To drop the figure, you have now closed a busy but somewhat narrow mode of life, and are about to enter on one incomparably wider in all respects. I think too well of you to believe that any one of your number quits the scene of four years of the most important, and not the least pleasant, part of his life's drama without a feeling akin to fond regret; or that he looks out upon the unknown future without a certain degree of anxiety and a sense of manhood's responsibilities, however hopeful he may be by nature, however keen his anticipations of success or bright his prospects.

It is a fact too little realized that we can never get rid of our past. We do to-day, each one of us, represent most accurately the past that belongs to ourselves and our ancestors, as we are determining hourly the character of posterity.

It follows, then, that, however your fortunes may vary, you must ever owe filial gratitude to your *Alma Mater*. The University has aimed to send you forth armed for the battle of life; and though she may have erred somewhat in her methods, you must give her credit for the best of motives.

This aspect of the subject has been discussed frequently, and I shall therefore for a brief space ask your attention to a few thoughts on the relations you sustain to the University by virtue of the fact that you are now a part—a very important part of the University herself. As undergraduates you could chiefly help the University by conforming to her regulations cheerfully and acquitting yourself to the best of your ability in the pursuit of your studies. Now, however, the day of pupilage is past, and you probably scarcely realize that you are not only each a reflector that should radiate the better light of university culture, but that you are now entitled to a voice in the government of the University. You are now at liberty to express your opinions on university matters, not only through the ordinary channels open to every one in a really free country, but also through the Graduates Society or any branches of it that may be formed. You