

A Message.

(Dr. Cutten completed five years' service as President of Acadia on February 1st. At the beginning of his sixth year he presents the following message to the student body. One of our grave Seniors has promised us an article on the progress of Acadia during the past five years. We hope to publish this in a succeeding issue.—Ed.)

In the College viewed from the standpoint of pure intellectual training, there is only one gospel, and only one sin. The gracious gospel is work; the unpardonable sin, idleness. Other sins may be tributary, but this alone is condemnatory. The idler is twice condemned, for he does not waste time in solitude. He ruins his own life and is condemned in damning others. He is the college parasite, the unproductive consumer. There are many forms of temptation, but no benevolent kind of sin. Idleness may be indulged under the guise of looking at a book, as well as by staring into vacancy; by over-indulgence in the harmless, as well as by dipping into the harmful; by over-emphasis of looks, as well as by under-valuation of books. Don't be misled by the brand.

The aim of college education is to teach one to undertake a task and to accomplish it in the best way. Curricula, courses, professors, and laboratories may hide the purpose, but this is really the idea. The college graduate who has not learned how to work has missed the kernel, even if he exhibits the husk to his friends. If habits of indolence are learned in college, a blessing has been turned into a curse.

Students have been known to complain that the professors have a prejudice against them; this is undoubtedly true. Professors do have prejudices against students of one class—that class is the idlers. If a student does his work faithfully, he may do whatever else he wishes and forgiveness is guaranteed. The only proof of his fidelity which can be accepted, however, is that he has neither time nor disposition to do things which need forgiveness. Work is not only a worthy accomplishment and a valuable employment, but a safe insurance.