

## ADVANTAGES OF A SMALL COLLEGE.

There is much discussion today about the question of college attendance. Should one go to college at all? Is it worth the while of a student seventeen or eighteen years of age to devote four years of his life to a college course? Is it profitable to delay entrance into business or a career for the time that must be spent in the completion of a college course? Is the result secured worth the investment of time and money in terms of self improvement and helpfulness to the community?

Granted that answer to these questions is in the affirmative and that the college does afford sufficient value to warrant attendance for four years, what college is to be selected? What are the rules that govern a student's selection of a college—rather should govern his selection? An investigation would show in many instances, I feel, that college selection is based on such things as friendship to other students attending college, athletic powers of an institution, ability to get into a certain college clique, or family tradition. None of these factors should be decried and all justly have their weight—but the real question to my mind is that the student should ask about a college is whether the college will do for him what he is desirous of effecting? If he is a student of genuine worth he will make a contribution to the college he selects, but will the college do for him in character and knowledge that he is seeking?

The facing of this question in all its bearings would obviate many failures in college and some failures in life through discouragements. It is not the purpose of this paper to discuss the types and kinds of courses offered in competing colleges, but to draw the general distinction between large and small and point out some advantages that the smaller type of college, regardless of its particular curriculum, gives. Not all large institutions are on a par as to the advantages they offer nor are the small colleges measuring up to the full to opportunities that their size and organization give them.

What then are the advantages that may be offered to the student by the small college?

First, the small colleges, as a rule, offer better opportunities for personal contacts between teachers and students. The strength of this reason will appeal to any person who has felt the influence and stimulus of a great teacher. It is our common experience that personalities live long after class-lessons are forgotten. The teachers of small colleges are often not as well equipped academically with degrees as their colleagues in larger institutions, but many of these men are well trained and in character and outlook are fit leaders of youth.

Secondly, the student in the small college has a good field open to him in various student activities. There are so many places on an athletic team, no matter how large an institution may be, these places on a debating team are limited in intercollegiate debating to a few of the best equipped men. It is true that the program of many large colleges provides for these activities for those not in intercollegiate sports by inter-class, inter-society, and inter-dormitory games.

Thirdly, the small college not only affords the opportunity for personal development by closer relation between the instructor and student and for the development of physical and mental powers through sharing in the program of student activities of many kind but it also affords a rich field for the enrichment of character the unfolding of life in its complex relationship. Here the small college stands or falls. It cannot compete in so many fields that here it must exert its greatest power. The ideal of the small college should be the production of a higher type of leadership in the spiritual aims and endeavors of the race. The attainment of the small college in terms of leadership produced is remarkable and surely a student could make no mistake if he aspires to leadership to put himself where the authorities in control are striving for this above all else.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter—a college wisely selected betokens a happy college experience.

Students should clearly know what they expect to do and should measure colleges by the purposes they have in mind. The small colleges of America exert a great influence in our national life and the advantages they offer deserve the closest examination by those selecting a college.—H. S. H.

## INTERSOCIETY PROGRAM FEATURE COMMENCEMENT BEGINNING.

The Commencement at A. C. C. opened Saturday evening, May 21st, with a very interesting program presented by the Hesperian and Alethian Literary Societies. With Harvey Brookbank, President of the Alethians, and Mary Mattox, Secretary of the Hesperians, serving as Chairman and Secretary respectively, the following program was given:

Song: "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me."

Devotional—Cecil Jarman.

College Calendar—Rose Tligham.

Vocal Selections—"Say Love What Will You Do?"—White.

"A. B. C."—Jno. Parry—Helen King and Bill Wiegman.

"Menu"—An original paper—Gladys Whitley.

Piano Duo—"Waltz"—Arensky Mary Harper and Margaret Barnes.

Reading—"The Faculty"—Original poem—Esther Cobb.

Play—"This is so Sudden"—Margaret Silverthorne, Eunice Aycock, Melba Gay, Hattie May Ricks, Elizabeth Wiggins.

Vocal Solo—"The World is Waiting for the Sunrise"—Eloise Howers.

Forewell—Gladys Whitley.

College Song.

## A DISCOURSE ON DYING.

I have always wished to write a discourse on dying. It seems most probable that a phenomena so universal would have fine possibilities as literary material. Then, too, it is a subject which gives free range to the imagination for no man may dispute one's opinion on the subject, since all those who have had the experience have learned the wisdom of silence.

I have another reason too, for liking my subject. It is the bogey man of most people. It is a fly in the most delicious bowl of soup, a tack in the softest and most comfortable chair or false teeth in a Venus. We see it as a nightmare in tempting sweet dreams. In a word, the thought of death steals the sweetness from life. It is a relentless Shylock, sure to get his pound of flesh.

Having let my mind play around the thought of *dying*, I began to wonder how different individuals would choose if they were permitted to select their own ways of dying. This thought, I have felt to be of such paramount value and such profound depth, that I have made intense effort for its development. I am determined to make a science of it. My method is Socratic, or dialectic. All whom I chance to meet in my searches, I startle by asking "Friend, if permitted thy choice as to thy method of dying, what kind of death wouldst thou choose?" Many laugh and pass me without answering. But others, lovely souls, imbued with a scientific appreciation for my research work answer obligingly. And such kind beings as these as we called the "Aids of the Famous Mrs. Trump" and they shall be worthily thanked in the preface to my book, "On the Science of Dying" which I shall no doubt complete in a few weeks, though I have not gone further than the title so far.

The first gentleman who recognized the solemnity of my question and who was of a mind to converse with me, introduced himself as Hugo Bonaparte, his name being taken, he said from his two uncles Victor Hugo and Napoleon Bonaparte. That I was well pleased to know a descendant of such distinguished ancestry, was inevitable. We chatted amiably for an hour or so, during which times I noted that he had a remarkable peculiarity, a horrible habit of thrusting his eyes outward, till it seemed that they surely would pop from their sockets and a strange manner of drawing his lips back over his teeth and thus exhibiting his gums. As to his choice of a manner of dying I will let you judge for yourself as to his tastes. He said that he would like to be choked to

death by a long nalled Chinaman with the provision that the nails be clean, and that the Chinaman be dressed in his native costume. When asked the reason for his strange choice, he explained that his only desire was to decrease picturesque and dramatically. The Chinaman in costume would supply the picturesque element, and the strangling (here his eyes were in danger of rolling down his cheek) would supply the drama. On account of its unusualness I left him assured that he was a man of connections and learned later that he was an escaped inmate of a hospital for the mentally deranged.

A young lady in an extremely short dress with very short hair, but a complexion so beautiful that it seemed almost unreal, told me briefly that she wanted to die sweetly and surrounded by people who held their tongues and didn't ask questions.

A young surgeon almost convinced me that no death could be more desirable than that caused by the swift, keen, delightful stroke of the surgical knife. That noble and suffering servant of his parents has in his soul a strong poetical urge. One sees it in his choice of death. He stands by his profession in death as well as in life.

The only other person who has answered my question is a middle aged Methodist minister. He would die, he said, if such was his master's desire, of old age—would fade from life slowly, painlessly after years of leading his wayward flock and go to take his funeral place in paradise. He would die with that life long friend, his Bible, in his feeble hands, and be turned in a marble sepulcher with an inscription that duly gave praise to his piety and Godliness.

I shall go on with my research and you will hear of the result soon.

Now that spring is upon us, a word of warning. Tho' love is blind, the neighbors are not.—Williamette Collegian.



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