

## From The Ends Spring New Beginnings

Today peace-loving humanity the world over stands aghast as Europe is drenched with the blood and tears of millions of its women and children. Age-old monuments and institutions, representing some thousands of years of contribution to world culture, face destruction. In this ancient land people are locked in battle with all the engines of modern war. Nations fight for Empire while others stubbornly defend their independence. From an episode in the Far East this war has extended into a bloody conflict perhaps of years. From a series of insignificant skirmishes it has spread into vast battle-lines along hundred-mile fronts. Productive and peaceful regions are occupied by invading armies. Shifting battle-lines have made thousands homeless. Bombings of densely populated cities have killed hundreds; brought desolation to thousands more. Rich provinces have been laid waste; prosperous cities reduced to ashes. Such is the gruesome picture of wartorn Europe today.

What is behind this war so charged with meaning for the peoples of all nations? And how does this war have any connections with the graduating class of 1940 in peaceful America today?

Time will tell. For any attempt to decipher the menacing conditions that are spreading like wild-fire is conjecture. But to the world at large there is a definite meaning that would take its toll on our economic, social, political, and possibly religious institutions. The fashion of this war expresses utter disregard for ethics, and the distasteful retrogression to might as the supreme ruler. Already this

country is feeling the effects of the European slaughter-house in its tobacco and cotton markets in its many avenues of commerce and trade. As a matter of fact, traveling abroad has become a jeopardy to be reckoned with, and even our mails have been molested. It is imperative, then, for a class graduating at this crucial period of the bloodiest era in our history to glance with understanding eyes at the turmoil and general disorder of the world today. We are touched by the unkind hands of the drastic changes constantly at work in the universe at present. And as Negroes we sincerely hope that it will not be for the worse. Although most of us were born in the wake of the last war, we are aware of the Negroes' plight in this country in the period immediately following it. But despite these many factors that breed pessimism, we are, by virtue of our training, optimistic in spirit. And we trust that from the ultimate ends that follow this war, would spring new beginnings of a sunny nature: not only in the eld of science, of art, and literature but also in the sane relationship among men.

In the past four years we too have undergone a change in life slightly tumultuous in nature. We have lived and learned by actual experiences in this little community. We know better than any group what a vital factor understanding is to maintain harmonious relationship. We know what cooperation is to success. We know that sticking to the grindstone is to accomplishment. As Negroes, smitten by the plague of segregation, we have felt the unmanliness of being dependent and subservient to