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## LET THERE BE LIGHT

The following extracts are from an address delivered by Mr. John A. Oates at the Commencement Exercises of Mars Hill College. It is realized that in thus breaking up the address the full purport of the message will not be grasped, but the meaning and beauty of the following passages are so significant that we take the liberty of printing them.

After commenting upon his first trip to Mars Hill College, his search for a suitable subject, his choosing the subject **LET THERE BE LIGHT**, he continued by saying:

"When God pressed the button of his power, the forces of nature responded in a glow of light. He established the first great principle of the Universe—that is, **THAT LIGHT IS ESSENTIAL**.

"There's not any declaration that God made darkness—darkness didn't have to be made—it existed—it is not a force, but the absence of a force. Remember, please, that darkness never drives out light; light is never driven anywhere; but when it moves out, darkness occupies the space. The task of light is universal and everlasting. We are told that in the world that is to be there will be no darkness, and just so far as we drive out darkness in this world, we make a heaven here on earth. God will take care of the light business hereafter; He expects us to look after it here. . . .

"The primary agencies of light are: The Home, The Church, The School, Society, Nature. This is a five-pointed star that must shine through the darkest night lest the wayfarer lose his way.

"The first is the most important. It is like the foundation stone of a building. It is God's first institution, established in the very morning of time and never abrogated. You fathers and mothers cannot run a home in a Ford car or a moving picture show—I have no kick with either of these—a Ford has done me good service when a Packard failed, and the movies have furnished me many an hour of fun and information—but neither is a good nursery.

"The church stands today at the cross roads of history. The signboards of God have been lettered with the blood of four thousand years. The light of Sinai and Calvary shines full upon the way. A world on national hate, of class hate, of commercial hate is groping in the dark. Which way will the church go? Will it spend itself on creeds and ceremonies and self contentment, or will it follow the leadership of the founder, the Master of men, and apply itself to transform men to the task of human betterment?

"Another light-house is the school. The schools are, in their work, divided into three distinct classes—the fundamental, the cultural, and the vocational or technical.

"It is the duty of the state to provide the fundamental with equal privilege to every child in the state. It is my deliberate opinion that North Carolina as a state owes it to every child in the state to fix a standard of educational opportunity and then provide it regardless of whether that child is in the city or in the country or from a rich county or a poor one.

"Each new day brings a new task and calls for new opinions and new methods to perform the task. In this opened struggle for the race, let me sing with the poet:

We rise on stepping stones of our dead selves  
To higher things.

"God and right and eternity will never change; unto these I have tried to anchor my small boat in the midst of the storms of life; to you, young torch-bearers, permit me to say in farewell—**'Let There Be Light.'**"

## The Honor System

Let me say in the beginning that it is not my intention in writing this article to have any student change his mind in regard to the Honor System as it now exists. It is my desire to express my feelings and to make an explanation for the stand that I have taken in regard to the system.

The Honor System, as explained by a member of the faculty, means that the teacher may come into the class room, put the examination on the board and then leave the room. The student at the end of the examination is to sign the following pledge: "I have neither given nor received aid on this examination; neither have I seen any other student giving or receiving aid." If the student has given, received or seen anyone give or receive he is to change the words of the pledge so as to indicate such.

Very few people have ever questioned the first clause of this pledge. A person can conscientiously sign his name to that part of the pledge because he knows for a certainty whether he has cheated. But can he be sure about the latter clause? When a student's eyes wander toward the paper of the one at his side, does that mean that he is receiving aid? Is it my duty to report him? If I should think a person was cheating and report him, and then he prove to be innocent, would his character be questioned? Would my character be questioned? These are a few of the many questions that arise when one considers the latter clause of the pledge.

Sometimes when a student is really thinking he will let his eyes wander about over the room, or perhaps set them toward some object. In reality, he is not seeing the things before his eyes; but if the person sitting near him notices his eyes set toward the paper of another student, he is sure to believe that cheating is taking place. In a case of this kind it is not fair to either the one doing the reporting or to the one reported to have the latter clause in the pledge. Nine of ten times the person suspected of cheating would be guilty of dishonesty, but perhaps the tenth person would be innocent. Let him be the one to say whether he has cheated. In all probability, if he has received aid, he will deny the fact. In a case of that kind, if the accused has a better reputation than the accuser, the latter will be branded as untruthful. As an illustration I will give a true occurrence which took place recently. A student who was held as one of the finest, most honest, Christian gentlemen of the entire student body last year was accused cheating by a girl of less important position. The minute I heard the report I felt angry toward the girl. I could not believe her because I had more confidence in the person she was accusing than I had in her. There was no other person to corroborate her accusation. This year the young man in question has advanced to a position of honor. His word would probably stand with that of even the members of the faculty. But since school has opened this year, I have seen him doing what I thought was cheating. I am not sure that he cheated; yet it appeared to be so. If I had reported him, and if I had signed the pledge as it now stands, I would have been forced to say that in all probability he had cheated. I might have reported an innocent person. Even if he is guilty I can only accuse him. I have no other person by whom I can prove that he has been dishonest this year. Then if I make an accusation against him, I will be giving the world a chance to question his character and also mine.

It is my desire to help promote honesty, honor, truthfulness and all like virtues; but I cannot attach my name to a questionable clause that may be the means of blotting the name of some innocent person. I care not how many questions one may ask me to answer, in a pledge, in regard to my own honesty, but let my fellowman speak for his own heart. The clause in question is absolutely too strict in its present

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## WORK

Some one has said, "A college is a loafing place for the majority of students." If this one should come to Mars Hill, his opinion would be changed. Mars Hill College has no place for the young man or woman who doesn't have enough "grit" to work and assume some responsibility of college life. It is an honor to work at Mars Hill.

The students do the cooking, waiting on tables, washing of dishes, janitor work, and help in the general maintenance of the college proper. There are also three student industries: The College Pressing and Cleaning Club, The College Photo Shop, and The College Barber Shop. These furnish twelve young men work which enables them to remain in school and pursue the regular course of study. It is a happy and jolly bunch of "workers" you will find at Mars Hill. Before the close of last term Mrs. Shaw, our dietitian, gave a very enjoyable banquet to the workers." During the banquet Mr. Moore, our beloved president, made a very appropriate speech in which he made this statement: "Work hard all the days of your life, young men and women, and success will come out yonder." Observation through his thirty years of service at Mars Hill prompted such a statement.

—B. M. Canup

## SUNSHINE IN THE SHADOWS

Why should one love and not be loved? This is the question that comes to more than one sooner or later. The heart beats itself nearly lifeless against its own prison walls and at last frees itself. It takes its flight to castles high and lifted up only to find every door closed against it. It takes up its flight again and again in search of a haven only to return weary after a fruitless attempt to gain its victory. Falling prostrate upon its prison floor pierced through with many arrows, it cries out for mercy and peace.

The keepers in the palaces have been accused of shutting my heart out in a cold and unfriendly world. The clouds gather and the shadows fall until every ray of hope seems to be gone. But hark! A small voice speaks, "Lift up thyself from thy prison floor and look through thy veil of tears and see that the world needs you. It is dying for true love, but your time has not yet come. Wait thou in patience."

Again my heart is stilled and flutters out of its prison to greater heights than before. The world seems larger; the sun shines brighter; yet there is no resting place.

At last, I have seen the meaning, the full meaning of it all, though I could not at first. I had been too eager and too impatient to wait upon God. It was the great Keeper of the Universe Himself who closed the gates against my heart that it might be kept out of a still greater prison; that it might grow larger; that it might sustain other souls from its greater depths.

J. B. Bolt.

form to have the moral support of all the people. It should be amended or ended. At any rate, give a person freedom of conscience.

—Geo. T. Greenway.

## EXCHANGE

This is to thank each of you who contributed in increasing our list of exchanges. We especially appreciate our new exchanges and earnestly hope that the number steadily increases.

Charity and Children, we especially appreciate the brief editorial comment given us last issue. Such encouragement is inspirational to a better publication.

We gratefully acknowledge the following exchanges: Old Gold and Black; Wake Forest College; Chowan College; The Orange and Blount; Carson-Newman College; The Holy Furman University; The Magnet, Baptist Bible Institute; The Rambler; Charlotte Central High School; Owl and Spade, Asheville, F. A. School; The Chilhowee Echoes, Hailson Chilhowee Institute; The Rollin Hillian, Alexander Schools, Inc.; Indian Leader, Haskel Institute; Sanatorium Sun, Sanatorium, N. C.

## October! C-11's! Bailey

What more is needed for a delightful first hike of the term than a gorgeous October day, fifty energetic young people, and a tall mountain climb? Saturday morning, October the C-11 class enjoyed its first outing. Evidently we were not quite accustomed to the pleasure, or were so excited, or had "our minds on high things" as our sponsor remarked; forgot part of our lunch and had to send back for it. We had, however, the whole day before us, and the day was not regretted.

Those who have been on Bailey know the joy of the climb and the inspiration of the view. After our plentiful lunch we had extemporaneous speeches by different members of the class, special "uke" selections and songs. "Sh" Strickland received the prize for telling the biggest original lie. Our sponsor, Mr. Stringfield, talked to us for a few minutes. He talked on some of our future plans for class work, for gift of service to the school, and mark we are making before our fellow classmates.

The slight rain as we came home did not dampen our spirits, for the day was well spent for all.

## I FORGOT

When I was out a little chap,  
A little eight year tot,  
They wanted me to say a speech;  
I tried, but I forgot.

In eight more years I was sixteen  
The age to plan and plot.  
I tried to speak before a crowd—  
I sputtered, then forgot.

At twenty-eight, in politics,  
I thought I'd cast my lot;  
But when time came to make a speech  
My platform I forgot.

I'm older now; my hair is gray.  
I'm sailing on death's yacht.  
I could have been a greater man  
If I had not forgot.

—Geo. T. Greenway.

I owe all my success in life to  
ing been always a quarter of an  
beforehand.—Lord Nelson.

The darkest hour in any man's  
is when he sits down to plan he  
get money without earning it.—H. Mann.

Point thy tongue on the an  
truth.—Pindar.