

THE HEAD AND THE HAND. The Practical Side of College Life—Problem of the Day.

ANNIVERSARY ORATION BEFORE THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA. DELIVERED JUNE 23, 1886, BY THE HON. RAMP P. BATTLE, LL. D., PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

It is with mingled feelings that I am before you to-day. It is a source of pride to me and my friends that I am allowed to stand where once stood, in all the plenitude of their fame and intrinsic greatness your Thoreau and Freelon.

My distrust in my ability to stand with credit the friendly criticism of such celebrations as this might have kept me at home, but for my settled conviction that I should not decline opportunities to influence for good the young people of our land.

EVERY MAN MUST MAKE HIS OWN WAY IN THE WORLD. I say advisedly, on a similar, not on the same journey. Nullum in via est idem in a law which is applicable to all the facts of life.

Every man who is made at all is a special man. The extravagant praise given to the greatest heroes of the world, the college training, is especially in America, all wrong.

You will see that I am of opinion that college bred men and among the most successful students, have the best chance of success in life. This is undoubtedly true, as a rule.

But experience, rightly interpreted, shows that college training is an advantage of very great value. It gives a better start in life. It furnishes weapons of superior temper which will help you to conquer the wilderness; but they are only weapons. They will rust and lose edge with idleness, and the more active competitor, with his blacksmith-forged, hand-made implements, will wear his own weapons and gain the crown of victory.

THE END OF LIFE. We must confess, however, that the training which leads to success is of ten gained elsewhere than in college, and we must discuss this question fairly and candidly. The friends of learning do their cause much harm by not frankly admitting this; by not recognizing that a valuable education can be had without a knowledge of books.

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both for strength and quickness of action, are doubled, tripled, quadrupled. The trained athlete is twice, three, four times the man he was before beginning his training.

It is similar with animals. "Maud S." before the trainer took charge of her, was a three-minute horse, worth a few hundred dollars. When her muscles are taught to move so quickly as to stride over the mile in 2.08 she brings \$50,000. The hunter who strides over a three-foot fence has little value, but deep is the purse which can secure him when trained to fly like a deer over a five-barred gate in a glorious steeplechase.

THE ADVANTAGES OF EDUCATION. The chief value of education is therefore not an accumulation of facts, though they are important, but trained, athletic minds. We have among us living proofs of this great truth. The Southern officers trained at West Point, when, after their gallant struggle against fate, they were forced to take themselves to peaceful pursuits, found themselves barred out of the profession for which they were peculiarly fitted.

But while the discipline of the mind is the chief aim of your college training, it should be the greatest benefit of the modern system admits and encourages acquisitions of knowledge of direct usefulness in our pursuits in life. At any rate we are allowed to put into our intellectual store room their axioms, the fundamental truths, the first principles, leaving to future industry in special callings to build upon those foundations.

And, in addition to these, we should accumulate such general principles of the natural sciences and such facts of history and knowledge of literature and cultivation of taste in art as will serve as for illustration in our speech and writings, and for recreation in our leisure; as will prevent that hardening into distortion, and narrowing into permanent contraction, which comes from too severe application to one department of study or of work.

You will see that I am of opinion that college bred men and among the most successful students, have the best chance of success in life. This is undoubtedly true, as a rule. The traveler who rises early and goes on his way with few precautions for his journey, is not likely to be behind when the sun goes down. I have observed carefully the students of our time, and the winning of prizes in after life by the faithful have been sufficiently uniform to give no encouragement to the idle and listless. I have seen in our Supreme Court all the Judges "first honor men" from Chapel Hill. Our two Senators, our Governor and two of the present Judges of the Supreme Court are of the best in their classes.

The warrior Lee, who gained greatest fame in our recent struggle, who will go down to history as pre-eminent in science and skill, who appears to me the most perfect public man of our time, was one of the best scholars at West Point, while Gladstone, the greatest of all English statesmen, was senior wrangler at Oxford. The best West Point scholars, as a rule, were able and useful officers in the late war. Grant, Jackson, Sheridan, were near the middle of their classes, it is true, but such is the severity of the training at the military academy that this proves a high degree of culture. The ordinary lazy college student is immensely below even "Wooden-spoon" of West Point.

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in a grab bag and pull out the first thing his fingers touch? Would the owners of your beautiful valleys and hill-sides, destined at no distant day, I verily believe, to be one of the garden spots of the world, be any less sagacious or successful if they should learn the principles of geology and mineralogy, so that they could make intelligent research for the vast treasures which lie under the ground, and which, if you are not careful, will go to enrich some cunning speculator?

THE PRACTICAL AND THE THEORETICAL. And so notice the wonderful dexterity acquired by the body. Watch the rapidly flying fingers over the key-board of a piano by a great performer, the marvelous rapidity of a practiced type-setter, the delicate outlining of the engraver. Old men have told me that the task for a cotton picker was, seventy years ago, sixty pounds a day. Men in my State have in a rice pocked out 800 pounds, while 250 and 300 pounds are common for first rate men.

WHAT SHALL BE THE NATURE OF THIS FARMER'S EDUCATION? Shall it be a broad culture such as will enable him to take his part among other educated men or shall the farmer confess his inferiority to other professional men? Shall he add to a general education the peculiar knowledge needed for his business, or shall he possess only a one-sided technical culture? Lawyers, physicians, divines, civil engineers, statesmen, build their special technical culture on the foundation of broad, general culture. Shall the farmer act as they do?

ALL WORKINGMEN SHOULD BE EDUCATED. I have already indicated one of these problems—that of the higher education of the agriculturists and mechanics of the country—and have advocated a broad, liberal culture. Another is the education of the laborers, colored as well as white. In my opinion, sound policy demands this also.

THE DANGERS OF CENTRALIZATION. Another great mission before the educated Southron is the preservation of this Government from the tendencies to consolidation. The General Government is strong enough to take care of its own rights. Under the passions and necessities, real or supposed, of the civil war, and the resulting problems following its close, as well as the natural dependence on the General Government felt by the new States in consequence of their deriving so much unearned wealth from its land office, and the like dependence felt by some of the older States on account of the wealth poured into their bosoms by protective tariffs, there have been such departures from the ancient moorings as should make Patrick Henry's eloquence resound from the grave, and even Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay to dispatch a revised Federalist from the realms of the spirit land. State banks have been crushed in order to establish a grand national banking system throughout the Union.

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Many of those who have come down to settle among us, boasting of their improved methods and machinery, have come to grief. You pass by one year and hear snarers at our ignorance, and bragging of two bales to the acre and countless loads of clover on sandy land. The next year the rusted machines are being scattered to the music of the sheriff's hammer, and the boaster is going to Hyperborean regions. But though our best planters are fully abreast with the most advanced agriculturist, there are many sad instances of deficiencies.

INTELLIGENT LABOR NEEDED IN THE FIELDS. We cannot improve our advantages, use labor-saving machinery, adopt intelligent rotation of crops, enter on the intensive system of agriculture, in fine, make the maximum agricultural production, unless we have a more intelligent labor, and that labor is the negro. We have no other, and I believe we want no other. The talk of colonization is the merest bubble. Such a stupendous enterprise as the forcible transfer of five millions of people to distant lands was never thought of by even the Assyrian, or Roman, or Persian, or Macedonian despot of old times. It is preposterous in Republican America.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS. I am a friend to industrial schools. I believe that hand education is a good adjunct to head education. Dexterity of manipulation, accuracy of eye, sensitiveness of touch, agility and strength should be taught in all schools from childhood up to the kindergarten to the university. The student should be trained to use truly all his bodily functions. Such training should be a part of the graded and all other schools. In other words, let the body receive its general education just as the mind, and then all the boys and girls of the State will be ready to go each into his or her special calling. The State cannot provide schools for teaching all the trades of the State. To favor some over others is unequal, and inequality is injustice.

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blem. A large mass of ignorant votes leads to one of the following results: Either their confidence must be gained by the ruling classes or there will be bribery, or deception, or intimidation. These last injure the corrupter as well as the corrupted; the bribe-giver as well as the bribe-taker. This great problem needs careful, conscientious study. It is needless to say that in my opinion our safety lies in winning the confidence of the voters.

There are other problems of great magnitude awaiting us—such as the necessity of diversifying our employments by the introduction of manufacturing, the regulation of the railroads, which are the highways of the country, bi-metalism, the connection of telegraphic systems with our postal system, the basis of the national banks, which you young men must face. Prepare to meet all the difficulties of the future with intelligence, with courage, with honesty. We old men will soon leave the ship of State to be managed by you. Let the glorious fabric shall, in undiminished, ever-increasing glory carry through tempest and storm its precious freight. Liberty and Law, yours shall be the exceeding great reward. But if it shall ignominiously perish on the rocks of anarchy; if liberty shall become licentiousness, and law the engine of oppression, the wicked and the strong, then of your heads will fall the disgrace and the terrible ruin.

How to Keep a Situation. The following bit of good advice is for the workman, and is worthy the attention to all our readers: Lay it down as a foundation rule that you will be "faithful in that which is least." Pick up the loose nails, bits of twine, and clean wrapping-paper, and put them in their places. Be ready to throw in an odd hour or half-hour's time when it will be an accommodation, and don't seem to make a merit of it. Do it heartily. Those who do not a word to be sure your employer will make a note of it. Make yourself indispensable to him, and he will lose many of the opposite kind before he will part with you.

France and the Princes. The Republican French Government have ordered all the pretensions of imperial and royal, to the Crown of France, to quit the country. The Comte de Paris now unites in himself the rival pretensions of the Bourbon and Orleans branches of the old royal line. He is a well-meaning man, and a clever one, as his life and published works show. If called to the throne of France he would doubtless make a respectable name for himself as a monarch. But France has been fitted up as a republic, and were it not for the crushing debt she labors under, due to the German indemnity, she would be as prosperous as any nation in Europe. The republic was originally a compromise, because France could not make up its mind as to the rival claims of the royal and imperial factions. At the head of the latter is Prince Napoleon, nicknamed "Plouffe," a man of parts, but very erratic. The expulsion of these standing claimants for the headship of France has been criticized as an evidence of weakness on the Republican Government. A really popular ruling authority ought, it is argued, to be able to ignore pretensions to a throne which the people have willed should not exist. The conduct of the United States is recalled, after it put down the rebellion. It neither punished, despoiled, nor banished any of the rebels. It was wise enough and strong enough to restore them to full citizenship. But then France is not the United States, nor are Frenchmen Americans.

THE CHICAGO, CINCINNATI & CHARLOTTE RAILROAD. The Chicago, Cincinnati & Charleston railroad has a strong force of hands laying track. They have laid down five miles of track. The rail is a splendid steel one and a fraction heavier than the Air-Line railroad. H. Taylor, who is superintending the laying of the track, is an efficient man, and is doing the work well and is well equipped for the services as the C. C. & C. railroad always is. They have purchased a splendid locomotive which is run by Mr. George Moring, who is a skillful engineer, who is venturing across the high trestles and bridges with this rule in mind and conviction, compromise, mutual respect, harmony will result. Let either side abandon this rule, let coercion be tempted by either, and the flood of evil is opened. Coercion is the war, and war is the worst of horrors.

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