

Calls College Life "Trivial"

College life is "trivial" and college students "live in a fog," according to Dr. W. H. P. Faunce, President of Brown University, who discusses educational problems in a book of lectures entitled "Facing Life," just published by the Macmillan Company.

"The trouble with college life is not that it is vicious, but that it is so often trivial," he writes. "These student 'activities'—musical, dramatic, social, athletic—have we ever seriously appraised them and decided how many of them are worth while? Some of them afford a fine training for after life and some of them are a mere frittering away of time and energy into utter futility.

"Does any serious man think that the comic (?) monthly published by many colleges is worth what it costs the producers? Are the innumerable organizations which figure in the college 'annual' representative of any real facts, and would the college be poorer if most of them were decently interred? The danger in American colleges is not that students will become false-hearted, but that they will become scatter-brained.

"Many students live in a fog, groping about in a curious vagueness and irresponsibly. They cannot tell how much money they borrowed last week nor when the debt comes due."

The social life of college, he declares, "unfits our students for either work of play. It is exhausting to purses and nerves, devitalizing to mind and character. Any limit as to hours and expenditure or garb or manner is resented as a puritanical restriction suited only to a kindergarten."

"The rigidly denominational college faces added problems," he holds, in that it "will find difficulty in remaining Christian."

"The college that demands a Congregationalist chemist or an Episcopalian teacher of Greek," he declares, "is, of course, subordinating ability and character in its teaching staff to the necessities of denominational propaganda and cannot hope for the confidence of the public. That is not the way to make education Christian."

Removing Roadside Signs

(New York Times)

To the credit of the billboard industry it must be said that it has done much to improve the appearance of roadside signs. But what the public demands is not so much improvement of quality as restriction of quantity. People wish existing signs removed and no others, whether beautiful or not, put in their place. This is an idea which has spread far and wide throughout the country. It has the support not only of countless civic organizations, but of national advertisers as well. It represents a definite sentiment of the American people that the country roads must no longer be defaced by billboards, no matter how "artistic" or how unobtrusively placed. There has been a marked growth of public opinion during the last few years since the anti-billboard campaign was started. The movement is as yet only in its infancy, but it is "going strong."

The hats worn by Mrs. Hoover and Mrs. Smith will probably influence the woman vote more than the speeches of the two candidates.—Louisville Times.

Governor Smith as Leader

(New York World)

In New York and its neighboring states the great majority of people, Republicans and Democrats alike, are immune to the whispering campaign because the career and personality of Gov. Smith are so well established in their minds. But in the rural districts and in the small towns, especially among men and women who live narrow and secluded lives, the conception of Gov. Smith is as fantastically unreal as if he were a Hottentot chieftain. That unreal conception cannot be supplanted with a true conception by exposing the slanders of the Whites, the Stratons and the rest. It can be done only by establishing Gov. Smith as an authentic leader on issues of genuine importance. That task should, in our opinion, have begun at least a year ago.

That course was not pursued, and now on the eighteenth of September the campaign to establish Gov. Smith will begin. It deserves to succeed. The country needs the renewal of its ancient faith in human brotherhood which the election of Gov. Smith would signify. The character of the campaign which the Republicans have not only tolerated but in the person of Mrs. Willebrandt have authorized ought to defeat them. No party ought to win in this country which asks for organized sectarian help. The precedent is evil, the wounds which it inflicts upon the fellowship of American life are deep. It is time, moreover, that the base of the American democracy was broadened to include all the races and religions of which it is composed. It is time to renew the faith that the humblest may by his merits aspire to the highest. It is time that the unprivileged had a voice at the seat of government. Gov. Smith symbolizes these hopes. He has now to demonstrate that he is the leader of a party.

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