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THE VOCATION OF SERVICE

BY DR. WILLIAM WALLACE YOUNGSON OF *Portland, Oregon*



THE following splendid article constituted our baccalaureate sermon at commencement last June. Owing to circumstances we were unable to publish it in our last issue. It would be hard to imagine a more effectively delivered sermon. Among other things, Dr. Youngson said:

There was a time when a man was great as he conquered something—as he strutted about with sword and plume. In another age he was great as he discovered something, as he widened the human horizon. In another age he was great as he invented something and increased commerce. In the age of wheels and machinery, which is rapidly passing, he was great who combined things and lifted himself to the pinnacle of the millionaire.

It is the glory of our time that the "vocation of service" is coming to outrank them all. The device on the banner borne by the grand army of youth, as it marches through this great twentieth century, is not "excelsior," some form of self-exaltation, but "I serve."

Perhaps the heroic centuries have all passed. Oh! to have lived a hundred years ago when the struggle for human liberty was on, or to have witnessed the springtime of the modern world in the Renaissance, but listen!

"We are living, we are moving,
In a grand and awful time,
In an age on ages telling
To the living is sublime."

That world into which you are moving is as big with history and fascination and possibility as any age of the past. The human problem has only been fairly stated, not solved. Now it will be our task to help build a new civilization strong as the old, but fair and beautiful by the qualities of mercy.

Civilization grows like the coral island of the sea resting securely on the past yet appropriating new material from the currents that flow