

# VALEDICTORY--A LINK IN LIFE

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**F**RIENDS and classmates: It is with mingled feelings of pride, sorrow, and joy, that I attempt to perform the ceremony that binds us together for the last time as students in the school which has been our home for many years. In a few hours we shall no longer be connected with the graded system of this institution; but while we are yet a part of it we wish to assure you that your presence here is an inspiration to us.

Receiving our diplomas does not mean that we have acquired all the knowledge that is expected of us, but is merely evidence of the completion of a link in our educational life, the first link, for life may be compared to many links, or it may be compared to a large river flowing to the sea. Beginning from the mouth we trace it back many miles to a certain beginning, perhaps a tiny spring or a pool in the mountains. So it is with us. It seems now, we trace our lives to the day we proudly entered the kindergarten or primary department of this school, or some other, and became a part of it. How hopefully we started toward that great ocean of life! Perhaps we would not have been so hopeful had we known all the rocks that lay in our way; but we bravely surmounted each one the best we could as we came to it and at every conflict became stronger and more fitted to overcome the next step, until at last we have reached the outlet of quite a brook and are ready to enter the deeper channel.

Commencement time is truly a beginning of new duties, of new responsibilities, of new cares, and new friends. The completion of every link in one's life widens the horizon, broadens the scope, and should inspire each one with new energy and new ideals of life. While we have yet much to accomplish none of us should think for a moment that the light of intelligence is stronger in our beings than in others; but with the knowledge we have gained, and with perseverance, we can continue to improve and obtain a place in business and society that will be a source of pride to our parents, our teachers, and our classmates.

The problem of success is a problem that must be solved by each one or life is a failure. Character should be above all things a synonym of success. It is the most valuable asset a youth ever acquires. Without it he is poor, though he may have amassed a fortune. Every youth then should know that it is his sacred duty to make character the basis of life. Anything short of this cheats life of its highest attainment and