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Wednesday, January 19, 1910

The True Value of a College Education

When Professor Howe said in Assembly last week that college was play at life, he was correct. But when he said that this play did the student no good, when he insisted that the real good in college was the dry specific knowledge found in text books, inferring thereby that the student at college learns a rule and formula for doing everything that confronts him in after life, he was mistaken.

No one but a college professor values the specific instruction given at college. No business man will give credit for text book knowledge and no true student needs the services of an antiquated, outworn professor in mastering such knowledge. Almost every man that has amounted to anything, studied things out for himself and his motive was simply curiosity—the desire to explore nature's secrets; it was not to get a "summa cum laude" or a worthless degree at some seat of "outworn creeds and ancient prejudices" as Professor Howe would have us do.

The function of college is not to pump a man full of knowledge. Neither is it to make him a thorough business man, a finished lawyer, or a newspaper man. Professor Howe is right when he says these things can be learned without college.

The true value of a college education is to broaden a man's ideas, to give him a wider grasp of the life before him; that he may be able, not to look upon every problem as something known to him through past experience, but to grapple with the new problems that will confront him every day. To get this ability, it is true, he must be a student—not necessarily a student of text books, but a student. He may get "A" grades or he may get "D" grades, depending upon his temperament—whether he seeks exact details or deals in generalities. But he must be a student and his observations must be weighed, not in the narrow atmosphere of the home, but in the tolerant intellectual environment of the club, fraternity, dormitory, or lecture room.

That is what gives to college its peculiar value. This is what makes the college graduate the master of men. This is why few students get much out of a college course taken in their own little home town.

A student can "grind" at home without college just as well as he can do the other things Professor Howe mentions at home. In a future issue we may say something concerning the relative merits of these two incidentals in college education, but space will not permit it now. We have simply pointed out that neither "side show" (as both really are) is the important and essential element.

We do not mean these remarks in a personal way. We know that Professor Howe does not follow the idea he has set forth. He does not en-

CHRISTIANIZED WORLD IS CONVENTION SLOGAN

BROWN TELLS OF GREAT MOVEMENT LAUNCHED AT ROCHESTER

(By E. M. Brown, General Secretary of the Yniversity Y. M. C. A.)

The greatest student gathering in the world was The International Students' Volunteer Convention that was held at Rochester, New York, during the Christmas holidays.

On Wednesday, the opening day of the Convention, special trains from all parts of the country began to pour students into the city. From Iowa and Illinois came a "special" of thirteen Pullman coaches, every one full to the last berth. Western Canada, Minnesota and the Dakotas filled another "special," the Southwestern states, another, and every section of North America had its representatives in large numbers, helping to swell the great crowd that swarmed the streets.

In spite of the cold weather, the Convention hall—arranged to seat over four thousand—was jammed full at every session; and, for the evening sessions, as many as seven hundred people were turned away to attend the overflow meeting that was held in the largest church of the city. There were in all 2678 registered student delegates, 329 faculty representatives, 78 provincial secretaries, 95 secretaries of Mission Boards, 105 Y. M. C. A. secretaries, 165 missionaries, besides more than half a hundred leaders and speakers for this occasion. John R. Mott, said by Roosevelt to be one of the two greatest executives in the world, and the man who is at the head of the Volunteer movement, presided at the meetings. Robert E. Speer, of the Presbyterian Mission Board, Bishop McDowell, of the Methodist Church, Bishop Hartzell, who has spent thirty years in Africa, Dr. S. M. Zwemer, said to be the best American authority on Arabia, and Hon. James A. Bryce, the English ambassador to the United States, were among the speakers.

Above the great platform, stretched a banner, one hundred feet long, bearing the slogan of the Convention, "The Evangelization of the World in this Generation." This motto was the theme of every address and furnished the basis for some of the most mighty appeals that have ever been flung out to the Christian world.

On Sunday afternoon, the men delegates met in the First Presbyterian church, and were addressed by a number of young men who are scheduled to sail for the Orient in the next few months. When it is understood that there were fourteen hundred young men gathered together on this occasion and that each one represented at least five more who are in thorough sympathy with the movement, the gigantic task of reaching all the races and tribes of the earth, did not seem so impossible. At the last meeting, ninety-two students spoke a word from the platform, expressing their intentions to devote their lives to it.

In one of the sessions, in less than fifteen minutes, \$85000.00 was subscribed to back this work; but the most encouraging feature was the address of Mr. Morley, a New York business man, president of the Layman's Missionary movement, in which he estimated that \$27,000,000,000.00 is controlled by those in America who are in sympathy with

courage "grinding" and he does encourage thinking and originality. If all professors did likewise, the "circus" might be worth more than the "side show." But we cannot accept the idea from anyone that studying is the essentially part of college.

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it. As a representative of the Laymen, he said, "We are too old to go ourselves, but we want to be in this movement. If we will put up the money, will you go? We will put up the money if you will provide the lives." Considering the fact that finances have always stood in the way before, this definite assurance from the president of so strong a body as the Layman's Association of America, seems to indicate the certainty of a great advance in the next few years.

On Monday, following the Convention, several hundred of the delegates went on special trains to view Niagara Falls, while some went to New York city, three hundred and seventy five miles beyond. The only delegate from the state of Oregon, left New York city on Tuesday and, by means of trains that were from two to ten hours late, managed to get across the continent in seven days, to Eugene.

An excellent address is assured for the Men's meeting on Friday evening. Mr. J. T. Brown, who has been conducting special services at the Christian church, will speak on "The Influence of the Gospel in Foreign Lands." Mr. Brown who is a strong speaker, has travelled around the world and has had plenty of opportunity to observe the influence of Christianity in these countries. The meeting will begin at 6:50 as usual. Prof. F. S. Dunn will preside.

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Ralph Cronise, University Correspondent

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