

To the Alumnus it probably means most. He has experienced it from the standpoint of a Senior and has since viewed life from a different perspective and he, doubtless, most of all, realizes how great a change is coming into the life of the Senior and how true a friend he is parting with when he leaves his University.

To the faculty, Commencement doubtless means just another group of students going out from the University forever. And it is altogether likely that they regret to see go these men and women whom they have come to know more or less intimately in the four years time.

The standpoint of the Senior is evident on the face of things. He knows that he is leaving the best of colleges and that he is breaking ties of a nature different from any that he will again know. Likewise he feels rather forcibly the fact that from now on the question with him should be what he can give to the world rather than what the world can bestow on him.

Commencement reminds the Junior that in a short year he too will be going out from his University. And he usually resolves to make the most of the short time before him.

To the underclassman as perhaps to all who attend Commencement for the first time, it is a revelation in many ways. People never realize the deepness of the meaning of Commencement until they attend. They expect to hear an enjoyable program and are never disappointed in this, but they learn that there is an unnameable atmosphere about it that transcends mere entertainment and ordinary pleasures, an atmosphere very difficult to describe, but very real to those present. Would it describe it to call it a certain mingling of delightful pleasure and sorrowful regret, and also a realization of a desire to reach toward better things? We can scarcely explain what this atmosphere is, although we are most conscious of it.

The importance that is laid upon Commencement is largely a matter of tradition. We find that it exists everywhere in the English university and it has become a very important interest in the American college year. About no other time of the year do so many sweet associations gather.

How many loving references do Holmes and the other American college-bred poets make to that time of year when the old students return to feel once more the spirit of unity in Alma Mater.

And this interest is a tradition that must not be forsaken. It