

your fellow student and by your discussions to keep in touch and gain familiarity with the affairs of the day. Good societies add prestige to an institution, and not only give to the members refinement and elegance of manners but aid in the cultivation of the powers of mental perception and discernment, those indispensable requisites of a thoroughly educated mind. Life at college ends all too soon—month follows month, year follows year, and you, almost unconscious of the flight of time, at last realize your college career has ended. Commencement is at hand and even now, that diploma which you have so earnestly sought is almost within your grasp. Commencement! What a diversity of meaning that one word has. To the undergraduate it means the beginning of a season of gayety and pleasure—he is to return to home, family and friends—perhaps a sweet-heart with flushed cheeks and loving eyes will greet him; not a care, not a single responsibility to mar the brief vacation. Not yet are you to enter the vast arena where millions are struggling for existence. Enjoy well your brief respite. Treasure every hour, every minute that you spend under guidance of devoted parents. It is the spring time of your existence. The soft zephyrs sweeping over the verdant fields; the warm sun spreading its genial and life-giving rays over the land, bear not the semblance of a warning of the hot winds and scorching heat that is to come.

To the graduate, commencement has a far different meaning. The diploma which he receives with swelling heart and mingled feelings of exultation and pride, seems like some magic instrument which will waft him to fame or under whose mysterious guidance he may enter the portals of success. Too soon you will find that this diploma merely bears evidence that you have gone through a process of mental training; that your capacity for original thought and investigation has been tested, that you are in a condition to cope with others in your chosen pursuits, and furthermore, if you accomplish anything it will be by the exercise of these powers. It is the commencement of life in earnest. You go forth as an independent agent and by knowledge acquired