

war of the civilized ages broke out our fathers stood for what they believed was right and just, and our fathers' sons are standing as they have stood. Our fathers advanced to conflict to the snarl of life and roll of drum, and they wore the gray. We had no music to cheer us, to stir our blood and hearts, we had only sand, determination and knowledge of right to spur on to conflict, but we too wore the gray. And when our sons come to old A. and M. they will be proud to say, "Why, father was of the class '09." And our grandchildren will listen with flashing eyes and flushed cheeks to the tales we tell of our mighty struggle. Gentlemen, we have something to be proud of for we are of the class of '09. And when our course is nearly won we can say with pride:

Listen, my children and you shall hear  
Of the midnight council of the 1909.

'Twas on a night of the second month  
I believe,

We recked not of trouble nor of time,  
For we were sitting in council-round,  
To try and save our people from an  
terrible wound.

And then we talk on and tell them all  
Of how we fought and came near to  
fall,

And when our story's over and we  
are no more,

Our children will hearken and listen  
and long,

For the stories and tales that they  
heard of yore,

Of the time of the strike and the  
mighty class, the class of the  
brave, the true and the free,

The class of '09.

#### Comradeship Among our Classmates.

Ever since the day our class fought for nearly two hours in the memorable cane rush of 1906, when we stood shoulder to shoulder and battled against the upper classmen, until some of us dropped from exertion, there have been ties of comradeship that have brought us closer and closer together.

From that day until now, that which has concerned the class concerned the individual. We have become such intimate friends that we have learned to love each other as brother. The comradeship among us is what makes college life what it is. Without it we should not have the feeling for this institution that we do have.

After next year, when we shall have left these walls, we shall often long for the chance to come back to the place where we spent four years in such good comradeship. We shall recall the dear old buildings and the various places now familiar to us. But these are not the things which make our college life such that we shall long for it later on. It is the personal attachments, the comradeship and friendships of days gone by that will make this place always dear to our memory. If in later years you come here and see these buildings, but no familiar faces, you will feel very lonesome, indeed. It is to be feared that there will be a tendency for the ties of friendship now existing to loosen soon after we shall have left here. This fact is detrimental to the development of our institution. It is not the board of directors, the president or the faculty that make an institution what it is. Its progress devolves on the alumni. They go out into the world, if they do their part by their institution, to fight the battle of life not merely for themselves but also for the welfare of their college.

It seems to me, that the men of the larger universities and colleges have gotten up a splendid way of keeping alive the spirit of fellowship among the different classmates, besides aiding their institution in a way which tends to bring them to the front. At Harvard, for instance, before the graduating class separates, its members elect a class treasurer. Thereafter, at the end of each year, each member of the class contribute at least 10.00. Harvard has about 600 graduates each year. At the end of five years, the sum contributed by that one class will amount to about \$30,000. Not only that one class but all the others do the same thing. At the end of each fifth year, those classes go back to Harvard once more to meet all of their old associates, again to shake hands with the men who fought with them on the gridiron or on the track. There are banquets and other social demonstrations to make time enjoyable while they are together once more. They also decide upon what is to be done with the \$30,000 which the class treasurer holds. This is either donated to the university in the form of some present or is set aside until it has increased. President Roosevelt graduated with the class of 1880. His class decided to hold not only meetings every fifth year, but also a meeting after 25 years. The class met in 1905. At all previous meetings it had set aside its money, so that in 1905, that class contributed \$600,000 to a structure which contains the stadium, a place for football and track athletics the largest of its kind in the world. In that way, the alumni make an institution what it should be. Besides benefitting their college, they keep up that spirit of comradeship which they so cherished while still in college.

In my opinion, twenty-five years from now nearly every director and nearly every member of the faculty of this institution will be a graduate from here. That is if the college grows as it should. To make this possible, our alumni will have to make the effort that those of other institutions are making. And what a record it would be for us if the class of '09 should start such a movement, even on a small scale. Suppose that our class should adopt a plan of donating \$10.00 each year. Some could donate more if they felt disposed to do so. At the end of five years we should have several thousand dollars, without taxing any of us heavily. Then have a big class re-union at the end of five years, and you have no idea how glad each of us would be to see each other once more. The money could be set aside and allowed to accumulate for several years, and then something substantial could be done for our college. You must remember that not only our class but all succeeding graduating classes would take the idea and if this is done nothing could hinder the progress of our college. Not only this, but it would tend to keep up our present relationship, our present comradeship. It would indeed be a great thing if every five years we could once more sit down to a banquet as the one now spread before us. Besides, if our class should begin such a movement, it would mean the making of our college, and the class of '09 would go down in the history of this institution as one of the greatest factors in its advancement.

#### Class Future.

Mr. Toastmaster and Fellow-Juniors: Speaking is not in my line nor in the line of my life work. It is a labor for me to speak and not one rendered easy by practice either. To propose a toast "to the future of the Junior class"—my friends and companions—is however a labor of love and pride.

All of us when we go hence to the world's struggles, will have useful work

to do, useful for ourselves and for mankind. Those of us who go to farming, among whom I shall be one will be pursuing the primitive most healthful, happy and independent of human avocations, and will be engaged in furthering and improving the basis industry of all things. That industry which upholds all others, without whose growth and well being there can be no prosperity for any, and upon whose growth and well being all progress, prosperity and industrial and national strength and wealth, indeed

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