

"Don't Take Any Wooden Nickles."

Parting instructions are proverbially unheeded. These may be. If they are "wiser but sadder" lads will come trooping back to us in the fall.

I.

Vacation is a part of the time God gives us for our spiritual development. We need variety, change of scene and change of occupation, particularly in our years of rapid growth. Without it we grow narrow and self-centered.

II.

It is not a time of idleness. God gives us no time for the development of sloth. God abhors sloth, and He demands a strict account of every moment of our lives. St. Alphonsus made a vow never to waste a moment of time.

III.

It is not entirely a time of recreation. All play and no work is just as bad as all work and no play. Some young people manage to keep very busy with an intense social calendar. They come back sallow-eyed in the fall; and the sort of recreation they have chosen is not usually the kind that can be offered for the honor and glory of God.

IV.

Vacation has its own temptations. Where parents maintain an understanding vigilance and sympathetic interest in the affairs of their children, temptations are generally less frequent at home than at school -- unless the social environment, of the home town is quite vicious.

V.

The majority of Notre Dame students find better companions at school than at home; and the majority of Notre Dame students show themselves very much influenced by environment. The strong character can change the tone of his environment, whether good or bad; the average character tends to follow rather than lead.

VI.

No man entitled to a college education has any business with a weak character. No man who has ever had a year at Notre Dame should have a weak character. No man with any ambition, to be somebody will allow environment to make a monkey of him.

VII.

Many of you are going to be confronted with old occasions of sins -- liquor, coarse companionship, gambling, wild parties, stealing from parents, contempt for authority, etc. No man of prudence will deliberately go into an occasion of sin; no man of character will renew a companionship which he knows to be dangerous.

VIII.

If the "old gang" or an old friend is dangerous for you, show your spirit. Try out your qualities of leadership. If you fail, please have the good grace to cancel your reservation for next year; Notre Dame does not need you, and you will save yourself embarrassment by retiring gracefully: if you don't, sooner or later disgrace will be your lot, very likely at the hands of Notre Dame.

IX.

Goodbye, and God bless you and keep you from harm.

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