
Is Your Education Almost Complete?

"It won't be long now." You may feel like choking the next man who says that to you, but it's true, even though it is trite. For four hundred odd students it means a degree, for a few hundred more it means work or transfer to another school -- for three boys last summer it meant the end of their sojourn on earth. At any rate, for hundreds it will mean the end of what we call "formal education."

The term "education" means the drawing out of your faculties; it is not complete unless it includes the whole man, spiritual and material, moral and physical as well as intellectual. Train a man's mind and neglect his will and you make a clever crook; train his will without his intellect and you get a stubborn fool; train his mind and not his body and the mind finds itself without a physical vehicle through which to function. Neglect the spiritual side of man's make-up and hell may be his ultimate destination, no matter what praise he may evoke from the lips of men.

Check up on yourself now to see what yet remains to be done. If you made an inventory of your stock in trade when you came here, it would be interesting to compare that with what you have now. What funny little traits of character have you left? What bad habits have stayed with you? -- growing all the time, of course, as they always do when they are not checked. Are you content to pack them all up with you and take them home again? Will your folks and your neighbors believe that a college education has been worth while if you can't do anything useful besides making money?

Check up on your tongue. Do you still blister it with profanity? defile it with rotten speech and expressions? sharpen it on another man's reputation or a girl's character? "Watch yourself" was the slogan given you on the calendar this year for the correction of sins of the tongue.

Check up on your mind. Is it suspicious? Do you call other people hypocrites? Are you given to attributing wrong motives to others, from professors to bus boys? Is it vile? Can you pay out money to see a dirty show? Can you sit through one without revulsion? Is it jealous, envying others their merited success? Can you stand it to see another fellow get a good break?

Check up on your heart. Is it clean? Is it firm and unwavering in affection -- for the folks, for the girl, for Notre Dame, for God? Is it expansive and generous to the poor, the afflicted, the weak? or is it grudging of its favors, giving only where it can see a prompt return?

Check up on your body. Are its appetites in control or under control? Are you more or less temperate than when you came to Notre Dame? Have you gained or lost ground in the battle for purity? How did your Lenten mortifications work out? Can you pull yourself out of bed promptly in the morning? Do you take what exercise you need? Are you the boss?

Pack up your belongings before you go. Look twice at the trash in your character before you decide to take it with you. A senior who has failed to correct his hot temper, or his slovenly ways, or his disorderly life, will find that it has to be corrected if he wants to keep his job, and the world's way of taking it out of you is not the gentle way so common at Notre Dame. If you still have trash to be burned, make a bonfire of God's Love. Let daily Communion eliminate your daily faults during the few weeks that remain to you here. The Master of the Vineyard hired laborers at the eleventh hour.

Prayers.

A deceased relative of Tom McMahon; tomorrow is Bill Dockman's anniversary; three special intentions,