

Saturday's Gaps:
8:30, 9:30, 12 (2),
3:00, 3:30 (2)

University of Notre Dame
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Novena for Exams
begins Saturday

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Choose Your School Wisely. I.

Wisdom consists in choosing the best means to reach your end. This is a function of the intelligence, the reasoning faculty; passion, prejudice, whim, mood, temperament may sway reason from sound judgment in its choice. Sometimes the disturbance of the lower faculties is so strong that it supplants reason in making this choice.

Whether he knows it or not, man has an absolute end: to give glory to God and to save his own soul. Passion, whim, fancy, various factors shorten man's vision and keep him from acknowledging this final and absolute end. When this happens, man sets his end elsewhere - and is capable of great wisdom in choosing the means to the end he has set for himself. Our Lord commended the unjust steward for the wisdom he showed in his crooked dealings - as long as he had no intention of going straight, he at least saved his hide here below. How often the children of the world show greater wisdom in this way than the children of light!

Education is one of the means to the accomplishment of man's purpose in life. It is complete when it embraces the whole of this purpose; it is incomplete if it fails in any particular. It should prepare a man to make a living while he is saving his soul; it should keep his body sound while it trains his mind to think and supplies some of the materials for thought; it should at the same time teach him to use his will to control his lower appetites and to act always in accordance with the dictates of right reason. If it overlooks the soul, it is, in the true sense, not education at all - simply animal training.

A great many people seem not to understand these things. Some people object to being enlightened on them. Some people wake up to them after it is too late to do anything about it.

You have chosen a school which has for its purpose complete education. If that is not what you want, you have perhaps made a mistake in your choice. If you want to be a child of the world, you have not chosen the best means to reach your end. It is not too late for most of you to change schools, to adopt a different system of training if what you want is not what Notre Dame gives. It is simply a matter of common sense to look about for the best means to reach the end you propose for yourself. Here are a few suggestions, accommodated to different ambitions men have proposed to themselves:

1. Muscles. If all you want is a perfect physique, look over the best men in the field and have them suggest the best trainers. (And get some medical advice on how to keep well, for your muscles are important only as long as your body keeps well.)
2. Social Prestige. Look over the Social Register and pick out the favorite training ground of the elite. (And don't forget your books and magazines: one faux pas may make your social life short and bitter.)
3. Money-making. Ask the warden of some state penitentiary to arrange interviews for you with the most far-sighted crooks in his establishment; find out from them what mistakes to avoid. (And learn how to spend; "there are no pockets in shrouds.")
4. Erudition. Consult an oculist, and then start in on the five-foot shelf of books, making copious notes. Then come around and we will give you a ten-foot list for further reading. After that you will be ready to specialize. (But write your memoirs as you go along; the evening of your life will be short and the night long.)

PRAYERS: Leo Conlon's mother (ill in hospital); a deceased friend; 4 sp. intentions.