

East Carolina Teachers College

Oct. 9th, 1923.

Address by President Wright

Scripture lesson- Third chapter of the Book of Proverbs, beginning with verse 21 to the end of the chapter.

Young women, I want to talk to you this morning a little while, and I am going to change my plan. In fact, I decided before I came into the Auditorium this morning to change it. I have seen a few things going on connected with the college that I do not like, and I had made up mind to tell you about those things this morning, but I am not going to do it. I saw a man one time who had a beautiful grape vine which always bore. It was an interesting few minutes that I spent with this person under that grape vine. but we were not eating grapes. He had a pruning knife and he was going around under that grape vine cutting out certain branches and taking them away. He seemed to know the others, and those branches on the arbor that were fruitful, that were helpful, that were producing grapes, and that were growing and prospering he left on, and he ~~put~~ <sup>cut</sup> out the others. That gave me an idea. Some times in my work and your work, and the other man's work, the things that go on that we don't like get to be so big in our minds that we prune the others out and leave the bad. I have made up my mind this year that we are going to prune this grape vine by taking the very best we have, those that are prosperous, and when the time comes, without any ado about it, we will just quietly go ~~after~~ <sup>take</sup> those that are not fruitful, and quietly pull them out and carry them away. We are going to give our thought and attention to those that are doing things that are worth while, and it is to you young women who are so conducting your lives that you are not afraid of what you are doing that I want to talk this morning, as to the others it won't do any good to talk to them any way, and it makes you feel bad.

I was very much pleased last evening (I ~~got to go to~~ <sup>went</sup> to two of the church receptions), and I was very much pleased with a remark that was made to me in almost identically the same words in each of these church. "Mr. Wright you have the finest bunch of young women in college this year you have ever had." Well, I said, "I think it is the best student body we have ever had." Now that is what I have said to your backs, and I am willing to tell you to your face, that is just the way I feel. We have the finest students in this college I think we have ever had, and we have had some fine ones. I confidently expect out of this college this year the greatest results that we have ever gotten ~~here~~. We have right-minded young womanhood, the finest on God's earth; there isn't a question about that at all.



A young woman who has high ideals and right purposes, a young woman who has true standards of life, a young woman who has a conception of her place in human society- is the highest order or God's created beings. The civilization that we live in is based on the home, and the home is made by the woman. You hold the key to the whole situation. It is the keystone to the arch of human civilization and human power that is occupied by the womanhood of the world, and those women with right ideals and true standards are the ones that are going to save the world. We men make a tremendous fuss about it ~~and let them~~ bear the greater burden. *but they*

In the home and in the school room, and in the church and in the <sup>all</sup> store and in the office, the right minded woman is the one after who shapes the destiny of this world, and for a college to be blessed with a student body, the great majority of whom have right ideals, is to be blessed indeed and in truth. I think that is what we are this year. Oh, we will make mistakes, the best of us do that, just as the ~~most~~ <sup>best</sup> of us do good things. The best of us will make mistakes, but we will correct those mistakes, and we won't let the mistakes pull us away from our purpose. I just feel good spiritually and mentally when I realize the type of citizen that we have in <sup>the</sup> student body this year, and I wanted you young women to know that. I wanted you to know how I feel about it. I am looking for great things from you this year. I confidently expect great visible things from this institution. I don't expect you to turn the world over, and I would rather you wouldn't. I might be over on the other side, and I couldn't hold the whole thing up.

After all the best work is usually done in the quietest way. I was talking recently with a friend about the new State Superintendent of Public Instruction. This friend said, "Do you reckon Mr. Allen is going to make good?" My reply was "No", and for a minute my companion did not understand my meaning. I said, "I know he will make good". "Will he fight?" I replied, "He will fight when necessary, but he will not have much to say about it. He will fight through the obstacles, and go quietly to the next task". You must know him well", was the next remark. To this I replied, "He happens to have been a classmate of mine. "Well", he said, " then you know him through and through." I said, "Yes.

Now, there are two things that I want to draw from that this morning with reference to the subject. Mr. Allen is a deep thinker and hard worker and a progressive man without any blaring of trumpets and brass band attachments; but he has already planted seed that are beginning to bear fruit in the short time that he has been there as Superintendent. That kind of person gets more done with less said about it than almost any other type of person that you can find.

The other thing that I want you to get is that I know Mr. Allen through and through because I was in college with him as a class-mate. You are going to know your college mates and class-mates from an angle that no one else will ever know them, and



it is a wonderful privilege to know each other. In fact there will be some that you will know that you will almost be sorry that you did know. I hope there won't, but there always is. I had some college mates in college who didn't do any thing in college. They staid just on the ragged edge, inside the regulations. They spent their time just as near 5th Street as they could, to bring it home to you. When they could step across the line they stepped across if they thought no one was looking. Some of them staid until they finished in college, and some did not. That was away back in 1897. I don't know of a single case in which they changed. That border line person is a border line person in the world today. That person who took the chance to step across the line whenever he got an opportunity is stepping across the line today. You get a viewpoint in college that you will never get any where else. You get a knowledge of human beings in college that you will never get any where else, because you get closer to them. Happy is that college that has in it a great majority of those who are going straight to life's purpose with their heads up, looking the world straight in the face and are not ashamed. Those are the ones who shape the spirit of the institution, and who shape the destiny of the college. We have a large number of that high type in college this year, and I am proud of it, and am looking forward this year with the anticipation of greater joy in being President of this college than I have ever had, as well as all the teachers and officers engaged in working with it.

Good luck to you.