

East Carolina Teachers College

Oct. 31st, 1923.

Address by President R. H. Wright

I want to talk to you this morning about joining the Y.W.C.A. I don't know whether you have joined yet or not. If you have not joined I want to urge you to join the Young Woman's Christian Association. The Young Woman's Christian Association has been the religious center for the activities of the students of this college, and it has meant more than I- I don't know how to express to you in words- in the life of the students who have come here from year to year. They are going to ask you to pay your Y.W.C.A. dues, I believe at 3:30, I believe the dues are \$1.00. That is the smallest part about it. The amount of money that it costs is the smallest part about it, and I don't want to talk from that standpoint at all. Of course it does take money to run anything in this country, at least I don't believe I have found anything that will run without a certain amount of money.

You take the pageant that was given- the little presentation that you had Sunday night- a splendid thing, a most impressive way of saying give yourself to the best things in life. Give your life to those people around you who need your help. There you catch the spirit of the Young Woman's Christian Association; there you catch what we hope is the spirit of this institution. There are opportunities lying around almost every where if we just step aside from the pleasures of life and be of some service to our fellow men, and thus get back the greatest joy that comes in life.

The Young Woman's Christian Association is an organization of the students of this institution to help develop the best side of human life, and we can't get away from it even if we want to. The spirit side of it is the determining factor even in ordinary business, and it is the major factor to the person who teaches. To be sure you must know or you cannot do, some one has said. I read this not long ago, giving the story of a successful business man. He said the physical body and the mental man, and the spiritual man all must enter into ones business; says, there is a trinity in business, and as a young man he had only the strong physical body and the mental capacity. He was an unusually bright young man. A person came into his place of business in which he was employed- it happened to be a bank, and he wanted to collect a certain sum of money. The young fellow said, well, you will have to get somebody to identify you. This was one of the older citizens of that community. One that every body knew. He said I am known in this community by every one. The fellow said, you may think so, but I don't. You will have to be identified. The old man went out hurt, cut to the quick, and was about to withdraw his business from the bank. There was a wise head in the bank. He got them together, and after they got the old man satisfied, and I am not using that in any other than a reverent term, because he was an old man, he talked to the young fellow, and through the conversation, that and other conversations he had with this wiser head, this young man realized that he had failed to make the trinity in life. He had a strong physical body, he had

a good mind, but he had not put heart and soul in it. He had kept the spirit out, and he went to work to try to develop the spiritual side of his life as a business proposition, and he got people to make suggestions to him, he audited every day's accounts with himself to see whether he had shown any spiritual side toward those people that he dealt with. He developed the spiritual side of his life. He continued in business, the bank began to grow, increased over 100 per cent the first year after he got the spirit, and then more than 100 per cent and then more than that, and it went on up and up and up. Finally, in a large city, a big chain of stores broke to pieces, and they sent out into this man's small town to get him to take charge of that business, not because he was a merchant, but because he knew how to work with and for people. His spirit life was in every thing that he did, and he stands out to-day as one of America's greatest successes in business.

Now a Young Woman's Christian Association is the organization in this school that is here to help develop that side of your life, to help you to get that spiritual development that will give you a keen human interest in your fellow student, and when you leave college and your fellow man, wherever you may go you really and truly cannot make the most out of your life unless you are a member of this Y.W.C.A., and unless you are an active member. You may join an organization and it may not do you one bit of good because you are just a member. Oh, you just want to be classified with those folks. We get out of life what we put into it. We grow strong in those directions in which we exercise. We will have friends in proportion that we are friendly. We will be loved in proportion to the amount we love. If our hearts and souls go out to help our fellow men then our fellow men in return will give their hearts and souls back to us. That is literally casting our bread upon the waters, and it is coming back to us net a 100 per cent fold. The Y.W.C.A. is the organization in this institution that helps you to grow in that spiritual side of your life. You really can't afford not to join. You can't afford not to be an active member in it. Oh, you say, it doesn't appeal to me. Well, it didn't appeal to this young man either. You know he thought he was unusually smart, and he was. He thought so, but whenever the time came the in his life he was headed right straight toward failure. When he found out that he wanted the other man to be considerate of him that he must be considerate of the other man. When he found out that there was good in ~~us~~ even the worst of people, and by looking for the good he could help them overcome the evil, then he began to grow, and that is the reason he made a great man, it was because he put himself in the right attitude, the right spiritual frame of mind toward his business and toward his fellow man. You will find the story I am talking to you about this morning in the last issue of the American magazine, and you may have read it. You may not have seen the thing I am talking about, but it's there, and I have almost given you a literal interpretation of it. We need to be strong physically, mentally and spiritually if we expect to make the most out of our lives.

The Y.W.C.A. is your organization to develop the spiritual side of your life. Don't just join the Y.W. but put your life in the Y.W. Go into it and help to make good, not to get it to help you. If you go in with that purpose you will not get any good out of it. Go into it that you may be of some service in it, that you may lose

your life in the work of that organization. If you will do that  
I guarantee that you will find your life through your works in  
that organization.