

East Carolina Teachers College.  
Dec. 10th, 1923.

Scripture lesson- 4th Chapter of the Book of Acts beginning with the 23rd verse and reading through.

You had a real good lecture last night, what shall I call it, lesson in modern history. It was about an hour and a half long, and yet you didn't feel that it was quite so long. It was long enough and a little bit too long. That's the only objection I had to that address. You had an address that gave to you a picture of conditions in Europe that you will not find any where in print. You got a peep into the inside of what is going on in this world, and why people in America are very, very much concerned about this question of immigration. The immigrant who comes into our country, as a rule, is not given the hand of welcome by the average citizen in America. They come into our midst and some times we let them alone painfully. About the most lonesome place in this world is in a large city when you do not know any one in the city. If I wanted to get away from the world I would go out on an island in the sea or get a room in a large city, and I would be just as far from folks in one place as I was in the other. Oh, you say that isn't true. In a city it is unless you have that happy faculty of making yourself acquainted in a favorable way with the folks around you, and you can completely bury yourself and be lost to the world in New York City, or you can go into New York City and find any thing in the world you want except a large wheat field, a large agricultural industry. You can find any type of human being you want to find.

Now take that picture that Mr. Aswell gave us last night of the type of citizen that's coming to the seaport towns of Europe and spending his thirty days getting ready to pass Ellis Island. Take one that is successful and gets by at Ellis Island in New York City. Where do you suppose he will go when he gets into New York? He will hunt for his kind. You have heard the expression "birds of a feather flock together". Of course if they have only a feather they will have to flock together if they flock. People of the same type try to get to each other, they are more congenial, so that person of the lowest strata in Europe when he lands in our country goes in the lowest strata of human society in America, and if he has ideas antagonistic to all government, they are the folks who come first, and they are the folks who are coming to aid those who are apposed to the government from which they come. If they come in with that idea they will naturally associate with people in this country who are against the American government, thereby becoming a real menace in this republic of ours. We cannot afford to become the dumping ground for the slums of the world, and Mr. Aswell is doing a real service as he goes about this country and tells the people of America what we are facing. I know from my own observation in a large city that we have a large number of people coming into America who are not desirable citizens, but I did not know it was quite as well organized in Europe to get them to us as it is. This is a great country you and I are living in, and we owe it to ourselves and to the rest of the world to keep it a great country. We owe it to ourselves and to the rest of the world to see to it that those immigrants who come into our country are made into good American citizens. There is already in America a tendency to disregard the laws of our land, and this immigration department is

simply increasing those folks with that attitude. I think myself that we have too many laws, and that we have a number of laws that ought to be repealed. I think we have some laws that were not passed in the right way, but that doesn't have anything to do with it if I am a good American citizen with the spirit of America. I will try to obey those laws in so far as I can.

You may walk down the streets of almost any town in North Carolina during the Christmas holidays, and you will likely find some body under the influence of strong drink. At least three people violated the law every time you see them; some man in manufacturing it, some man in selling, and the man himself in buying. They say that we have the right to convert our corn into corn liquor, and we have the right to sell it, and we have the right to drink it and get drunk, but the fundamental law of America says that they do not have that right. The constitution of our country is against it, and the man or woman, (because it isn't confined to men) who buys moonshine whiskey is not a good American citizen, and I don't care whether that person be the governor of the state, that's the highest office in the state, or the most menial day laborer to be found in North Carolina, it is true regardless of what position the person occupies. This question of immigration is the most serious problem to us in America, because it is bringing into our country a constant influx of people who are against all law, who are against all government, and they represent an element that is striving to break down the government that you and I live under, and ours is the very best type of government that man has ever devised, so we owe to ourselves and to those we teach to bring them up with right ideals of government. The greatest task before the public schools of America is the making of good American citizens of the childhood of this nation. Law abiding citizens, citizens who are willing to conform to the law even when they do not believe in that particular law; citizens who have a high regard for law, and let me tell you young women our daily routine, our daily protection that's thrown around you is every bit there because of the willingness of the majority of our people to conform to law.

That picture that Mr. Aswell gave you of Russia is a correct picture of conditions in Russia. About 150 millions of people, 95 out of every one hundred not able to read. Only five out of a hundred, just five percent able to read, and they have a stable government, so stable that if you don't do what the five per cent say, and the five per cent are the ruling element, if you don't do what they say you quietly disappear from the face of the earth, and your friends say it was . That's a country without law in the true sense of the word, that's a country ruled with an iron hand, and there is no such thing as freedom in Russia.

That's the direct result of not being law abiding citizens, and it stands out to the world to-day as a great example toward which every nation on this earth is headed unless the citizens of that nation is willing to conform to the laws of his country. So it is a serious thing for a generation of children in America to grow up without the highest kind of regard for law.

Now let me take just one more minute. You are living your life now. Oh, you are in college preparing for what you are going to do when you leave here, but you are living your life now, and you are forming habits right now that are going to go with you when you

leave college. We have tried to with just as few laws as possible. If you do not enter into the spirit of the college, and conform cheerfully to the regulations of the institution you are developing within your own life that spirit that will make of you certainly not a law abiding citizen. If there are regulations in the college that ought not to be here, the college authorities, including the student government association will gladly change the regulation. In other words you are living in a democracy and it can be changed only by the will of the student body and faculty, because it takes the student body and faculty to make the college, and if you are not living the life of a good citizen, conforming to the regulations, and when I say you, I am talking about myself, to every student and officer and teacher in the college, if we are not giving it our hearty cooperation and support we are forming bad habits of government that will go with us when we leave college. We are not living the life of a good citizen. I did not start out to make this talk with that in view, but I do like to make an application. You are living you life today, and you are forming the habits that will go with you all through your life. You are either for or against the law under which you hold your citizenship. If you are for it you are a good citizen, if you are against it, and it can't be changed then you are a bad citizen, and I want you to be good citizens. I want you to graduate in white.