

President Wright, October 2, 1926

Chapel

I want to talk to you a little while this morning and I hope those who are under the gallery will hear all I have to say as well as the others. You young women are in college, some of you for the first time. You are living in a time that is in deed and in truth different from any period of history that has preceded us. We are living in an age that questions and tests everything. I think that statement is absolutely true. The youth of today is questioning everything that is presented to the youth of today. Because that is true a good many older people feel that the youth of today is running wild and that there is no telling where they are going, but some of the older people are pretty sure that they are going down yonder. The youth of today is questioning everything, and because the traditions of yesterday are not binding upon the youth of today, many of the older people have a feeling that we are going to the bad. I want to tell you this morning that I am not one of that group. I am with you.

It has been the policy of this college from its beginning to question everything that has been done in an educational way to train teachers and if it could not prove itself worth while we have rejected it. I think it is the most wholesome attitude for human beings to take,--to question all traditions, to question all customs, to question every accepted thing. On the other hand, do not reject the traditions, or the customs, or the accepted things just because they are traditions, or customs or accepted principles. What we ought to do is to search for the truth and we will find much truth in the traditions of yesterday. We will find good foundations for many customs that developed out of the yesterdays of life, and there is much good in many of the accepted things. We want to be open minded -- especially

should college men and women be open minded, willing to question and willing to accept the truth wherever we find it. We want to be sure that it is the truth. This world is not like the world was ten years ago or twenty years ago. It is a different world, different in almost all of its human relationships. The internal combustion engine in automobiles and trucks has brought about a new order of things. Radios and all of the other discoveries and inventions, including the aeroplane, have made this world a different world. Things are not like they used to be. That is true, and you and I are going to be successful in life in just the proportion we are able to adjust ourselves aright to these new conditions. Many of you will have much less trouble in making those adjustments than your fathers and mothers will have. Many of you will have much less trouble in making those adjustments than I will have, because I came up under another environment in my youth and you are growing up in the midst of these changes. Woman's position in human society is not at all what it was just a few years ago. Woman's attitude toward many of the social problems today is quite different to woman's attitude just a few years ago. I sometimes believe that woman's attitude has changed as much as woman's attire, and that means an awful lot of change, because they have cut a great deal off of their attire. They have cut a great deal off of other things that handicap women. It hasn't been just dresses and hair, she has bobbed a lot of other things too, We don't want to cut too much off, either of clothes, hair, or traditions. #Woman occupies, and she has always occupied the most important place in all human society. The hope of the world is in the keeping of the womanhood of today. You are going to shape the destinies of this world much more than the man side. You are going to shape human relationships and establish social standards and not the men. There are right minded men in the world who are going to help with all the energy and force ~~in their~~ ^{and} power that they have, but when you bring it to its final analysis, it is really the woman of today who is going to make the civilization of tomorrow.

I do not want to appear just to throw this responsibility on womanhood and off of the men, and I do not mean it that way, but the facts that stare us in the face and that we cannot get away from are those facts that were founded in the biology of the human being in the creation, as God Himself intended it should be, and man cannot change it. Sometimes men, I mean the masculine gender, boast of what they do, but it has become a tradition almost the world over that there is always some woman back of it, which means when properly translated that the standard is a woman-made standard and the man is only the instrument to do the work. Now, if my position is true, there rests upon you young women and other young women like you a tremendous responsibility. It rests upon us too, upon the men; I am not trying to shirk. We are going to help in every way we can, - every right minded man, for the young men of today, as well as the young women of today, realize that the traditions of yesterday and the standards of yesterday are to be adjusted to the needs of today.

We are making changes of all kinds, even in the religion of our fathers. That is being questioned by the youth of today, and it has reached the point where people are almost divided into two camps in their fight on religious problems. I am not here to tell you to join this camp or that camp. I don't want you to join either camp. I want you to search for the truth, and remember that in this great Book you will find the truth, and the God that we all worship, Jehovah, will guide you and direct you into the truth. There are some so-called Smart Alecks in the world who want to claim that they are not religious. All such are liars. Every man and every woman is religious. It is inborn in every human being. Every natural human being is a religious human being, and if we want to make the most possible out of our lives, we must develop that religious side. This college is non-denominational, non-sectarian. It is a state school, but we must realize that we are living in a religious state and that we can make the most out of our lives if we develop the religious side, and so we throw around

you all the religious influences that we can bring to bear. Understand that we are not denominational. It is our hope, and trust, yea, our prayer that each one of you will associate herself with the church of her choice in this community, and that you will attend the Sunday School if your church has a Sunday School, or the study of the scriptures through the church that you are a member of or that your family belongs to, and that you will stay each Sabbath morning for the religious services in that church. I want to assure you that it does not make any difference to the college what church you attend, but it does make some difference to the college whether you go or not. We want you to go because you can't develop into the perfect woman that we want to help you to develop into unless you do develop the religious side of your nature.

In this questioning that the youth of today is doing, we find that it is reaching out and affecting the business world, the industrial world. Men are beginning to realize that the old boss and the workmen in eternal war, the one ~~against~~ the other -- the owner of the business at eternal war does not work out for the best interests of either, and so the whole industrial world is beginning to question the methods of yesterday and they are putting in different methods for today and tomorrow. These improved methods, as they are called, are resulting in having the workmen in the business stockholders in the concern, and many people who are not associated with the business, in other parts of the country, are becoming stockholders in various and sundry businesses. It is developing an attitude between the capitalists and the laborers that is quite different from just a few years ago. It is bringing about another industrial theory that was recently voiced by Henry Ford. He says that with intelligent application to business we can make more than we can consume and that the man who is working in a factory, for instance, could work only five days a week, eight hours a day at a maximum wage of six dollars per day, and that he finds that working shorter hours and fewer days ~~that~~ they can accomplish greater

results and still give to the laboring men more freedom, more time, more pleasure thus creating a greater desire. In other words, Henry Ford says that if you work in Henry Ford's factory forty hours a week, you can spend the rest of your hours, if you want to, riding in a Ford. His theory is that the same principle can be applied in all kinds ^{of industries}. It means putting more intelligence, I want you to get this, it means putting more intelligence, more brain power in your working activities will enable you to accomplish more in fewer hours, produce more and have more, then to enjoy what you produce. I believe Henry Ford is correct in his statement. I think that the time is soon coming, I believe you young women are going to live to see it, when people will think more about the particular job that they are going to do, will get better preparation for that particular job and will accomplish more in fewer hours, in fewer days than they now accomplish, thus leaving the human being a greater number of hours to enjoy the things that he has earned with his application. I believe the time is soon coming when we will put schools on a business basis. I hope to live to see that done. But if these things come about, and they are coming about, if I can read the times aright, it means universal education, education of all the people, and that kind of education that will enable each individual to fit himself for the particular job that he is going to undertake in life, that will enable him to give all of his thought, all of his soul and body to his job when he is working with it, and then have more time to enjoy the fruits of his labor.

I believe out of this questioning that the youth of today is giving to the world is going to come a much better order of things, socially, industrially and religiously because I am persuaded that the youth of today is just as desirous of doing God's will as the youth of any preceding generation. I believe the youth of today is not desirous of flirting its life away, but wants to make the most out of life. The man or the woman whose life is a continuous grind day in and day out, week end and week out, world without end,

who never has any time to think of the things that are worth while, never has any time to give undivided concentration to his job, but is just doing this or that constantly. That is the way it was just a few generations ago. They believed that a person ought to work at least twelve hours a day, right on the grind all the time. I want to tell you that the men and the women of today who will take time to think a job will find that they can save time and money and still produce more. I walked down one of the streets sometime ago to a piece of construction work and I saw a whole group of men, the lowest paid person there received a dollar and a quarter an hour and some were paid as high as three dollars an hour. The whole group stood still for fifteen minutes while one of the Negro laborers took a very ordinary piece of equipment and bent a piece of iron. It took him about fifteen or twenty minutes to do this, and all of these others standing around idle were drawing their pay. I said to the foreman, "why don't you get a machine to bend that iron, what would it cost, would it be very expensive?" He said, "No, not much, twenty or thirty dollars." I said, "You could pay for one in one day." He said, "I had never thought of that!" I said, "I have stood here with my watch in my hand and it has been fifteen minutes that this whole group has stood idle while that Negro bent that piece of iron, and your concern is paying for it!" Again he said, "I never thought of that." "Well," I said, "I am so lazy that I had rather think than work." We want to get lazy folks like that in the world who had rather think how to do the thing and to do it quickly and satisfactorily than to have folks who just stand and wait while a laborer does a piece of work that a machine can do. I am going to go on and tell you the rest of that story. After that Negro got through with the piece of iron, they had to stop and start all over because the Negro hadn't bent it quite right and it took ten minutes to straighten it out. It cost that concern

in time at least thirty dollars to bend that piece of iron. The point I want you to get, young women, is this, the time is here when men and women this world over must learn to apply their mental capacity to their jobs. And that means, young women, that the time is here in this world when the college men and the college women must be the leaders as they have never been before. The big thing you are going to get out of your course here is the ability to apply your brain to your job. Acquire all of the necessary facts and the ability to use those facts on your job so as to make the most possible out of the time that you are to work with the childhood of this state and if you can train children to think and to think straight and to think intelligently you will have accomplished a great service in this world. The time is here when the intelligent citizens, of necessity, must be the leading citizens in this world. That means that you ^{while you} are having your preparation period, your period in college, that you want to form the right kind of habits, and you want to acquire that knowledge and that mental power that will enable you to do your job the best way possible, thus becoming a leader. Intelligent application to one's job is what the world is looking for today and the college men and the college women of today are to be the men and the women who are to set the pace for this world. You may stand and talk with people and they will make comparisons of this day with yesterday. I did just that very thing yesterday. I was talking with a good friend of mine, and he was despondent because cotton had gone to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per pound and he has a right to be despondent because he has raised considerable cotton. He wanted to compare it with the things of yesterday, and that is all right, I am not blaming that friend, don't misunderstand me, but if I understand how to find the way out, we must take the problems of today as they confront us and not compare them with a generation ago, but see what is wrong today and find the solution to it. If it means raising less cotton, then the farmers must become so intelligent that they will raise less cotton. If it means diversified farming, then the farmers

must become so intelligent that they will practice diversified farming. Whatever it means, it is a problem that the farmers must solve and they cannot solve it unless they put the best thought there is in the agricultural world into the problem and follow the solution that they work out. Just as that is true with reference to agriculture, it is true with reference to teaching, it is true with reference to all the industries, it is true with reference to the mercantile world, it is true with reference to transportation, it is true with reference to every human relationship. Do you see what I am trying to say to you? The big problem for the college men and women of today is to acquire the ability to use your brain on your problem whatever that problem may be, and by so doing you will not only be doing yourself a great service, but you will be doing humanity the greatest possible service. Continue to question, continue to test. Seek for the truth and when you find it, remember that the truth will make you free.

May this be the best year you have ever spent in your life up to now.