

President Wright,  
November 17, 1926  
CHAPEL

The subject of my talk this morning is The Cannon. I suppose you have all seen the cannon. It is on our campus, the large gun that we put there during the last college year, pointing toward Fifth Street. Some one has said that the people of the South do not know how to point a gun any other way except toward the North, so that is a different interpretation than the one you are putting upon it. That hasn't anything to do with it. I am not at all sure that the cannon will be allowed to stay where it is. We may put it over here on these breastworks that were left as a kind of memorial to the Civil War. That is what that embankment is over back of West dormitory. It was a part of the defence of the town of Greenville during the Civil War. I have received one or two very interesting communications from good people, and have had a number of conversations with people, all asking why we put a cannon on the college campus. And they have said, "Isn't it, after all, exactly opposite to the purpose of the institution?" And I said, "I should think not".

Yesterday I spoke to you about the changes in democracies that have come about on account of the great world conflict. This morning my talk is a continuation of the same theme, but it has a great deal to do with the war from just a little different angle. The World War brought into the world a term with an application a little bit different than any we had ever put on it before; the term "Drive". And everybody, almost every kind of organization has been putting on a drive to get money, a drive for membership, with a membership fee attached. In revealing to the world that by concentration you can accomplish more than almost any other way, this World War has left us in the world a different people. I am not sure what the adjustment is going to be, but I believe we all should hold

in mind a realization of the fact that at the crucifixion the veil of the temple that separated the congregation from the Holy of Holies was rent in twain, and every human being became his own High Priest, and that the religion of the Messiah is a religion of love, and that love ought to become the dominant factor in this world. When it does become the dominant factor, we will not be forced to have strong centralized governments to whip people into line, but human beings will have a right minded attitude toward human society and state government and will do the right thing. O, that time hasn't come, I know that, but it is going to come. I believe a part of the reaction of the youth of today, demanding freedom, is a rebellion, as you might call it, against this tendency to centralize and to force all through a given mould. But we find ourselves throughout the world heavily burdened with enormous debts. Those people who advocate war, who worship the god of war and that is the god of hate, are in one camp and the people who worship Jehovah are in another camp.

What is that cannon? I wonder if you ever stop to think. I have in my house a bird gun. I use it occasionally to go bird hunting. It is a small thing. I can carry it all day long and it isn't heavy enough to tire me much. That is intended to shoot animals and fowls, but that instrument on our campus stands there as a memorial to human beings who have used their best brain to make something to kill human beings with. That is what the gun is for. Nobody ever went rabbit hunting with that, and the birds that they shot with that gun do not fly. That is just one of the many, many devices that human beings have made in order that they might kill each other. That is all it is, we had just as well face the truth. It is estimated that during the World War it cost \$15,000 to kill one man. The world was organized, I mean almost the entire world, was organized during this conflict to kill people

and destroy property. Now, don't say, you are not patriotic because you talk that way. I think I am, but we want to face the actual conditions and see what they are. That cannon is a memorial of the world's few years of worship of the God of Destruction. We went into the War to help save the world, and I think we did right, don't misunderstand me. But in time of peace is when people must fight the real battles of life. When people are wrought up and are told that their whole government is at stake, and that the home, the church and the civilization in which they live is about to be destroyed, they are going to defend it, and they ought to. Passion is ruling them and they cannot be temperate and thoughtful when they are controlled by passion. In time of peace is when we must face these things and fight them out.

The World War cost the world \$338,000,000,000. I don't know how much that is. I figured out a part of the cost of the World War one time in twenty dollar gold pieces and found that we had enough to line a railroad track from New York to San Francisco with twenty dollar gold pieces, and that was only a part of the cost. I don't know how long a train it would take to pull that money. It is just an enormous amount, more than you and I can conceive, but that is only the money cost. It cost all the warring nations every hour in the day for two years \$10,000,000. This plant that we have here is valued at \$2,000,000 or \$2,500,000. It cost four times the worth of this plant every hour in the day, I mean twenty-four hours in the day, for two years.

(To be continued next day)