

February 20, 1929

Conditions in the infirmary are sufficiently good to permit you to visit the theatre and things of that kind in the community. I feel like congratulating you and the college in getting thru January and almost thru February like we have. It shows, young folks, what cooperation can do. I know you have wanted to go. I know some have broken away and gone. We have come thru so far about as well as we have ever come thru January and February and I believe in a large measure it is due to the sacrifices we have made and I just feel like complimenting you on what you have done and let you draw a lesson from it all thru life. You can accomplish almost anything you want to by cooperative action. We have some unpleasant things to do to be sure for there are always some folks who are determined to do whatever they want to. Throw around them the best influences we can and sometimes we cannot save them anyway. But I think with a few exceptions we are having the finest college year we have ever had in the history of the college. It is due in a large measure to the spirit of the student body. The spirit that pervades the college has as much to do in getting the results you are working for as any other factor.

In this conference we had in Raleigh last week in one of the meetings I was in the question came up as to whether scholarship was the main thing in teaching and while no one decried scholarship, while no one held that children should not learn (for we were dealing with children instead of college folks) yet they all agreed that the acquiring of facts alone was only a part of education, that there was a vital something that goes along with it. That there is an intangible something that goes into one's life that helps after all to shape that life actually as much as getting

facts. This discussion came out of that religious conference I was in. In it we were discussing how could the student carry into his religious and spiritual life the same way of thinking that he was required to carry on in his regular school work. Then the question came up, "Is his school life just studying or is there a spirit in it?" I believe that the spirit counts as much as the facts.

The great scientists in this world have been religious people. Those people who are truly great in science are men who realize that there is a God that controls and fixes the destiny of people that there is a Jehovah that makes great fundamental laws that apply in what we call science and apply in human life and that the great laws of Jehovah are the laws that you and I in our school work and in our spirit life are striving to find.

That then goes back to that first command that is found in the Bible, one of the very first when Noah graded the human family, he said, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it." We are today trying to subdue the earth and that means to me to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it. It means to find how God's laws operate in this earth. Whether they be laws in science, in government, or whether they be laws in one's spirit life or in one's mental life or in one's physical life. To subdue means to me to find out what those laws are and to adjust one's life to them. If we can grasp that and if it means the same to you as it does to me, we can never discover all the facts but together to work in harmony with God; we are to do God's will.

If someone had told that a man would fly thru the air and blow a whistle and an artificial man would turn on lights so that he could see to land we would not have believed it and yet night before last that very thing

happened in New Jersey and they kept trying it and it worked every time. What does that mean? It means that we have just subdued a little bit more, that we have found out another law of God and that we have arranged to work it.

I can remember that when a person saw the street car going down the street and he said, "That thing is going down the street with nothing pulling and nothing pushing." We know that it was electricity going thru the wire into the street car. It was one of the laws of God that man has discovered and put to man's service.

Then there is the radio. If twenty years ago a person had said that a boy in North Carolina could fix up an instrument and talk with Commander Byrd on his expedition they would not have believed it and yet that is happening once a week. A broadcasting station sends out its music and people for thousands of miles pick it up and enjoy it while it is being broadcast and so we might go thru a long list of things that have been discovered.

Back of it all is God. Back of it all is the great spirit. Man is just beginning to subdue the earth. The same spirit that is above is the same that we see in the earth. By studying we find out more and more about Jehovah. To me it does not take away from the glory of God; it gives God to me. It helps me to realize that there is a Jehovah, a great glorifying power and in our work and in our study, in our constant effort to find out truth, we are carrying out that first command to subdue the earth, to find out God's laws and then to adjust our lives to them. God's laws cover all phases of human activity, physical, mental, and spiritual. We might not know it now but some day we will if we can keep on with our hearts and souls in teaching, with the great spirit of Jehovah. And may your college career help you to find all the truths you can find and thru those truths find God.

Robert H. Wright, President