

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

In equilibrium there is death. This is just as true of the mental, as the physical world, hence there is a necessity for the heaven which is implanted in man, and which is ever lifting him higher and higher. Such a condition of thought as described by the word statical does not exist. On the contrary it is constantly advancing; resisting today as it has ever resisted any and all efforts to chain and enthral it. Institutions of learning, therefore, whose nature it is to fix the mental states of particular times, often oppose, perhaps unconsciously, this rapid advance, and

2

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

and war is the consequence. But here in North Carolina, I think we have been as free from this condition as any where in the world. Our Educational Institutions have generally, kept abreast of the times and you young gentlemen on this score have great cause for congratulation. A school or college course is, after all, or rather ought to be, but a preparation for judging rightly of man's interests and requirements. It is a preparation for an exceedingly interesting and responsible duty, so much so, that we are beginning to see the necessity for the intro-

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

duction in our schools of more of the utilitarian and the eminently practical. In other words, the necessity of imparting a knowledge of those things which will most benefit us in our struggle with that exceedingly practical world, upon which you are about to be launched. If you have learned well, and are able to make application of the principles expounded within these walls, many of the asperities, which are the characteristics of the struggles of the bread-winners, will be materially softened. But you are destined yet to bear the real shock of

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

battle. Think not that today the
^{School Habit (merely)}
Toga virilis is to be laid aside.
 The truth is that you are just about
 to ~~do~~ it. You are but where the
 young soldier is when he leaves
 the awkward squad, and shoulders
 his gun to take his stand with reg-
 ulars, or but with the young man
 whose days of apprenticeship are
 over, and who for the first time
 takes his place at the bench to begin
 the life long struggle with the future.
 Serious difficulties are here
 pictured, but they are not in-
 surmountable. Confidence has its
 roots in the past and if you

5
State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

approach the future with that inner compactness and determination of men, who though they know their work to be difficult, but feel no disposition to shrink from it, why, half, at least, of your battle has been already won. I stand not before you to do as in any sense, your instructor, for we are all students. The old and the weak, the young and the strong, all of us have much in common, and all stand on a common platform - on the same level of scholastic and philosophic training. I rather stand

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

before you as one whose greater years having brought more experience, would justify him in reminding you of the importance of, and the advantage you have enjoyed in your early training, your duty in the premises, and last but not least, how much we owe to those whose duty it is to train us up in institutions of this kind, and how much of the promotion and happiness of our lives is the result of that which has been imparted to us, and fairly wrung out of us by our teachers.

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

189

You are now to go forth to become a part of that great army of cultivated men whose duty it is to preserve the order of society, and to enforce, by the example of blameless lives, the precepts of sound morality, and this task is by no means herculean, for let me assure you that the influence of your qualities of head and heart shall every where be felt - felt by those who can not tell why they feel them, and even by those who do not know who the possessor of them is -