

10-21-1951

Notes: Alumni: Homecoming: Facing Tomorrow (John 6:5-6), 1951

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DATE 10/21/51 OCCASION Homecoming.

Directly to Alumni-

THEME Facing Tomorrow. John 6, 5+6.

1. For many of us - hardly a happier time of the year than our annual Homecoming - at the same time, you will agree, hardly a more thoughtful time - our happiness over the reunion with old friends is touched by our remembrance of the fleeting years - by our realization that we are now close to the falling leaf that flutters at our feet as we walk old paths - perhaps too by the thought that the years have not been as good as we had hoped they would be in ~~1940, 1945, 1950~~ ¹⁹¹³, ¹⁹⁵⁰

2. And much the same fusion of happiness and reflection can be found here at the U. - faculty, administration - once a year a clear look at the results of our years - our product - ^{agitate} honestly speaking, the only reason for our ^{corporate} existence - how well have we succeeded in making you all that you can be? in giving you something to live on, for, by? in educating you in the best & highest sense of the word - how well have we done - when the evidence is all in - the fleeting conversation, the sometimes painfully evident love of money, or power, or success - or the plainly written sorrow - or the shining happiness, the sun faith - then we find in ourselves this strange Homecoming feeling - happiness & sadness, accomplishment & failure of success ^{of} and the sudden, disarming realization that we have not always done what we should have done ^{for} ^{you}.

DATE _____ OCCASION Honouring 1951

THEME Sure, you notice a certain duality of emotion about graduation - joy of achievement but also sadness - leaving familiar well-loved scenes, leaving old friends

3. Admit - this duality of emotion applies also to the first thing about Honouring - our meeting of old friends - those whom we knew and loved when life was young - the companions of your youth - we are so happy to see them - but we know ^{that} there is no turning back of the clock - that we can never quite recapture all the ^{pleasures} of the past - that also friendship + love, tied to our humanity, and subject to its laws, are under the inexorable ^{laws} of change and decay - the years eat away like locusts and today is not yesterday -

4. All this - this duality - has persuaded me to lift out this morning the one ^{element} in Honouring which need not change - always the same - 10, 25-50 reunion - your friendship for God & His friendship for you - can be & should be exactly the same (or better) as it was when you came to the chapel with your books for ^{worship} and here above you will find the beating, the ^{unchanging} the Eternal - this is as much your home, here at the altar of God, as it was 10, 20, 30 years ago - here you are really at home - because you are His child - He sees you with tireless eyes and loves you with an everlasting love - for Him, the God of your youth & your years, there is no change - no time - no age - and no coming and going - is His your heart is forever at home -

X
X
X
X

THEME _____

- 8. Father - a wrong way to handle the future - refuse to face it at all - escape into unreality ^{part} alcohol - dreams - ^{N.B.} our lord won't have that - "Where shall we buy bread" - tough question - puts the problem squarely before them - no running away - no shrugging of the shoulders - you must decide, you must act - here one of the paradoxes of the Christian faith - pray as if everything depended on God - work on us - the answer ^{Hopeless attitude}
- 9. Wrong way - Andrew - a bad bar - five barley loaves and two small fishes - if he had only stopped there - but he adds "but what are they doing so many" - applied his own standard of measurement - decide it's hopeless - fatalism - ^{Fruitful} ^{Soldier} millions in our time have built that into a religion - the only way they can handle the years.
- 10. And now the right way - ^{Future} the one & holy way - lighted by the simple words: "He knows what he would do" - He knows at the time - there was never any doubt or fear in His mind - the problem had been met - the situation was obscure in hand - and could have been obscure ^{at 170} for anyone who really trusted Him.
- 11. Bring it down gaily - brought worries & fears with you this ^{morning} morning - troubles - doubts - then He stands back then in the years - and here now this ^{act} morning - knowing the way you must go - and working it till the end - has all the answers - listen for a moment - Economic future: See ye first - Sins - mistakes: "I have returned

DATE _____

OCCASION _____

Homecoming 1951

THEME _____

~~Illness - the hot windmill~~

Death? - "O Death"

Anything & everything: "He knows what He would do"
 And suddenly, bearing and knowing that, our
 lives of the so brown & afraid, so weary & alone,
 begin to move and ^{through} thick and marsh toward
 a better tomorrow. He lifts the roof off ^{the years} of sin
 the windows toward eternity - life is no longer
 of the mercy of time & circumstances - but
 moves forward in a glad & complete surrender to
 Him Who knows, always & forever, what He will
 do - John Masspelli play - "The trial of Jesus" ^{go out}

12. And with that I am ready to have you ^{go out} return
 to the world from which you came for Homecoming
 remembering again that He has come when you
 are and where you will be - suffered where
we must suffer - but glad - waldest - the
 horizons may close in and the road narrow
 & rough - but it will always be wide enough
for two - His hand in yours you can have
 the continuing presence of His power and
 His peace. I ask you to become aware
 of Him and to know that in Him is
 all you will ever see of life, of the
 world, and of God Himself - May He
 bless you and keep you. He ^{will do} knows what He

↓
 Franz Werfel "Hearken into the
 Voice"