

Kellogg Public Schools.

C. W. Vance, Superintendent.

Kellogg, Idaho, April 23, 1906.

My dear Mr. Easton:

The Commencement exercises will be held on the evening of the 18th of May - I think in the Congregational church. However, should it be decided to hold the exercises in the school building, I will inform you later.

We are highly pleased to know that you have kindly consented to assist us.

Thanking you, I remain

Very respectfully yours,

C. W. Vance

Mellogg, May 10, 1901

MAY 10  
1901

R. Vane, Member School Board, Teacher & Pupil Mellogg Public  
Schools, Howard Gilman,

File Name  
Community Commencement

being

It is long past ten years since I took a part, or was even present, at an exercise of this nature. The last occasion was when I finished the academic portion of my education. Therefore, what I may say to-night cannot be moulded by past experiences or any knowledge of what is usual and expected. There are many here who could do greater justice to you and to this occasion than I am able by talents or preparation, but I am glad of this opportunity and I accept with pleasure the invitation to speak to you this evening that I might give active evidence of the interest and support and admiration which I feel personally and which is felt in no small measure also by those for whom I stand in this community, for the good work and successful conduct of the Kellogg Public Schools.

I will not attempt to use rhetorical figure or oratory in presenting the ideas that I have to express this evening, but I will attempt to state briefly and as plainly as possible some facts and conditions that, it appears to me, sooner or later are learned and experienced by us all and not generally until after our course of school work is completed.

Probably the first fact that is thrust upon one on leaving school for work is this: Heretofore you have had to do with people whose attitude towards and interest in you has been one to help, aid, teach and encourage you, to give you something and to improve you. The more you accepted from them and the more you took advantage of the opportunity the more ready they were to assist and advance you. You were in an atmosphere where everyone wants to do something for you. Now you will find that the interest of those with whom you have to do is measured by the extent to which you can be helpful and useful to them and to others with whom you come in contact, and in the same measure that you are successful in so doing and in the measure of your efficiency will be the measure of your own success and reward. I referred in the beginning of this address to the academic part of an education, I meant the school day portion of an education. You should, and I trust will, keep up your learning and the work of your education till your death. What you are now completing should be the start or preparation for the broader and sterner lessons of workaday life. You know how easy it is to forget. We are all forgetting and losing ground constantly and one must make up this loss and more too. You must either improve yourself or retrograde, and while you work and study and try to accomplish what you desire you are surely going ahead whether you know it or not. You may not get what you want or what you think you must have, but in the very active effort you are doing good for yourself, whether your object is accomplished or not. If you fail of the special object of your aim you will surely find you have unconsciously approached other objects which may be really more worthy of your work. With this irrefutable fact in your mind there is no such thing as discouragement or failure. The contestant in a game of ball or other athletic exercise who is defeated derives just as much profit from the exercise and the contest, as if he tries honestly and zealously to win, as the one who defeats him, and a good loser, by patience and courage, is sure in time to win.

and making

The practical good to be secured by the course, either complete or in part, which is offered free to all by our institutions, is a subject of much discussion. What return will the expense and the years of work give the student? Some urge, had he not better be at work? In any undertaking the preparations which are made determine the measure of success of that ~~you undertake~~. Better be overprepared than flail, as you surely will if not ready to do what you undertake. The days work ahead is long. The time for a little more honest preparation you will never miss five, ten or twenty years hence, and the footing, <sup>and</sup> gained by that preparation may be to you of inestimable value. They say "Make haste slowly". Everyone is measured by time. The apparent success of to-day may be the disgraced failure of to-morrow, ~~due to doing~~ expecting too much quickly. The bare circumstances that you have completed a certain course of instruction will not be of material or moral aid to you. Whatever benefit you secure is what you have won yourself by work and application. You find this rule good always. You cannot have everything. If you desire self advancement, you cannot have a life of irresponsibility and indulgence. If you wish an easy time you cannot hope confidently for big things. I must qualify one statement I have made in the early part of this address. Graduates of colleges and schools do have an advantage and receive consideration, for that fact alone ~~of being~~ spells industry and a desire for improvement and ambition to do and be something and are motives which those to whom you will look for consideration are sure to approve and value. A liberal education will get you recognition. Then you must justify your education by your ~~acceptance~~ and work and conduct <sup>actions</sup>.

In closing I wish to impress upon you the obligation you are under for the advantages of education you have had, and you surely must return ~~value~~ something for the value you have received. First: To the parents who have inspired and encouraged you to do this work of education and have supplied you with money, food and the wherewithal to pursue your study: Then to your teachers, whose personal care and zeal for your progress you can never repay: Then another great obligation, why ~~do~~ the School Trustees, or Boards, and Superintendents and other officials give their time and effort and care that you may benefit? Your individual welfare cannot be a matter of great weight with them. This is the reason, it is because they are all bent ~~on~~ on and doing their duty as citizens and members of this community and the State, and I urge upon you never to be unmindful of the duties you have ~~as~~ as citizens and the obligation by your education to the general government, and to the Constitution and to the Flag.

I heartily and sincerely congratulate you upon your creditable completion of the course in the Kellogg Public Schools and I wish you every success and good speed.