

ARCHIVES
HUNTER COLLEGE

I am happy to greet you today for the first time as Chairman of the Administrative Committee of Hunter College and of its Board of Trustees.

Before I go to more serious things I want to tell you a little story. I was in the railway station the other day and saw a man sitting there, rocking back and forth with laughter. I bought a magazine and wandered around. Every once in a while he would burst forth with fresh laughter. I became very curious and finally went up and asked him what he was laughing about. He said, "I missed my train and I have a long wait for the next one. As I sit here I tell myself one story after another, and after each one I laugh and laugh and I say, 'That's an old one. I've heard that one before.'"

I suppose everything I could say to you today has been said before. It is strange that we should use the word "Commencement" for the day on which we lay down for all time the school work which we have carried on for so many years. "Completion" might seem to be a more appropriate term. But that would not be life, for in this world everything that marks an end also marks a beginning.

You are about to be given a new life as educated citizens. My message to you today is that you should live this life with imagination and vision. *as Mr. Pollock says make that every word shall* And you will probably ask how can you do this. To do this successfully you must think for living. Think of today, tomorrow, and the morrow's morrow. In college we have equipped you to think. Now you must do the thinking. You have studied mathematics, which

is pure fact; science, which is deductive and inductive reasoning; languages for culture; philosophy for spiritual and abstract values; and history and economics for cause and event in the past, and many other subjects. Go out and use what Hunter has given you. Study your own life, your community life and your country's life. Integrate them one with the other. Use your imagination to see what is happening, might happen and should happen, and have the vision to pierce the apparent reality of today and strive for a more fruitful tomorrow.

Study your own lives and make a plan. This plan, of course, will change with time, but will be a means through which you can project yourselves into the future. In the study of your own lives consider how you can improve the usefulness of those tools which you have been given to work with, and why. Look your best. Walk and talk with distinction, and you will be favorably received. Cultivate your mind. Read the great books that you have not yet had a chance to read. And study all of the wealth of cultural material with which our great city is so richly endowed. Educate yourselves for your leisure time and you will have great happiness. Know your strength and your weakness. Be honest with yourself and you will be honest with others. Develop your character. Be truthful and reliable and your integrity will never be questioned. Have the imagination to create yourselves.

After you have studied your own lives as individuals, consider your community life. Be an integral part of your home and share its joys and burdens. Belong to your church of whatever creed. Give a helping hand wherever possible to those in need. You will be building faith in yourself and consequently in your fellows. You will be

developing strength for time of need. And if you have a job - and statistics show that a great, great many more of you will have jobs than last year - do not draw down a salary and feel that you have "gotten yours". If you do this you will "get yours", and it won't be much. Take pleasure in your work. There is satisfaction in a job well done. Build in your work. There still are frontiers in such fields as education, science, medicine and industry. With vision and imagination you might create employment for millions of your fellows. Our electricity, telephone, radio are all the results of creative work. Have the imagination and vision to see yourselves as part of a live community.

And having studied your lives individually and in your communities, take part in your country's development. Consider it objectively. You who have fought for academic freedom cherish the national freedom which is our great inheritance - that freedom which considers the individual as well as the state. Do not lightly help groups which endanger that freedom. Beware of isms. Look beyond their apparent realism, their pledges of quick relief, and consider their possible consequences. Study the country's government, its economic realities. Think up a way out of its problems. If you cannot do so yourself ally yourself with those who are optimistic, not pessimistic. Pessimism retards production and employment. It retards good will and breeds irritation and restlessness. Have the imagination to see the national life as a whole and not only its temporary phases.

And don't forget Hunter College when you go out into the changing world. With the imagination which I am urging you to cultivate I hope that you will help us in our dreams and plans for a new college

which must arise like a Phoenix from the flames. This must be beautiful, for education is for truth, and truth is beauty. It must be adequate; for we must have plenty of space for our activities. Dissatisfaction is nurtured in dark and dreary halls. Hope thrives in sunlight. It need not be expensive. Capitalization of the rent that we pay now would build it. You know how you have wandered all around the town for an education. You know how your teachers have had to spend hours travelling, at great waste of energy and the city's money. You must help me and my fellow trustees to achieve our purpose. You must help us to get fine buildings for the college, which you can do by urging it, and by building up a fine opinion of our college. You can do this latter by example: behave well, with dignity, have a high standard in your appearance, your achievement and your purpose.

And don't forget us when you are out in the world. Come back to the collegè. If you are successful, advise our young people how to achieve success. If you are happy, in a small home, or a job which you take pleasure in, come back and advise our young people that there is pleasure in things well done. You are successful if you are happy. If you are miserable, come back for consolation, fresh hope and help. But if you are discontented trouble-makers, stay away. We don't want you. We have had trouble but we want to forget it. We want to believe in ourselves. We have a fine body of young people, as fine as you will get anywhere, and what they need is faith. They need to conquer with faith. We want to help them build up that faith, the faith with which they in turn can conquer. They must believe in themselves and their community and in God. They must believe in their

college, in its administration, the faculty and staff. And I, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee, say to you that I and my fellow trustees and members of the Board of Higher Education are here to see that that belief is justified. We shall give freely of our time and thought to judge fairly of all difficulties - as of course such difficulties must arise in an institution as large as ours. You may not know it, but Hunter College is the largest women's college in the world.

We of Hunter College, your Alma Mater, ask your cooperation, your interest and your patience. We shall respect tradition and encourage change in the college. We must have place for new schools of thought, revitalize ourselves. We shall love and consider those who serve us faithfully, and we shall condemn those who have a selfish purpose. We shall be fair and loyal, and shall jealously guard and truly educate the young people whom the state has entrusted to our care.

We hope that you will come back and visit us. I would like to know you better, to have your advice and cooperation. I want to know the whole college better. I am going to have office hours at 2 Park Avenue next year. My hope is that the students, the faculty and staff, and you who, as our most recent graduates are closest to us, will come in to see me. I think the best is not too good for our college. I think good education given free to the intelligent young people in New York City is an economy because it is creating real wealth in developing latent possibilities in our bright young people. They will be leaders, teachers, dieticians, musicians, artists, and so on. They

will enrich our culture by a new demand for pictures, good books; and will develop our industry and purchasing power.

In conclusion, as you go forth I want to urge again that you think dynamically, that you plan your day, your year, your life, to the best of your ability. Think not only of yourselves but of your community and country. Don't be small - be big. Look into the past, present, and future. And having done so, create for yourselves full, productive and stable lives. To do so, you must think. You must have imagination and vision. But if you will do so, you and your 150,000 fellow graduates throughout the land will begin a new life not only for yourselves but for America - a true Commencement.

6/24/36
**ARCHIVES
HUNTER COLLEGE**

Miss Mack

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K-3

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Hunter College

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Mrs. Mack urged the students to develop ingenuity and vision by identifying themselves with the community and the nation. She also asked the cooperation of the graduates in getting a new building for the students.

Mr. Kisner quoted Robert Frost

"Don't join too many gangs. Join few if any
 Join the United States and join the family -
 But not much in between unless a College."

for yourselves but for America - a true Commencement.

6 copies

Please return
to E. K. Temple

ARCHIVES
HUNTER COLLEGE

BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS

TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF HUNTER COLLEGE

AT CARNEGIE HALL, JUNE 24th, 1936.

CHANNING POLLOCK,
240 WEST 98th STREET,
NEW YORK.

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1) In "The Simpleton of the Unexpected Isles",
George Bernard Shaw reminds us that there is
no longer security in the world,

"AND THE FUTURE IS TO THOSE WHO PREFER
SURPRISE AND WONDER."

That would mean that the future is to the young,
since the preferment of surprise and won-
der is the attribute of youth---
of young people and young civilizations.

SECURITY IS THE GOAL FOR WHICH OLDER PEOPLE AND
CIVILIZATIONS STRIVE, and it is astonishing
how little of it there has ever been
in the world.

IT WOULD NOT BE OVER-STATEMENT, I THINK, TO SAY
THAT OUR LONGEST STRETCH OF SECURITY WAS
THAT WHICH BEGAN IN ENGLAND WITH THE
CORONATION OF VICTORIA,
spreading slowly over the globe, and ending with
the Great War.

NOR DO I BELIEVE IT COINCIDENCE THAT THIS WAS A
PERIOD OF AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT.

THE DESIRE FOR SURPRISE AND WONDER
 SPRINGS FROM VITALITY, SELF-CONFIDENCE,
 DARING, AND EBULLIENCE.

These are fine qualities, and especially for
 pioneers, BUT SOMETHING ELSE IS REQUIRED
 FOR HARVEST IN THE FIELDS THEY
 CONQUER.

That something is experience, knowledge,
 and tranquility.

✓ THE WORLD WASN'T MADE IN A MINUTE.

✓ IT CAN'T BE RE-MADE IN A MINUTE, EITHER.

✓ IT CAN'T BE RE-MADE BY PASSING A LAW, OR BY
 KICKING FROM UNDER US ALL THAT WAS
 BUILT BEFORE US, and starting
 again at scratch.

✓ THOSE WHO CLIMB HIGHEST ARE THOSE WHO BEGIN
 WHERE OTHERS LEFT OFF.

Civilization is a pyramid to which each of us
 contributes a grain of sand---

a pyramid whose broad base was

3 | laid on the Nile, AND TO WHICH ALMOST
EVERY SUCCESSIVE GENERATION HAS ADDED SOME-
THING.

Into the structure of that magnificent ship,
THE QUEEN MARY, went the discoveries
of all the men who first hollowed
logs, AND FLOATED THEM; who first built gal-
leys, and rowed them; WHO FIRST TRIED
SAIL AND STEAM.

A little girl declared that she was drawing a
picture of God.

"A PICTURE OF GOD!" protested her mother.

"WHY, MY DARLING, NOBODY KNOWS HOW
GOD LOOKS."

"No", answered daughter, "but when I get thru
they will."

THAT'S SELF-CONFIDENCE, AND STARTING AT
SCRATCH, BUT IT DOESN'T BUILD SHIPS,
OR WORLDS.

Since the War, we have all been drawing
pictures of God.

AND THAT'S WHY THERE IS NO LONGER
ANY SECURITY.

In no other age, perhaps, has there been such
general agreement that whatever is,
or was, must be wrong.

WITH GOOD-HUMORED TOLERANCE, WE SPEAK OF
"THE GAY 90s."

There is neither humor nor tolerance in our
estimate of "THE VICTORIAN ERA."

rejects scornfully to

EVEN OUR PRESIDENT ~~SHOWS~~ "THE HORSE AND
BUGGY DAYS", forgetting, perhaps,
that, at least, we knew where
the buggy was going, and had a check-rein
on the horse.

WE ALL ASPIRE TO BEING "MODERNS"--almost the
only state that is achieved merely by
being born.

THIS MIGHT BE WELL IF WE WERE CONTINUING OR
SURPASSING WHAT WE DISCARD.

It is a little funny when one reflects that

Replaced met. dep. att. Comm. District 44

5 this ridiculous Victorian era produced DISRAELI, GLADSTONE, BISMARCK AND LINCOLN....

Wagner, Turner, Whistler, Ruskin and Rossetti....

PASTEUR, SAMUEL MORSE, AND ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL.....

Dickens, Thackeray, Kipling, Swinburne, Carlyle, Ibsen, Emerson, Mark Twain, Gilbert & Sullivan.....

AND, BY SLIGHT EXTENSION, SHELLEY, KEATS, AND GOETHE.

The ages of Pericles, of Elizabeth, and Lorenzo, the Magnificent, bred one or two greater men, perhaps, BUT NO OTHER PERIOD HAS BEEN AS RICH IN GREATNESS.

These are giants beside whom the best we moderns can offer seem strangely hollow and pretentious pygmies.

OUR GENERATION PREFERS CLEVERNESS TO GREATNESS, and the two things are inimical-- NO GREAT MAN WAS EVER CLEVER,

OURS IS A RACE OF WISE-CRACKERS, TICKLING
LIFE WITH STRAWS.

With a need of leadership hitherto unknown in
the world, we have produced no great
leaders--ONLY LITTLE MEN WORKING
FOR THEIR OWN AGGRANDIZMENT, AND DRAWING
PICTURES OF GOD.

That is no alarming matter, perhaps.

It is not every generation that creates.

BUT IT IS AN IMPERILED GENERATION THAT,
FINDING NO NEW LEADER OR NEW GOD,
STILL DISCARDS THE OLD LEADERS
AND THE OLD GOD.

It is an imperiled generation that never looks
back, or looks back only to laugh,
BUT PUSHES AHEAD IN THE CONVICTION
THAT ALL MOVEMENT IS PROGRESS; that is it is
better to destroy than to do nothing
at all.

7) Doesn't it begin to seem sometimes
that all this is what Olive Schreiner called
"a striving, and a striving, and an
ending in nothing"?.....

WHAT SHAKESPEARE DESCRIBED AS "A TALE TOLD BY
AN IDIOT, FULL OF SOUND AND FURY,
SIGNIFYING NOTHING"?

SURPRISE AND WONDER!!!

BUT THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF BOTH!

There is the surprise Galileo must have felt
at his telescope, or CORTEZ'S MEN, who
"looked at each other with a wild surmise,
silent upon a peak in Darien."

AND THERE IS THE SURPRISE OF A CHILD WHEN
JACK COMES OUT OF THE BOX.

There is wonder born of "the might of design
and the mystery of color."

AND THE WONDER OF A YOKEL, GAPIING AT A CALIOPE
--ALL SOUND AND FURY.

8 What have we accomplished with ~~all~~
these wonders and excitements?

Speed, clamor--FOR WHAT?

We fly to Chicago in a few hours; WHAT DO WE
DO WITH THE TIME WE GAIN THUS?

To Europe in two days, and what do we see when
we get there?

THE HUMAN VOICE CAN BE HEARD ROUND THE WORLD,
AND IS HEARD--chiefly singing "The
Music Goes Round and Round."

HOLLYWOOD SENDS US DRAMA IN TIN CANS; has it
created a Kipling or a Bernhardt?

WHERE SHAKESPEARE LABORED WITH HIS QUILL, I
take my ease with that marvelous modern
contrivance, the Dictaphone, BUT
IT HASN'T MADE ME A SHAKESPEARE.

It hasn't made anyone a Shakespeare--only an
Edgar Wallace or a Louis Bromfield.

GREATNESS, my girl friends, is a matter of soul,
and mind, and heart.

THERE IS NO OTHER GREATNESS.

MAN..or woman..ONLY IS GREAT.

AND THE GREATNESS OF MAN, OR WOMAN, IS MORE
 LIKELY TO COME OF SIMPLICITY, and
 high ideals, AND RESPECT FOR
 TRADITION, and veneration and emulation of
 nobility THAN FROM STEEL TOYS AND
 BRONZE GODS.

I am for change--heaven knows I am!

I'M NUTS ABOUT MODERN GADGETS.

**---

But there are things that cannot change if
 our race is to survive.

THE LORD FORBID THAT I SHOULD CONSIGN YOU TO
 HOMES WITHOUT TELEPHONES OR WASHING
 MACHINES.

But there was something in that kind of home
 that we seem in a fair way to miss.

THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE OLD-FASHIONED
 HOME THAT WAS A REFUGE AND A HARBOR;

10 something that is lost in the $3\frac{1}{2}$ 2 1/2
room flat, with its dining alcove, its
dinner from the delicatessen--a mere
halting place between the office
and the movies.

AS HENRY LINK SAYS IN THE DEDICATION OF ONE
OF HIS BOOKS, "There are millions of
grandparents who, with less mon-
ey, gave their children more than we are
giving ours today."

"With all the benefits from the physical
sciences", he asks, "where is the
evidence that individuals are
happier, that families are more united, that
governments or political bodies are
wiser, or that nations are less
likely to go to war?"

MANY OF YOU GIRLS ARE PROBABLY THIRSTING FOR
A CAREER.

Shall you be better off, do you think, than
those old-fashioned girls whose
career was home and motherhood?

ALL RIGHT; HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY!

Only, don't try to eat your cake and have
it, too.

FOR HOME IS A CAREER.

You can no more make it a successful career
in your spare time than you could
make a success of medicine or
architecture in moments when you'd nothing
else to do.

DON'T CONSIGN ME TO THE RANKS OF THE HATED
REACTIONARIES.

I give you a home with every gadget known to
Schenectady; will you give me a home
in which there is courtesy and
kindness, and good food and good talk, and
plain living and high thinking?

THIS ISN'T A PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE; I am mar-
ried, and I have such a home.

"MILLIONS OF GRANDPARENTS WHO, WITH LESS MON-
ey, gave their children more than we

12 are giving ours today."

PERHAPS ONE OF THE THINGS THEY GAVE THEM WAS

"LESS MONEY."

The best thing my father ever did for me was
to leave nothing but a family to
support.

ANYWAY, HE LIVED IN THAT NEOLITHIC AGE before
a father's greatest wish was to spare
his children all the struggles
that made him the man he was.

THERE IS TRUTH IN JOSEPH HERGESHEIMER'S
PHRASE, "The first generation that
wears evening clothes is the last
generation that amounts to anything."

UNLESS IT EARNS THEM.

One of the troubles with the generation whose
place you are taking is that its
fathers had too much money.

THERE WERE YOUNG MEN IN MY VILLAGE WHO WOULD-
N'T HAVE KNOWN HOW TO EARN BREAD E-
NOUGH TO FEED ANTS, but they had

each his own motor car.

THEY WENT THROUGH COLLEGE WITHOUT EFFORT,
AND GRADUATED WITHOUT EDUCATION.

One of them, applying for admission to the bar,
was asked, "WHAT WAS THE MAGNA CHARTA?",
and answered, "A naval expedition."

AND, absurdly old-fashioned as the phrase is,
Satan, in those days, as in these,
found much for idle hands to do.

AND IDLE LIPS.

I DON'T MEAN WHAT YOU MEAN.

I'm thinking of the post-war sneer at almost
every established virtue and decency.

A WIT ONCE WROTE OF A BOOK, "There are some
things in this book that are new, and
some that are true, but the true
things are not new, and the new things are *NOT*
true."

LIFE, I'M AFRAID, IS A TRIFLE LIKE THAT.

LITTLE THINGS MAY BE CHANGED; GREAT
THINGS ARE ETERNAL.

In this iconoclastic age, we are forever
quoting Neitzsche's words about "the
ever-changing code of morals."

Few of us seem to realize that Neitzsche was
writing of morals in the Greek sense
of manners and customs; not--
to quote Nietzsche himself--of "that funda-
mental code that never changes."

WOMEN DIDN'T SMOKE CIGARETTES IN MY MOTHER'S
DAY.

They do now--and WHAT OF IT?

But cheating and thievery and murder were
taboo in my mother's day, and are now,
and always will be.

IN SPITE OF OUR SOPHISTRIES AND SOPHISTICA-
TIONS--as I heard Will Rogers say
once--"WHAT WAS DIRT IN CAESAR'S
TIME IS DIRT IN JIMMIE WALKER'S."

A FEW YEARS AGO, when I mentioned Tennyson in a talk at City College, a lad asked me if I didn't realize that Tennyson was "a purveyor of pious platitudes."

WELL, MAYBE--but, somehow, I still think that pious old platitude about kind hearts being more than coronets and simple faith than noble blood, has been read by more people, is being read by more people, and has influenced more lives than all the glittering apostacies of all the Bertrand Russells and James Branch Cabells in the universe.

SOME TIME BACK, I acted as toastmaster at a dinner to Daniel Frohman, and, on my left, sat my old friend, Billy Phelps.

WHEN DONALD OGDEN STUART rose to speak, he said, "There's the man who taught me about Charles Dickens...By the way, whatever became of that fellow Dickens?"

me to tell Stuart that what became of Dickens was that "last year, we sold more copies of Dickens than at any time since we have been in the book business."

ANOTHER MODERN YOUNG AUTHOR dined with me recently, and kept sneering at Dickens.

AND I STOOD IT AS FAR AS THE CELERY.

THEN I SAID, "Let me tell you something, my friend:

"WHEN 'THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP' was published, like most other Dickens novels, it was published in installments."

"Over here, the interest was so great that a fast clipper ship was hired to bring them to America."

"WHEN THE FINAL INSTALLMENT ARRIVED, a crowd of nearly 5000 people were waiting at the pier in the rain, and, unable to restrain their impatience until the boat docked, they cried across the

17 water, to the captain, 'IS LITTLE NELL
DEAD? IS LITTLE NELL DEAD?'

AND I SAID, "I'll tell you something else, my
friend: When you write a story that
brings 5000 people to the Battery
to learn whether or not your heroine still
lives--then, and not till then--you can
sneer at Charles Dickens!"

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN.

Read Proust if you will, and James Joyce if
you must, but don't throw overboard the
accumulated--if dated--treasures
of thirty centuries of literature.

DON'T DECIDE THAT SEX WAS DISCOVERED BY ELINOR
GLYNN, and that no humans are interest-
ing unless they're psychopathic.

LONG BEFORE YOUR TIME, a sex-weary MAX BEER-
BOHM WROTE TO THE LADY WITH A PAST IN
THE PINERO PLAYS:

"Lovely lady, we implore,
Go away, and sin no more;
Or, if that effort be too great,
Go away, at any rate."

When you're half my age, you will have discovered ~~now~~ that reportorial writing is the easiest kind of writing; that authors abandon reticence only when they have not the skill to be reticent; and that

THERE IS ENOUGH DIRT AND UGLINESS
IN THE WORLD WITHOUT PAYING TO HAVE IT HAULED
INTO THE THEATER OR THE LIBRARY AT
\$3 A LOAD.

Also, that the new freedom in writing isn't so very new, after all.

2300 years ago, a genial gentleman named Plato was warning us, "We would not have our people grow up amid images of moral deformity.

"The important thing to secure is the admiration of noble deeds, noble words, and noble character."

HEREIN LIES ANOTHER REASON FOR NOT SPURNING
THE PAST WITH THE ACHILLEAN HEEL OF
THE PRESENT.

COURAGE, COURTESY, CONTINENCE ARE NOT
ALTOGETHER INSTINCTIVE QUALITIES.

THEY COME OF ADMIRATION AND EMULATION.

I doubt that the cave men, starting at scratch,
felt any great urge to "noble deeds,
noble words, and noble character."

THROUGH CENTURIES OF HISTORY AND LITERATURE WE
HAVE BUILT UP A COMPELLING TRADITION.

There is comparatively little to take its
place in the modern world.

IN OUR POST-WAR FICTION, THE HERO GAVE WAY TO
THE POOR FISH.

The cheap fiction of my youth was supplied by
Laura Jean Libbey and the Duchess.

Laugh as you will at their card-board heroes,
these were no more false, and a good deal
more wholesome, than the ~~celluloid~~
celluloid gentlemen with the pee-wee mus-
taches and the patent-leather hair
who represent the present aspirat^{ion}

ion
^

of every soap-water clerk, and the
ambition of every salesgirl.

The economic break-down that has disturbed
us so violently isn't one-tenth as
serious as the moral break-down
that helped produce it.

WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF REPUDIATION AND LITTLE
TIN BOXES.

There probably was a good deal of surprise and
wonder when the Vestris went down, and
its crew pre-empted the life-boats.

BUT THERE WAS NO SECURITY.

NOR YET ON THE MORRO CASTLE, where many of
one class were too drunk to save
themselves, and most of the other
class too cowardly and undisciplined to save
anyone else.

IS this sort of thing occasion for surprise
or wonder?

FOR 20 YEARS, WE'VE BEEN TELLING THE COCK-
EYED WORLD THAT THE ANCIENT VIRTUES

WERE THE BUNK--that heroism was apple-
 sauce, and self-sacrifice a bowl of spinach--
 and then we're amazed that men don't
 stand aside on a sinking ship to give
 their places to women ~~and~~ and
 children.

LET ME TELL YOU, when a man does that, or
 any of the thousand-and-one things that
 is its equivalent, it's because he's
 been told from the cradle, at his mother's
 knee, in school, and in everything he
 reads, and sees and hears afterward,
 and for generations before that,
 that there are things in life that are worse
 than death; things a gentleman ^{does not} cannot
 do--and when he believes that,
 and not until then, he behaves like a gent-
 leman-----and that's a demodod word, too!

IF WE KNEW MORE OF THE OLD, I think, we should
 be less ready to believe in the new.

FOR SO LITTLE OF IT IS NEW.

22 The Egyptologist, W.M. FLINDERS PETRIE,
found cubist art edging into every civiliza-
tion that had reached decadence.

IT HAS BECOME PLATITUDINOUS to refer to the
tendencies in contemporary America that
are described in Gibbons' "Decline and
Fall of the Roman Empire."

EVEN OUR CURRENT "EXPERIMENTS" IN GOVERNMENT
ARE NOT NEW.

Devaluation of currency was known to the rob-
ber barons, who gathered up all the
coins, cut a piece out of each,
retained the piece, and returned what was left
to the helpless owners.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE DEPRESSED ITS MONEY TO 1/96th
OF ORIGINAL VALUE, and inflation was
one of the major causes of the
French Revolution.

"Not to believe that government must regulate
all human affairs is currently regarded as
stupidly reactionary by those who im-
agine themselves the pioneers of a new world",

BUT IT IS REGIMENTATION, PLANNED ECONOMY,
 THAT ARE REALLY REACTIONARY--a return
 to the ancient autocracies
 against which mankind has been struggling
 for hundreds of years.

~~XXXXX~~

I HADN'T MEANT TO GO INTO POLITICS.

They aren't my forte.

I'D RATHER BE RIGHT THAN BE PRESIDENT.

In fact, I'd rather be wrong than be President.

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS MERELY THAT MOST OF
 THE MODERNNESS UPON WHICH WE PREEN OURSELVES
 ISN'T REALLY SO DARNED MODERN.

We should escape a good deal of trial and
 error if our politicians knew history.

AND IF WE OURSELVES were a little less con-
 temptuous of what we think dead merely
 because it has gone on before.

THAT IS TRUE EVEN OF TRIFLES.

A FEW YEARS AGO, one of my best girls
told me that she encarnined her nails because
it was "the newest thing."

BUT THE BLOOD-REDDEST NAILS I ever saw are
on the fingers of a Priestess of Iris
who lies in the National Museum
at Cairo.

WE WHO TRY OUR WINGS in the rarified atmos-
phere of luxury, and self-indulgence,
and easy ethics are not trail-
breakers.

WE ARE TREADING PATHS IN THE GROVES OF DAPHNE
that were worn smooth ages before Nero
gave his violin recital in burn-
ing Rome.

AND ALL THE ATHENS in which life has become
effortless, and soft and undisciplined
have fallen victim to some iron
Sparta.

IT IS THIS ABANDONMENT OF OLD FAITHS that made
us great, for so-called new faiths that
never made anyone great, that

seems to me dangerous.

I DREAD AN AMERICA OF SURPRISE AND WONDER in
which the greatest surprise ~~is~~ shall be
high idealism; the greatest wonder
that any man or woman shall prefer tranquility
to excitement.

I DEPLORE AN AMERICA more interested in fol-
de-rols than in freedom, and an educa-
tion so common and so easily
acquired that only the few value and profit
by it.....

AN EDUCATION that teaches making a living, but
not how to make that living worth
while.

A WORLD BOUND UP IN MATERIAL THINGS.

IN ONE OF LAST WEEK'S NEWSPAPERS, I read the
Probation Officer's report on that
wretched man who faces 50 years
in prison for compulsory prostitution.

"HIS IDEALS OF LIFE", the Probation Officer
says, "resolved themselves into money

26) to spend, beautiful women to associate
with, silk underclothes, and places to go in
style."

DOES THAT DESCRIBE AN AWFUL LOT OF US WHO ARE
NOT CRIMINALS?

"His freedom of conscience", the report said,
"springs from the philosophy, 'IF I
HAVE TO BE A CRUMB, I'D RATHER BE
DEAD.' He explains that a crumb is a person
who works and saves, and indulges in
no extravagances.

His social outlook is essentially childish,
in that it is dominated by recklessness,
and a craving for action."

THAT'S "LUCKY" LUCIANO.

ISN'T IT A LOT OF UNLUCKY YOUS AND MES?

It's curious that "reactionary" should become
a term of opprobrium in one of the
unhappiest periods the world has ever known.

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY MEN IN PARADISE DON'T
WANT TO TURN BACK.

But I CAN'T understand why men who
 have left firm ground for quicksand and chaos
 should press ahead to more chaos and
 quicksand.

BELIEVE ME, I DON'T DEPLORE CHANGE.

WHEN SHE WAS 90, somebody asked the Baroness
 Burdett-Coutts at what age women cease
 being interested in love, and the
 Baroness replied, "GOODNESS, I'M NOT OLD E-
 NOUGH TO KNOW THAT!"

I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO DEPLORE CHANGE.

I'M ONLY OLD ENOUGH TO DEPLORE CHANGE BORN OF
 RESTLESSNESS, RECKLESSNESS, IGNORANCE--
 to know that those eternal verities[?] of the
 Greeks--truth and beauty--are internally
 the eternal verities.

I'M OLD ENOUGH to agree with Herbert Hoover,
 when he said, "THERE ARE SOME PRINCI-
 PLES which came into the universe along with
 the shooting stars of which worlds are
 made, and they have always been and
 always will be true. SUCH ARE THE LAWS OF

MATHEMATICS, THE LAW OF GRAVITATION,
AND THE CEASELESS STRUGGLE OF MANKIND TO BE

FREE."

SUCH, TOO, are honor, courage, kindness, loyalty, industry, thrift, and concern for the common good.

I ENJOY MY CAR AND MY ICELESS ICE-BOX, but I don't believe that higher standards of living are exclusively bound up with automobiles and electric refrigerators.

I BELIEVE HAPPINESS IS ROOTED IN SIMPLICITY; that a man is rich, not in proportion to what he has, but in proportion to what he ^{enjoys} doesn't want.

I BELIEVE THAT "HIGH HOPES FAINT" ON TOO WARM A HEARTHSTONE; that it is less likely that singers have lived in attics because they were poets, than that they have been poets because they lived in attics.

I BELIEVE IN THE GLAMOR THAT WAS AN ABRAHAM

GRANT HAULING IT.

I DON'T believe in the joy of a life made up
of little things--LITTLE LOVES, LITTLE
LABORS, LITTLE THOUGHTS--of golf,
bridge, department-store ads, stock market
reports, and the night clubs.

THESE ARE SYMBOLS OF THE "SECURITY" SHAW HAD
IN MIND--a security to which we should
rightly prefer the excitement of
the good fight, and the wonders of treasures
of the mind and soul laid up for us
during ages of real progress.

FINALLY, AND FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I
believe that no man who believes in
these things can be a reactionary,
because they are eternal things that never
can have been left behind.

THE EDUCATION THAT TEACHES THEM IS TRUE EDU-
CATION, the purpose of which is
CHARACTER even more than CURRIC-
ULUM, and HIGHER APPRECIATIONS AND ASPIRATIONS

I SHOULD LIKE TO THINK that you girls may help
bring back some of these things of the
spirit into a world too much
concerned with things of the flesh.

For the SPIRIT of man is timeless, ageless,
and deathless.

IT MAY BE OLD-FASHIONED, but I can leave you
with no better advice than the words
that the dying chemist, Pasteur,
addressed to the students of Paris:

"DO NOT LET YOURSELVES BE TAINTED BY A
DEPRECATING AND BARREN SKEPTICISM;

do not let yourselves be discouraged.
SAY TO YOURSELVES, 'WHAT HAVE I DONE FOR MY
INSTRUCTION?...What have I done for my
country?', UNTIL THE TIME COMES WHEN YOU MAY
have the immense happiness of thinking
that you have contributed in some way to the
progress and good of humanity."

THE END.

