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after the learner speeche debories they Here distric jurched men. what is there left for me today, and get there are two distinct. Houghlo which come to me, and which I will hy to Express to Jam. In these very Compley and Chaufung times. when the markine age & Elonomic Conditions have Causes an upheaval in the very roots four living, a something has been born. acled Levene, & our Every Effort must how to hear borards the enduratanding of Thonew Trickly, I the best way to tree it. In these last pars when the temps of

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luless Jou have weeken Journalers the polewhaller for happines and service, what will belove gla thost Calleges to - day are recognizing the brenis must be torrards a less rocahonal objective. a geale Correlation of Knowledge, a weogrugeton of the prweight of seef. education, or a shoulthing I more broad mentale intellectual interests in order modo. the purpose of Callet Edulation is mad to much to fit you for a boschin, as it is to deselete) our faculties. For it is more uniportant to track you how to think that what to think. Four Come to Callege with any anderes thinst for any hartecular Rubert, and that decire you must regnire by and so to day you are soing out to begin Your Education, so that contain Journalore You may have somees of Joy, + wilelecture witerests, which can fill the leisure you have had thrust whom you. But you must Ruon what you desire, for knowing that, is more airfortant Than getting the desire. Thoreau Said. (when he went to Warden Pona) "I want because I waited to live deliberation. to front the Essentials facts of life, see ef I comed not bear what it has to beach, + not,

4) when I cauce to die discons that I had not hird". and my other thought is this: are Enter toppling or already faclow - when Kuifo are no longer papular, when our Capitalishe spelum is on its treat for life, when our harriage laws are being theatened, and the leave of the med is in the balance, it is to the your for newbers your Socie toder that we will have for waherahon and whif. and if you are to heep cure the illo of the more what must Jour grabfications & First, last, and at rei lemes, Characles. For with all your fine mental. Equément, Jour technical Knowledge, what empiess can you make without a nable character. What is character? It is that Combusahin of Inables until us which Enables as to meet successfully the problems of our day. and as the Waro Chauge, so Chese gralikes Chauge, and to day Jou need, Museefrahneas, moral Courage, & the force of an ideal some one said to me the ohr

(5) day, americans are always proberhing a James Something, the unphie Cuhesin bring that that they don't probest for Something. Thus, if one prolest afairet the mong, their the nust slep must be, the fight for the right. So that is my se cand thought for you. Build your Character To shoug, and fine and balant, that it will be unpossible to tolerate auxthing but what is honest, fine and noble. and fifth for the Reght. Fift for it with all those Enalther of muid, and heart and spirit, that this Make men Call your freat. Geed now, as Tres. of the Churce asa. h which I have soon to add all) our names, I bring to your our lon, our Congratulations, our very best makes for a fuel shappy future

June 14, 1933.

Leslie Graff – President of the Alumni Association Commencement Address Hunter College June 14, 1933

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To my mind the greatest <u>honor</u> paid to the Pres. of the ass. is the <u>privilege</u> granted her to address you on this most important occasion. It is an honor which I gratefully acknowledge, deeply appreciate, and heartily dread! And just why this privilege is granted I have not yet fully understood, except it be - that you are what <u>we</u> were - and we are what you will be.

After the learned speeches delivered by these distinguished men, what is there left for me to say! And yet there are two distinct thoughts which come to me, and which I will try to express to you.

In these very complex and changing times, when the machine age + economic conditions have caused an upheaval in the very roots of our living, a something has been born. Exiled leisure, + our every effort must now be bent towards the understanding of this new quality, + the best way to use it.

In these last years when the tempo of

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living has been so quickened, we dreaded even the mention of slowing down. But since the crash of a few years ago we are trying to adjust our lives to a slower tempo,+ maybe approaching the tune when we can actually enjoy the stopping of activities, + when a pause will be a treat. In the East, moments of silence are more significant than moments of sound, for it is in these moments of silence that the listener is revealed to himself. The great poet-philosopher Lao-Tsze - explained this theory by using the simile of a vase: - "A vase is useful not because of the thickness of its sides but because of the empty space they enclose." The emptiness of the vase - which is life - becomes more useful when we forget the natural surroundings which make it. And we enhance the nature by the beauty with which we fill it.

In normal times, many of you would have gone out into the world + found positions, but to-day all fields are overcrowded, + you may find yourselves without occupation. How will you fill those many empty-hours?

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Unless you have within yourselves the potentialities for happiness and service, what will become of you.

Most colleges to-day are recognizing the trends must be towards a <u>less</u> vocational objective, a greater correlation of knowledge, a ???????? of the principle of self-education, + a stimulation of more vivid intellectual interest. In other words - the purpose of a college education is not so much to fit you for a position, as it is to develop your faculties. For it is more important to teach you <u>how</u> to think, than <u>what</u> to think. Few come to college with any ardent interest for any particular subject, and that desire you must acquire here.

And so to-day you are going out to <u>begin</u> your education, so that within yourselves you may have sources of joy, + intellectual interests, which can free the leisure you have had thrust upon you. But you must know <u>what</u> you desire, for knowing that, is more important than getting the desire. Thoreau said (when he went to Walden Pond) "I went because I wished to live deliberately, to front the essential facts of life, see if I could not learn what it has to teach, + not,

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when I came to die, discover that I have not lived."

And any other thought is this: -

That to-day where all established orders are either toppling or have already fallen - when kings are no longer popular, when our Capitalistic system is in its trial for life, when our marriage laws are being threatened, and the peace of the world is in the balance, it is to the younger members of your social order that we will turn for inspiration and relief. And if you are to help cure the ills of the world what must your qualifications be? First, last, and at all times, character. For with all your fine mental equipment, your technical knowledge, what impress can you make without a noble character. What is character? It is that combination of qualities within us which enables us to meet successfully the problems of our day. And as the years change, so these qualities change, and to-day you need, unselfishness, moral courage, + the face of an ideal. Some one said to me the other

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day, Americans are always protesting <u>against</u> something, the implied conclusion being that that that they don't protest <u>for</u> something. Well, if one protests against the wrong, then the next step must be, the <u>fight</u> for the right. So that is my second thought for you. Build your character so strong, and fine and valiant, that it will be impossible to tolerate anything but what is honest, fine and noble. And <u>fight</u> for the right. Fight for it with all those qualities of mind, and heart and spirit, that will make men call you great.

And now, as Pres. of the Alumnae Ass. - to which I have soon to add all your names, I bring to you our love, our congratulations, + our very best wishes for a full + happy future.