

My Outlook On Life

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It is a good thing for a student to stop a moment in the midst of this striving to do all that is expected of him in college and think of what his life has meant up to the present and on what he intends to base his future.

When I think of my life up to now, I see several distinct features that have shaped my thoughts and ideals. Steady, consistent Christian training from my earliest recollections has formed a firm basis for most of my ideas. However, this has never been irksome or too unwieldy, otherwise I might not have stayed within its limits so willingly. No puritanical restrictions have ever been made for me, but neither have I ever been left too freely on my own judgments until my parents thought it advisable. I still tell my mother where I am going, not because I must, but because, strangely enough, I want to. I do not know what method my father and mother used to keep me doing the right thing and still not minding it, but it has never seemed too strict to me, and I have always had a good time.

Up until the last few years, religion was more of a habit than anything else to me. As a child one cannot really understand it, but when he gets a little older it becomes more important. I began to think what it really meant, church-going grew more attractive, I liked to work in it, and I found that I had a great deal of faith in its principles. My faith has grown even firmer, and no amount of scientific argument or reasoning can shake it. I admit it is a simple faith. I do not try to ana-

lyze great principles, and I think that every sect has a right to its own beliefs. Each believes in the same God, and that is the important thing to me.

Also, through the past five or six years, certain ideals and standards have made themselves clear and I strive toward them. I can not believe in the modern sophistication that brushes lightly over simple living, clean thoughts, morality, and religious ideals. I think, though, that many people still cling to their old ideas but are ashamed to admit their belief in them. That is perhaps one of the most serious dangers in this age. For my part, I think that customs that are the products of years of experience are more to be depended upon than a new code that has not been proven at all.

Looking into the future, however, I think life is well worth the living. It may have been easier to live in another age, but this one is a good test.

Increasingly I realize that every new person, every new experience is important to me. College is very valuable in that respect. Even unpleasant happenings are worthwhile, because a new lesson is taught in patience if nothing else.

I want to receive a good education, because I feel that I will have a better appreciation of life for it. It is easier to understand world affairs, present conditions, and foreign peoples if I know something about them and their history. College can furnish all this and more. Above all I want to develop my mind to the extent that when I grow old I shall have many interests and can be content. I never want to feel that I am selfishly burdening someone by forcing them to entertain me. I believe it is possible, as someone has said, to "grow old gracefully," and I hope that that is what I may be able to do.