

HARLAN ON THE COLLEGE MAN

SPEAKING OF HIS RELATION TO
THE Y. M. C. A.

"A Majority of All College Men in the United States Are Christian."—The Y. M. C. A. is
"A Goodly Fellowship."

Dr. Rolvix Harlan, who will conduct a week's special meetings at Ottawa University beginning with February 25, sends the following statement to the Campus, giving his views of the place of the Y. M. C. A. in the college man's life. He says:

"My opinion can cover only general matters and will be expressed in rather general statements, the truth of which cannot be challenged. Such an organization has a not-otherwise-filled place.

"First. The college man is not irreligious and indeed ought not ever to be unreligious. Life means too much to a man with enough energy of personality to be in the way of a college education to omit the enrichment of his character and the toning up of his conduct. Religion too vitally affects his happiness and influence. A majority of all college men in the United States are Christian and they need an opportunity for the assertion of their Christian personality. This the Y. M. C. A. gives and the emphasis is on the word Christian.

"Second. An emphasis equally strong with college men is on the word and fact of Association. Your college man is nothing if not social. He must mix. It is splendid to have Christian fellows banded together with whom to associate, and to have one's faith in the fundamental realities of the Christian faith reinforced, by finding them shared by the keenest minds in college. It is a goodly fellowship.

"The local church is the normal group life for the Christian, and he ought to retain his relation and sustain his devotion to some church home. If he is to be away from his home town the entire four years of college life and does not plan to return there at the completion of his course he ought by all means to transfer his membership to the college church or join if he has never yet united with the church. But in a real sense the college is a community by itself and the special group life so necessary to healthy Christian development is furnished by the Y. M. C. A. Here is an intimacy of fellowship that builds up Christian manhood and purpose, and reaches into the farthest recesses of personality. The college man ought to make a number of lasting friendships, and grow himself to be a true and dependable friend to a number of fine college men. No asset of later life will be worth quite so much as this to the right minded man. Make friends in college—good friends—Christian friends.

"Third. The college man is poorly trained unless in practical ways his interest in "the other fellow" is aroused and intensified. This the Y. M. C. A. does. It affords an opportunity to help make the great things of Christianity the possession of all the students. It is the laboratory for the course in Christian Evidences. It is a practice school—rather it is the college Christian life functioning to reproduce life "after its kind." The law of life itself, not to speak of the Christian life, requires that it bring forth after its kind. The continuity of the Christian life in the college is thus greatly helped by the Y. M. C. A."

Yours sincerely,

Rolvix Harlan

Dr. Harlan is now pastor of the Central Baptist Church of Kansas City and was formerly head of the History and Economics department of Ottawa University. He is well known among the students and has many friends in Ottawa, who will be glad to have him here for the meetings. He was to have been here the week beginning February 11, but his trip has been postponed on account of the fact that a number of the Ottawa Y. M. C. A. men will be in Hutchinson during that week.

McILRATH IS EDITOR.