

The President Speaking

The opening day of the New Year brought to our college community a great shock and deep sadness as we learned of the sudden and unbelievable taking of Howard Lasswell out of our midst.

Enjoying abundant health and possessed of glowing enthusiasm, on the very eve of his eagerly expected return to college circles Howard's earthly life was snuffed out in a moment of time, so needlessly so, as it seems to us, and so inexplicably.

It is not given to many in such a short fellowship within a college community, to win their way so quietly into the admiration and affection of his associates, both faculty and students. Ever radiating good cheer, tackling every task in serious whole-hearted fashion, making friends easily and establishing about himself wholesome fellowships, he was untouched by the small social habits into which youth fall so easily these days, and yet regarded in every sense as a genuine man. His associates on the football squad, of which he was a valued member, and the business men with whom he came in contact, all are outspoken in their praise of the wholesomeness and sturdiness of his character. How much needed on our campus a man of his standing and spirit! We shall miss him greatly as the days come and go.

And every mind and heart inevitably cries "Why?" Only God knows, and faith alone bids us trust the Father of us all, who, seeing all things from the beginning and to the very end, has allowed this strong young life to pass from our sight. Some day we will understand and be able to say honestly "God's ways are best".

Of one thing I am assured,—unless there is a life persisting through what we call death, unless there is a sphere in which young life so full of promise and ambition can and does "carry on" after death, unless there is a service which can be rendered by those capable of rendering it beyond the scenes of this earthly life, then "are we of all men most miserable".

What a tragic waste of divine resources if all the investments God makes in human capacities and character can be brought to naught by the incident we call death. But God is life, abundant life, and He is the great conservator of the life that is eternal. And only the Christian religion has the demonstration of the great truth that death does not end all, and Jesus, by His resurrection, has brought both life and immortality to light. We all sorrow, but not as those who have no hope.

Our prayer goes out for the comfort and strengthening of the parents and brother and sisters in this deep sorrow and for us that we may "carry on" for Howard, as well as ourselves, trying to put into our work and activities and influence, the unselfishness, good cheer, dependableness and devotion which characterized him. And because of our belief we shall thus continue in unseen yet

real partnership with him in the task of making Ottawa University all it ought to be.

The death angel, whether traveling the highways or hovering over the sick bed, is no respecter of age or persons—no one of us has any monopoly on life. Let us ~~then~~ live each day so worthwhile that when our summons comes we will be able to leave something worthwhile behind in achievement, and impression, and influence, that will stand for ages to come.

W. P. Behan
