# SPEECH TO GRADUATES.

**Life is Real, Practical and Prosaic, Says Hon. S. R. Thurman.**

## STRIVE TO REACH THE TOPMOST ROUND.

**Industry and Perseverance Better Than Genius. Indefatigable Effort Will Surmount Every Obstacle.**

The twenty-ninth annual commencement exercises of the Utah University were held in the Theater Friday, beginning at 10:30 a. m. The attendance was large, and the place tastefully decorated with flowers, palms and the Stars and Stripes. The normal graduates were seated on the east side of the stage; on the west side were Dr. Kingsbury, who presided, the speakers, college graduates, and the regents and faculty of the University.

After invocation by the Rev. Mr. Paine, Miss Lennore Stanton read a specially prepared essay, for theme he chose, "You Shall Know the Truth and the Truth Shall Make You Free." The young lady's delivery was good and her essay easy, graceful and expressive. She referred to the war, and its place in history, but said most of her address to the child, his education and relations during that period of life that she should be kept away with and that the teacher should not study a theory, but the child itself.

The vocal delivery of Mr. Clark in his orations was clear and effective. He said that every nation had its crisis, and that they might be avoided if the leaders could but see them coming. There were questions to be solved, and they must meet them. They must teach the people to seek the happy medium. Sectional and party prejudices must be done away with. They have fallen heir of the battle of life and must now fight it.

In a most excellent and able address Hon. S. R. Thurman earnestly and eloquently addressed graduates as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—I congratulate all who are present here on this occasion, and especially those who are graduates, whose well deserved efforts have at last brought to you the rewards and honors of the educational institution of learning.

I have said over and over to my fellow-students here, and the alumni of your university here, and the honors conferred on you as graduates of the University of Utah, to-day, that your responsibilities coming upon you in life now outweigh those the voyager of yesterday life.

In the matter of your education the state has performed its full duty, the board of regents and the faculty have performed theirs, and up to date you have performed yours. The work of the board of regents is at an end for the faculty, it now commences. You are regarded practical life, but just begun. This is indeed your commencement.

Now, what are you going to do? That is the question of the hour. What are you going to make of yourselves, who are today emerging from the cocoon of school life where you have been under the watchcare and guardianship of others, upright and moralizing instructors, going to do in the rough and tumble of selfish grappling humanity, struggling for existence? Hitherto your only responsibility has been to do as well as you could what others directed you to do, but henceforth if you would succeed, you must act each work as you have never worked before, but you must plan, direct, create and improvise.

You have had your conditions done and cut strong. Until this you must build a destiny for weal or woe, for good or bad, for honor or dishonor, one which will neither be cabined nor confined, crossed with obstacles, or endure forever as immortal as the stars.

In one sense you are now for the first time brought face to face with a formidable foe, a stern, relentless, treacherous conqueror, clamor that will offer you every assistance and extend to you every sympathy, yet it is able to stand alone, and remorselessly trample you when you are down and out. That foe is the world, and that the monster with whom you are brought into remediable relations conflict, combined competing with one another for the richest prizes of life, if you are not active, alpha toned brave, you will be knocked down, trampled upon and ground to powder. It is every man for himself in this world, and sympathy and counsels of over-reaching, hungry humanity.

What I ask are you going to do? Are you going to sit idly down and wait until those honors which you have been crowned with are upon your heads? Are you going to wait and do nothing more, until this beautiful foundation you have laid, remodeled and worse away? You have put your hand to the plow, you must not look back.

There may be some of you who are so situated in life that your necessities will not require extraordinary exertion. To such, I would say, be thankful for your condition in unfortunate. "There is no exchange without labor. The income that is taken is augmented by the measure of it to our existence, comfort and happiness. If we can procure those blessings without labor, we will probably collect and labor at all, or labor simply because we find pleasure in doing it.

In any event, whether rich or poor, bold or free, proud or humble, patrician or plebian, work, work, work is the only means by which you can rise from your present place to that of the great and good men and women of the earth.

Any man can be a drone in society, a barnacle on the ship of state and, alas, times, even exhibit a diploma from some institution of learning. In fact, it would be a wonder if he did not miss of great opportunities lost and thrown away. It reflects no credit on the holder, it but emphasizes his shame and humiliation, it gives notice to the world that he is a man who is idolized and worth had gloriously enjoyed opportunities, but who failed to improve them. Ignorance and sloth unceremoniously dropped out of the procession.

You have learned already "There is no royal road to mathematics." So you will find in the life before you. No matter what your occupation or profession may be, you will find it you would keep up with the onward move of the procession of humanity, your labors and efforts must be unceasing, strenuous, while life endures.

Let none let you contest with simply keeping up with the procession! Why not strive to force ahead? Remember, the world is moving. It is advancing in science, literature and art; some one is forging ahead; some at least are not content to follow in the beaten track of those who preceded them, but are wending to the front, opening new and unexplored fields of human knowledge and industry. These are benefactors of humanity to follow. Must you be one to be? Or will you strive to lead?

No matter what your pursuit in life may be, strive to make it more honorable, more useful and more dignified than it was before. Invent, discover, create and make yourself an essential element in the progress of civilization. This world is made and is being made continually. Without it mankind would not yet have emerged from the semi-barbarism which characterized the condition of our forefathers only a few hundred years ago.

The innumerable instances of the present age, wherein men by unceasing energy and efforts, have risen above their environments in life, and become leaders of thought in our civilization, are known to you. This is sufficient warning.

You were but in infancy a moment. Contemporary the origin and development of only a few of the marvelous wonders of modern progress. The railroad, the telegraph, the cotton gin, the phonograph, the electric light, the electric car, the wonderful discovery of the power of electricity and its practical use in the development of human industry, the wonderful discovery of the power of electricity and its practical use in the development of human industry, the wonderful discovery of the power of electricity and its practical use in the development of human industry