TO THE GRADUATES OF 1912

I would that once again I might stand before you all in that joyful, yet sad, gathering in the Library to say farewell and to bid you Godspeed on your new life. But I am far away in the frozen West while this may come to you almost amid falling cherry blossoms, and my place in the Library will be filled only by a silent picture which I am told that your too great kindness has caused to be placed there. I fear it is not what is called a “speaking likeness” so this morning on the odd day of the leap year I write to give the picture voice if haply my letter may arrive in time for Prof. Ogawa to make it talk.

As I take up my typewriter to send words to you I feel keenly the silence of my surroundings, and the lack of the stimulus of the class-room or of the great closing gathering. I look out and see the frozen ground white here and there with snow. I hear the puffed up of the train which has just come in from the Pacific and it forms some link with the east,—the Far East. I turn within and read over all the names of the Third Year Class and answering memories come to take the place of answering voices. I look into the Souvenir Album of 1911 and see the changed scenes of the school, the familiar faces of the Faculty, and that one wave of the sea, the Class of 1911. Seeing all this, the past revives, and with the change of one word some lines in the Album of last year express my feelings:

Remembering all kind deeds and graciousness Of those that learnt, with love and favorable aid Of friends, joy we together and rejoice. But you at this auspicious time will be looking forward rather than backward, so let me glance toward the future with you and say a parting word as to what in the future is to take the place of the stimulus of the school, the guidance and discipline of the teachers, and that bright hope of the future which you now cherish so dearly.

Look back a moment, and you will realize how greatly these influences have operated to make you what you are. Reflect on the stimuli given by things about you urging you to do your best. Recall the leading, and, at times, the restraint, of your teachers, working to draw out of you your best and to perfect the raw material of manhood. Remember that hope of the future which refuses to be satisfied with the present, and which has lead you to bear the privations and deprivations of the present and to endure as seeing that which is invisible.

Although you now pass from this schools into the greater school of the world remember that it is as if all but a school, and that you are to be ever learners. You will need, therefore, this stimulus and instruction, this discipline and hope. If the going out of the school be looked upon as a time for the casting off of restraint, freedom from instruction and permission to live for the present only, he who so looks out on life will cease to learn and consequently decay of his manhood will inevitably set in.

I am amazed at the greatness of the subject which has come to me as I reflected on the stimulus that you had given to me in the past. I can at present merely suggest this great subject to you for your everlasting study.

Let me beg you to find your stimulus in the great and crying needs of our country and any of them all the earnest aspirations and deeds of good which so hopefully lighten the darkness. You are to be workers, yes, and dreamers too that you may not faint in your work, in the land for the bettering of every evil condition. Let those about you who are suffering and striving like yourself furnish the stimulus that your fellow students have supplied heretofore.

Secondly, let me urge you as a graduate from this school to take one step forward into another. As you pass from the influence of these teachers, put yourself under the guidance of others. There will be wise men and good about you wherever you go: seek them out. Moreover, all the wisdom of the past is treasured up for you in the great books of the world, and the experience of the present is brought before you by the better class of magazines and newspapers. Some of you are talkers rather than readers; then talk with the wise and the good about you. Others of you are readers, then read what the wise and good have said and are saying. In any case, choose good companions for your guidance, give yourself wholly to the pursuit of wisdom and right, and it will follow as the night that the day you will in due time come to be counted among the wise and the good,—the savior of the nation, the salt of the earth.

Teachers are not lacking, indeed, but they
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なし
The Volga where we crossed it near Batraki is so wide a river that it needs a bridge five sixths of a mile long to cross it. The stream at that time was a slow one meandering about in a sandy bed with none of the gravel beds and the sparkling water that we see in Japan, for the hills are far away and the river cuts through an immense deposit of sandy soil which forms the steppes. It is an impressive river,—more so than is the Mississippi at St. Louis,—and it forms a great waterway over 2,000 miles long, connecting, with the help of some canals, the Baltic with the Caspian sea. It is an ancient river and some towns in this region date back 700 years in striking contrast with the new towns of Siberia. The towns are old, and large cathedrals abound, some of them with shining gilded domes, but there is no air of prosperity.

Passing through many old towns we came on the morning of Sept. 8, after a journey by land of 9 days, to Moscow, a city which I cannot now attempt to describe. The day was fine and sunny, and we climbed the high tower of Ivan the Great within the Kremlin, saw a sight such as I never expect to see elsewhere,—a city neither of the East nor of the West reflecting the past of the men from hundreds of gilded cathedrals. The long journey was over and here we had rest and wonder for two days.

The poet Nekrasov, 1821-1877, was almost exclusively inspired by the peasantry and by purely Russian subjects. In "Who Lives Happily in Russia" he describes the whole of Russian society. To vain do the peasants who have set out to find a "happy man" seek him high and low. They conclude at least that the path which leads to the publichouse and that which leads to happiness are one—a terrible verdict on Russia, implying as it does that only in forgetting reality can any happiness be found.—The Times.
FROM ASIA INTO EUROPE.

WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI, MARCH 24, 1912.

I last spoke from this wintry place toward the end of January on the subject of winter, and although the equinox is already past, winter is still a timely topic. I remember, a winter so long and so cold as this. A newspaper now lying before me says that in Kansas city, only 65 miles from here, it has snowed 32 times since Jan. 1, and that 62 inches of snow have fallen. With the snow which began 16 hours ago still falling and during the night it piled up some eighteen inches, while the north wind swirled it in places to a greater height. This morning I had to go, and I was glad that the necessity was laid upon me to get out in the uncompromising snow which was in some places above my knees which stand up, as I find by measure, 24 inches. No one will come in today, and I shall not go out just as I was about to write this sentence the door opened and I found to my surprise only a young man who wanted the job of cleaning off the sidewalk in front of the house which a law of the town requires each household to keep clear away, though some do not obey the law. This job I am reserving for myself, as it will be necessary to get the snow off the tracks of the running shoes, and I shall probably never again have such an opportunity. The conditions are favorable for writing letters and remembering that the new session will open on April 1st, the editor will be working on some more material for his English paper as he writes this letter first of all.

Let me go back in my account to Siberia, a fitting subject to write about in these surroundings. Some years back I was perhaps told about my comparatively uneventful stay in this town. Suffice it to say now that we both have been enjoying the window and regaining stores of energy, while I (wonderful) say have not been troubled with a cold at all this year. I had a slight cold during Christmas, which I caught when spending half a night in the Hudson Tunnel: with my brother, and except that once I have not had a cold since I left Japan, so I think I may almost be equal to President Roosevelt's health.

To return to Siberia. The most suggestive sight that I saw was that of little gangs of farmers at work here and there over the whole length of the road, engaged in preparing the road bed for a double-track line. I rode in a car very near to the track, and I thought the Government had to call on the people all along the way to help, and that the farmers welcomed this subsidiary industry. The work presents no special difficulty except around Lake Baikal, so the farmers can easily do the work. The road now has a height of 8000 metres, about 13000 feet (or 25,000 yards) from Vladivostock. Yet the ascent is so gradual and the hills so few that it seems as if the road is level. But think of the distance. From Vladivostock to Cheliabinsk is 6077 miles, and all that distance the line has to be double-tracked. Think what a great undertaking it is considered to be in Japan to change even the trunk lines into broad gauge lines, and remember that the Tokaido is walked all the way, you will then begin to feel how great an undertaking it is to double this line in which is almost a wilderness. Reflecting on all this, one will begin to wonder why it is necessary to double the track at all. The line from Moscow to Cheliabinsk has been finished at least twenty years and it has not yet been doubled, why then should the comparative little used Siberian line be favored with a double track? I do not know, but to Cheliabinsk there are two lines, one from St. Petersburg and one from Moscow, so when the time from that point is doubled Russia will have, in effect, a double track to the Pacific. The line is not double, certainly on account of local needs. But the line lined out with any regularity at all is the richest part of Siberia is far south of the railway. Undoubtedly the railway has made it possible to open up Siberia, and the Siberian railway is projected to run parallel to the present line about 600 miles south of it. The Altai line, connecting with the present line at Onok, is being constructed in order to make the mineral wealth of the Altai region accessible. These two lines are projected because it is believed they will pay their own way. It is easy to see how the latter can do so, for there are rich deposits of copper alloy line not to speak of other minerals; but how is a railroad through a thinly populated region of the world to pay its own way?

In 1910 about 600,000 migrated to Siberia and there is no sign of any decrease in the number. A new factor, perhaps little thought of, is coming in to have a powerful influence in the development of the country. Siberia, and the Chinese are inclined to think of a Siberian as a natural cold storage plant, but it is hot there in summer and such perishable products as butter, eggs and poultry cannot be chilled without the help of cold storage. No less than 900,000 refrigerator cars are in use, and naturally it is easy to lay up a plentiful supply of ice in the winter. In St. Petersburg an English company established a large cold storage plant the year that the Siberian