

Take away with you today, along with your diploma, a full appreciation of the fact that you have been privileged to drink from the fountain of Maryland education and tradition. Let it stand for something important in your life, something of transcending importance, that you have inherited a tradition of education, and of thought, that unfortunately is all too rare throughout the world today.

As one who appreciates thoroughly the problems that you face as you prepare to set out along your various paths through life, I can only emphasize again the importance of holding fast to first principles.

After all, there are certain ways of life, and only those certain ways, open to men and women of principle, such as you. Your professors here and those at home who have worked along with you will not be at your side forever to help you and to advise you. Henceforth, to a great extent, you are on your own. Your decisions are your own, and you are the ones who will have to abide by the results.

If you remember your days here in school, if you keep sacred in your mind the things you have learned here, the things for which our State has always stood, then you need have no fear for your future. You may not be successes as the world counts success, but if you are true to your own principles, if you preserve unsullied the tenets of decency, of toleration, of fair play and of loyalty, that you have received here, you will achieve the kind of success that after all is the most important success of all. And with this I say, God speed you, and may you all be the credit to yourself, your family and your State that at this moment each one of you plans to be.

MARYLAND FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Emerson Hotel, May 29, 1940

Baltimore

THE undoubted progress which has been made by women, while it is the basis of justifiable pride on their part, has definitely inured to the benefit of society in general. No such intense progress touching all phases of activity, State, National and International, could help but affect the course of civilization.

In the fundamental changes which have occurred it is to the credit of the present and preceding generations that the status and position of women have been definitely acknowledged for the better. Here in America, notably, the change during the past few decades has been noteworthy and what is even more gratifying, the progress of women as the result of increased opportunities for activity has been remarkable.

Fortunately the whole point of view of the general public has been rearranged as a consequence of the forward strides made by members of the sex. It is stating but the obvious fact to assert that this change, affecting, as it did, our entire society and polity, was not an easy accomplishment.

Well-informed persons know that the course of progress was difficult, indeed, and that handicaps and obstacles had to be overcome in the struggle for the attainment of the ideal, and before referring to the splendid part being played in the present day by women, the debt owing to the far-sighted women who blazed the trail years ago must be acknowledged and a tribute paid to