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NUMBER II

SOME VALUES EDUCATIONAL AND OTHERS*

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*Members of Phi Beta Kappa, friends of scholarship and learning,
ladies and gentlemen:*

With a world shaken by the recent cataclysm of war, when we are struggling, hesitating and doubting, fearing and at a loss as to the next step and whether we dare take it, it seems worth while to attempt an inventory of what we have left, to appraise somewhat its value in this moment of turbulent change, to learn whether there may not be some things, even more precious than our dollars, which may have altered in their purchasing values, if not in that intrinsic worth which we may attach to the gold standard of our mental, our moral, and our spiritual possessions.

The price of a thing is what you pay for it; or, from another angle, what you can contrive to get some misguided or unguided person to pay for something you have to dispose of. Price rarely coincides with value; for value is intrinsic worth and worth in an article may lie in the costliness of its material or in the even higher value which rare workmanship may give it. Think, for example, of the collected works of some great poet, scientist, or thinker; their value is not in what you pay for their volumes, but in what they have done for human thought, what they have added to human knowledge and, in that still more difficult thing to evaluate, their power of inspiration. According to an old story, John Milton received from the stationer Simmons only five pounds for what to us would be equivalent to the copyright of "Paradise

*Address delivered before the Theta Chapter of Pennsylvania at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, June 7, 1921. Reprinted from *The Reformed Church Review*, July, 1921, with emendations by the author, who is one of our Phi Beta Kappa Senators.

The Centennial Celebration was officially closed with the Alumni dinner, and with the departure of the graduates Amherst College embarked on its second century with high hopes for the future, determined that the efforts of the men who fashioned its humble beginnings should be returned to the Nation multiplied a thousand fold.



AT NINETY

By EDWIN W. RICE, LITT.D., D.D., UNION '54

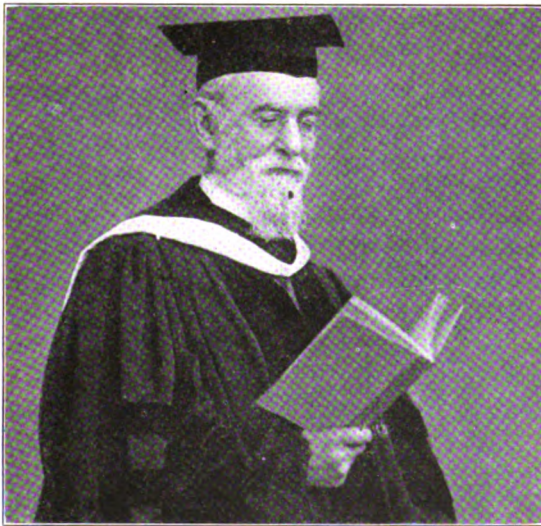
[In the January, 1920, number of *THE KEY* appears an item respecting Edwin Wilbur Rice, Union '54, telling of a dinner tendered him in Philadelphia on April 22, 1919, to mark the completion of sixty-five years of continuous service with the American Sunday School Union, during which time he had published about fifty books and edited forty volumes of *The Sunday School World*. The December, 1921, issue of this periodical, of which he has remained Honorary Editor, contains the following from his pen, written on attaining his ninetieth birthday, July 24, 1921.—EDITOR.]

Is it possible for a person to pass the ninetieth milestone in life's journey without becoming quite fossilized in body or mind? Some seem to think not. They look at such a one as a great curiosity, much as they would gaze at a giraffe in a show, or an Egyptian mummy in a museum. But why should they do so? Nature renews youth when her laws are respected.

The first question asked me lately is: "What is the secret of long life and vigor?" There is no secret that I know; it is an "open shop" to any able and willing to pay the price. The price may seem high as the world counts cost. It may require self-mastery, self-denial, the giving of one's self for others without returns. Surely it means to live the simple life: just eating and drinking to live; not living to enjoy big dinners, late suppers, stimulating drinks, and stupefying narcotics. It will mean faithful work, without fret, fuss, or worry. For "What is written in the law? how readeest thou?" "Six days shalt thou labor," full days, then a rest, a Sabbath. That law cannot safely be reversed or ignored—rest, idle, or loaf six days in a week and work

one day or less. Life and vigor depend upon proper exercise of body and mind. How dull we are to perceive that God has a plan for every life! And how very slow to follow his plan rather than our own when we do see it!

Again, one of the great aids to a man's life and vigor is a loving, wise gracious companion, making a new Eden of the home. Then home is a safe refuge where he forgets the sneers and buffetings of the world, in her smiles of welcome; where



EDWIN WILBUR RICE, D.D., UNION '54

he divides his losses and sorrows, and doubles his successes and joys; recounts his victories and defeats, to be inspired with fresh hope and courage for the duties and difficulties of the morrow. A good wife is Heaven's great gift.

Moreover, do not waste vitality in mourning long over past mistakes and blunders. Leave the things that are behind; forget the past.

"Live, while you live," the sacred preacher cries,
And give to God each moment as it flies."

Learn to turn your mistake into a stepping-stone for future victory. Relax the tense nerve by seeing the humor and funny

phases even in life's struggles and defeats. Remember that doubt breeds debility and defeat; belief is a precursor of victory. "All things are possible to him that believeth." Recall the great promise in the redemptive psalm: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High . . . with long life will I satisfy him."

The second leading question asked me is this: "Is the chance for a young man as good now as when you were a boy?" Aye, and vastly better. The world's industries have greatly multiplied to meet the world's needs, and have grown to mammoth proportions. The wonders of discovery and the miracles of invention of the past ninety years have been more marvelous than for nine hundred preceding years, yet are but the vanguards of far more marvelous inventions of the near future. The accumulation of knowledge gives immensely increased power to the young man of to-day. The rapid increase of conveniences and comforts of life calls for a corresponding increase in new productions. The multiplied occupations that have been created and the manifold avenues to useful vocations, which seem quite bewildering to the aged, are open opportunities to the young man of this new and busy age.

The achievements of science in the past generation simply whet the desire of man for many more marvelous masteries of the forces of nature waiting to be utilized for his needs and comforts. We just begin to realize how little we know and what an infinitesimal amount of the marvelous powers of nature lying all about us have as yet been turned to the service of mankind.

Then, overwhelming as the problems of reconstruction seem just now in the economic, the political, and the educational fields of the whole world, they are immensely overtopped by the yet greater problems in the ethical and spiritual needs of humanity. Indeed, no stable reconstruction can be made from the industrial and governmental chaos now prevailing unless it be founded upon broader and better ethical and spiritual principles than have been practised in the past. There never were so many or such magnificent opportunities in any age as confront the young man of to-day. Who will qualify now for the herculean task?