

"We Want the Earth". Motto of Class of 91.

At first thought, it may appear that our motto is more of a joke, than a real earnest expression of the ambitions of the class. Some think that it was adopted in fun; and we have even been accused of having stolen it from the Alliance. But while it is not classic, not clothed in a Latin phrase, while some may think it almost vulgar, it at least has the virtue of being plain English.

We have turned from the beaten path of college classes, and have adopted a motto that means work and success. It has long been assumed that college graduates are not practical in life; that often they are less successful than those who have poorer opportunities, that they deal in theories, and hold themselves aloof from the real work of the world.

But we go from our college course with the declaration that "We want the earth". This is not an idle expression. It means more than the mere literal interpretation. The word, "want," when rightly used, does not

mean to sit with folded hands until some one makes us a present. But it means that we are ready to work, ready to use the energy and ability of a college training in getting, and in making the object of our wants worth having. It means that we are ready to bring practical life and college education together, ready to use the latter only as a means of being more effectual in the work of life, not as an end in its self.

Viewed in this light, I know of no phrase that embraces a wider field of action, none, that, when lived up to, will make a man of more use to himself or his fellows, and that will improve the condition of society so much as the one you have adopted.

The need of having something to work for, as a stimulant, is every where admitted. It is the only condition under which men will do their best. There must be some want to satisfy. Contentment can result only in idleness.

While the ambition to have something more, or to do something greater, when carried to excess, may have bad results

I believe that the people of today owe all that they have and enjoy to the exertions of men who have been stimulated by a desire to do something better. It is this feeling that has discovered continents, that has built cities and railroads, and that today is adding to our comforts. Nor are the beneficial results of this characteristic want confined to men material growth.

The same spirit that makes one man accumulate wealth, makes another pursue scientific researches; as the desire to own the earth in the material sense will make one put forth great effort; so the desire to control in the intellectual fields has been the stimulant which has produced inventions, extended the sciences and improved our literature. The old saying, that, "The more a man has the more he wants" would come nearer the truth if read, the more a man wants the more he will have. The want is the cause of having, not the having the cause of want. It is the wants of the civilized races that have raised them

above their savage kinsmen.

The possession of the earth does not consist in simply owning the land, the houses, and the railroads. The ambition of this class is not confined to these, but extends to a desire to have and deserve the respect of our associates.

Abraham Lincoln, by the power of his intellect came nearer owning the world than did the Astors, through the power of their wealth. The influence and control which Shakespeare has exercised through his works is greater, and has called forth wider homage, than can be commanded by any ten men through the use of their millions.

Our motto has a signification as broad as all these. It may be the stimulating force in producing a Gould, or a Webster. While by some it is made to embrace unscrupulous methods, and carry with it selfishness and greed, in the true sense it means neither. Men may want and work for an object without cheating and defrauding their fellows. There is such a thing as an hon-

est, free, rivalry that stimulates all; that will allow one to applaud the success of a rival; that will make one strive to win, not by making less the achievement of others, but by making higher his own, and this is the rivalry the competition and the spirit that makes men and women of value to their country.

Soon we shall have finished our school days. Our commencement will be here and we shall be ready to enter the work of life.

In leaving this school we should remember that we owe something to it; that we owe something to the State that has given us these advantages; that in the start our account is in the debit column. If we intend to live up to our motto we must reverse this order. It is only by putting the balance on our side and then adding to it that we can realize our want. This can be done only by each one working as though the class motto were his. Before we can reasonably ask for more, we must show that we can use what we have already

been given to an advantage. If we expect to win we must do something and be something of value to the world. We must demonstrate our right to our by showing our ability to improve. If we can do this, our associates will at least feel that they owe something to us; and although we may never own the earth, we can leave it the better, for having been wanted by the class of 91.

J. C. Morse.