MISTAKES OF EDUCATED MEN, AN ADRESS

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE following Address was prepared on the invitation of the Phrenakosmian Society of Pennsylvania College, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and was delivered at the Annual Commencement of the College, September 18, 1861.

The edition printed by the Society having been exhausted, and numerous inquiries being made for it in various quarters, the author has been requested to prepare a new edition, in a form more suited for permanent preservation. The result is the little volume now offered to the acceptance of the reader.

Mistakes of Educated Men.

NEAR the top of one of the loftiest summits of the Rocky Mountains, more than ten thousand feet above the level of the ocean, are two fountains, so near, and so nearly on a level, that it would be no great stretch of the power and art of man, to divert the streamlet which issues from either fountain into that which issues from the other. If you follow the course of one of these infant rivers, you find it, from some slight inclination of the plain, taking an easterly direction, and after traversing

for some distance the broad plateau in which it rises, descending from valley to valley, receiving every few miles a fresh impulse from some tributary stream, until at length, uniting with a thousand others, it finds an ocean home in the Gulf of Mexico, through the mouth of the great "Father of waters." If now, retracing your steps to the point of departure, you follow in like manner the course of the other stream, you find yourself descending gradually in a westerly direction, until, by a process exactly the counterpart of the former, you are led through the mouth of the Columbia into the bosom of the great Pacific. To go from the terminus of one stream to the terminus of the other, you must overcome an ascent of

more than ten thousand feet, and travel not less than five thousand miles! Yet in their outset, these two streams were neighbors. Neither of them seemed to have any positive or determined bias one way or the other. A very ordinary amount of effort would seem to be sufficient to make the easterly stream run west, or the westerly stream run east.

Does my parable need explanation? Two ingenuous youths, fresh from the scene of their triumphs at College, emerge upon the broad platform of life, equal in talents, equal in knowlege and intellectual culture, with equal social advantages, and without any very special or decided bias

on the part of either. There would seem to be hardly any augury of good to be made of one, that might not with equal propriety be made of the other. The friends of both might seem to be equally justified in expecting the same prosperous and useful career, the same praiseworthy and honorable termination. Yet if you go forward a few years, and see the actual termination of their respective careers, you find these two youths, who had been so equal in opportunities, as wide apart as are the mouth of the Mississippi and the mouth of the Columbia, and between them a barrier as difficult of passage as the almost impassable mountain ranges of the Oregon!

Suffer, then, my young friends, the

word of exhortation. Allow one who has already travelled over no small distance in the boundless plain now opening before you, to recall briefly some of the steps of the way. Let us for this short hour take friendly counsel together, if perchance wisdom may be gathered from experience. My errand to you to-day is merely to talk with you, in the most familiar and unpretending way, in regard to some of the MISTAKES of educated and professional men,—some of those things, the neglect of which impedes their progress in their several professions. I shall speak to you with no attempt at ornament, but with the sober earnestness of one who seeks for practical results. Nor shall I attempt to go over, even in cursory review, the whole