

**MORNINGS IN THE COLLEGE
CHAPEL; SHORT
ADDRESSES TO YOUNG MEN
ON PERSONAL RELIGION**

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Mornings in the college chapel; short addresses to young men on personal religion by Francis Greenwood Peabody

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FRANCIS GREENWOOD PEABODY

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By Francis G. Peabody, D. D.

MORNINGS IN THE COLLEGE CHAPEL:

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Mornings in the College Chapel

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PERSONAL RELIGION BY FRANCIS GREENWOOD
PEABODY, PLUMMER PROFESSOR OF
CHRISTIAN MORALS IN HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

Second Series



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To G. A. G.

TWENTY YEARS AGO WE WERE SET TO KEEP THE LIGHT;
FIVE OF US SHARED THE WATCH THROUGH THE FIRST LONG
WINTER'S NIGHT:

ONE, OUR CAPTAIN, SANK IN DUTY'S PITILESS FOAM,
TWO, OUR VETERANS, WAIT BY THE SHORE FOR THEIR SUM-
MONS HOME.

THE YEARS AND THE PAGES PASS, AND THE KEEPERS COME
AND GO

LIKE THE SEA OF LIFE BENEATH THEM, WITH ITS CEASE-
LESS EBB AND FLOW.

STILL AT YOUR POST YOU STAND, HIGH UP IN THE LIGHT-
HOUSE TOWER,

GUARDING THE WAY OF LIFE, SPEAKING THE WORD OF
POWER;

RESOLUTE, TENDER, WISE, FREE IN THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH,
TENDING THE FLAME OF THE CHRIST, AS IT MARKS THE
CHANNEL OF YOUTH.

AND THE TASK WE WERE SET, MY BROTHER, HAS IT FAILED
IN THESE TWENTY YEARS,

HAS THE LIGHT GONE OUT IN THE NIGHT OF DOUBT, OR
THE SMOTHERING FOG OF FEARS?

THANK GOD, IN THE SHIFTING TIDES OF LIFE, THE TOWER
OF PRAYER STILL STANDS,

AND IN HIS NAME THE UNDIMMED FLAME IS FED BY LOYAL
HANDS.

WHAT SHALL WE PLEDGE TO THE COLLEGE WHICH TRUSTED
US SO, MY FRIEND,

BUT A LOVING PRAYER, AND A CONSTANT CARE TO SERVE
HER TILL THE END?

Twenty years is a long time to be the minister of one congregation; and when that congregation, instead of being a fixed quantity, is a passing procession of young men, marching swiftly through their college years, then a pace of leadership becomes necessary which is likely to slacken as one's own youth drops behind him into the past. It seemed to me prudent, therefore, to withdraw last year from the administration of the College Chapel, and to commit to younger hands a task which had been at once a daily anxiety and a daily privilege. When one recalls the venture of faith made by the University in 1886, it is reassuring to observe that this venture has become, through the generous devotion of successive staffs of Preachers, a part of the established order of University life. Reversion to a plan of compulsory worship is quite unthinkable, and the abandonment of worship seems equally improbable. A whole generation of college men have been trained in the belief that religion has a legitimate place among the interests of the University and need ask for nothing but a chance to do its work. The problem of Christian unity has been, not so much solved, as not encountered. Given a large enough work to do, and men large enough to do it, and the unity which might seem the end to be reached happens on the way. The coöperation of preachers from various communions, and their residence as pastors,

have seemed to many other universities and colleges to provide the most practicable and effective method for the administration of religion in an institution of learning. Thus, the future problems of the Harvard plan seem likely to be, not those of existence or of justification, but of expansion and efficiency.

In the precious little volume where the Preachers to the University have confidentially recorded their experiences, Phillips Brooks, on December 3, 1886, wrote as follows: "Soon after I began my term of service, the 'Crimson' suggested that a short talk, or address, from the Preacher at Morning Prayers would add to the interest of the service. This was followed by two or three letters from students in the 'Crimson,' expressing the same idea. I accepted the suggestion and have said a few words before the prayer, not regularly but twice or three times a week, not, however, thereby lengthening the total service." That was the beginning of a custom which soon became a regular practice, of adding to our morning prayers a few plain words on the problems of life and faith with which young men find themselves confronted. In 1896 I collected some of my short addresses as a kind of Apologia for a work which then seemed to need explanation, and, now that my share in this work is done, a second series may serve as a kind of valedictory to these happy mornings in the College Chapel.

CAMBRIDGE, September, 1907.