

FOUNDER'S DAY ADDRESS  
M.S.C.W.....OCT.22/42.

Dr. Parkinson, members of the faculty, student body, and visiting friends:

I count it a rare privilege and a great honor to have some humble part in your Founder's Day exercises.

We are all thinking back to day to that time when some persons with golden hearts and broad visions founded this institution.

In 1884 the state of Mississippi, having authorized a state supported college exclusively for women, the first of its kind in the United States, called for bids for the location of this new college. The best bid came from Columbus and was accepted.

The first session opened Oct. 22nd 1885. During that year 341 students registered.

Dr. Richard Watson Jones was the first president. Dr. Burney Lynch Parkinson is the ninth president and has very ably led the college in its marked achievements for the last ten years. We all recognize that with Dr. Parkinson, this faculty, and student body, we have one of the really outstanding colleges of the nation.

In these fifty seven years M.S.C.W. has grown from a small student body and faculty to one of the ten largest womens colleges in the United States with a faculty of more than 90 teachers and administrative officers.

5640 degrees have been conferred and more than 12000 have received training.

IF to day we might tap the wires that touch the various points of this globe, where M.S.C.W. graduates have gone, we would hear of achievements, deeds of mercy, and examples of fine leadership too numerous to mention....a grandeur of life of which the Founder's would be justly proud.

But all the glory of this great colle is not out yonder with those who have left these walls, but it is continuous glory going on now, in which your president, trustees, faculty, and and student body have a part to play.

Former presidents, faculties, and student bodies have brought have brought the reputation up to now...as to what the school turns out...Now it is yours to carry on.

Founders begin institutions but others have to carry on. But we are to carry on their ideals. Jesus was the greatest Founder. He founded the Church...in the founding there were certain ideals that He wanted to live and grow. We can be true to the Founder by perpetuating His principles. So it is with M.S.C.W. we are to keep the thoughts and ideals of the Founders living and growing as long as the college lives.

I read in the purposes of the college that it is to provide on an undergraduate level an environment which stimulates the physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual development and growth of its students. *The Founders were DREAMERS*

I am sure that the Founders, this president, and this faculty would have you dream...I am sure that you came as a student body to this school with many dreams...I hope that you did.

I believe that I can name some of your dreams.....

First...the dream of the person you wish to be. A little boy was very resentful of how long it took him to grow up. One day he went to town with his mother and came to one of these distorted mirrors which made him look very tall. He kept on standing there. His mother called but he would not come away. Then she took him by the arm to lead him away and said "You have been before the mirror long enough." He replied, "But mother this is my chance to look big."

To look big and to be big are two different things. The chance before you here is not to look big but to grow in largeness and fineness of spirit.

You will be asking..."How may we achieve this growth?" Remember three things....

a. The person we are going to be, we are now becoming. We can't be what we are to day and without effort wake up some morning what we want to become. College days are not merely a preparation for life but a real part of life. We would do well to give heed to a sign at the mouth of a rural road..."Be careful what rut you get into for you will be in it the next twenty five miles." *Do not take a vacation from spiritual development*

b. A second thing to remember is that personality is not

something we have or do not have by accident of birth. It is not something you can put on as clothes, or buy in a bottle like cosmetics. Neither can it be acquired by compliance to the customs and standards of the crowd. Dr. Link says that what we recognize as personality is but a set of habits and skills which are helpful to other people. So this something we want is not some will-of-the-wisp but is to be had on the terms Jesus laid down when He said, "He that seeketh to save his life shall lose it, but he that loses his life shall find it."

c. A third thing to remember is that, not so much by striving (That helps) as by admiration. "Show me the person you admire and I will show you the <sup>link of</sup> person you will become." That is why there is nothing so important as where and to whom you give your admiration.

I feel sorry for you at your age when you look at some of us fifty and sixty years of age and say to yourself, "Is that what I am going to look like.?" Each one of you has been given the compelling portrait of Jesus. Keep His face and spirit ever before you. Walk ever with Him and your dreams will be not in vain.

2. Another dream that you have is of a home to be built some day as the fruit of a beautiful romance. It is natural for you bring that dream here. All of you want to fall in love someday with some one who will return your love so that you may enter the beautiful adventure of marriage and home building. I need not picture that dream to you. You are familiar with it. It is one of the most beautiful and ennobling that men and women can have.

But it is one of the most fragile and as some one has said the most easily lost. Like a flower it can wither by being grasped too quickly. Resist the prevailing tendency to be immediately possessive and possessed in your friendships.

This is the time to know MANY people and not to seize the security of going steady too soon. On the other hand the dream can be more easily lost by cheap familiarity. However, properly treasured, this dream can be the guide to the finest relationships and friendships it may be ever given to you to know.

3. The third dream we feel that you have is "Making yourself count for something in the world." That dream may be vague at this time but you will strive for it to come in unclouded. You do not exactly what you can do now, neither do you know what the world

may do to you first. But we can all join in aspiring, to use a great preachers phrase, that instead of being a part of the problems of the world, we may be among those who help find the answers. Who knows? Out of this very company may come some of the answers the world is waiting for....

You who come here with these dreams, please for the sake of the ideals of the Founders of this institution....cherish them do not let this capacity to dream die in you. After all the worthy dreams that the Founders had and that you have come from the Great Founder Jesus Christ. If disappointment and adversity come as no doubt will be the case...and if the world becomes darker than it now is....and likely that will be...hold on to worthy dreams.....And as you strive to make them come true strive ever to keep your eyes upon the Christ the Light of the spiritual sky.....I think all of us here to day would do well to appropriate the sentiment of a little poem I found entitled

"The Light Of The Sky"  
 Author unknown.....to me

The woods were dark and the night was black and only an owl  
 Could see the track.  
 Yet the cheery driver made his way through the great pine wood  
 As if it were day.

I asked him, "How do you manage to see? The road and the forest  
 Are alike to me.  
 "To me as well." he replied. And I can only drive by the light  
 In the sky.

I looked above where the tree tops tall rose from the road  
 Like an ebon wall  
 And low a beautiful starry lane wound as the road wound and  
 Made it plain.

And since when the path of life is drear and all is blackness  
 Doubt and fear  
 When the horrors of midnight are here below and I see not a  
 Step of the way to go  
 Then ah then I can look on high and walk on the earth by the  
 Light in the sky.

