

FAREWELL MESSAGE

By J. STANLEY DURKEE, A. M. PH. D., President

You ask for a message from your President that you may print it in your Academy Year Book, well knowing that such a message must be "Hail and Farewell." I would wonder at your request, did I not know your remarkable spirit. By recommendation of your President, the Academy is to be discontinued with this present scholastic year. You are printing your last Year Book. Why have you not turned to criticize and condemn your President, rather than ask him for a farewell message? Ah, in that I discover your great life purpose. You have seen that by discontinuing the Academy here, thus placing Howard University in her true academic position, you are contributing to the greatest good of the largest number. You are willing to cease as a School, that the whole race may have a genuine University, soon qualified to take her rightful place beside any similar institution in America.

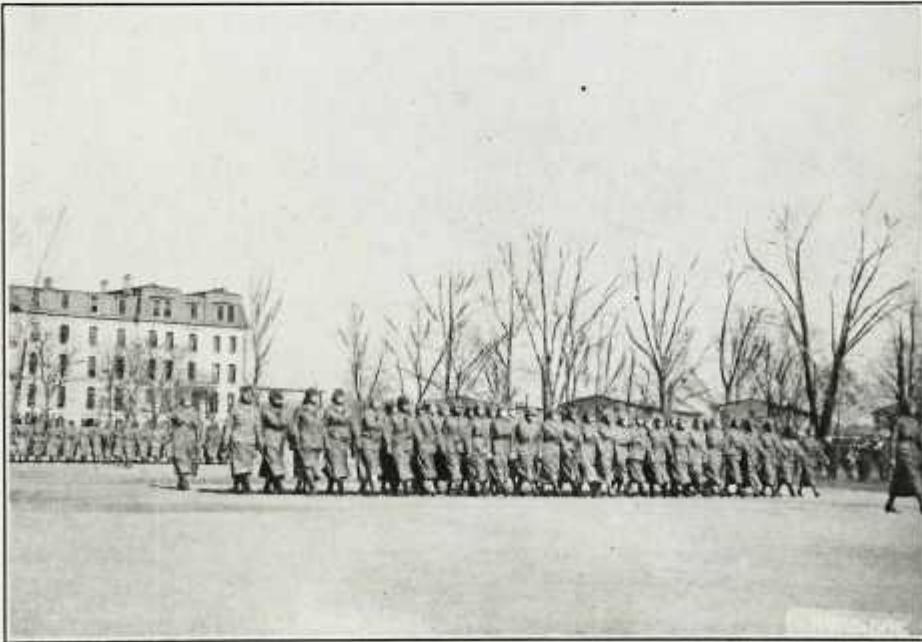
In other words, you have refused to allow your personal wishes to block the progress of the University and thus of the whole race. In this, you reveal those great qualities of mind and heart which prophesy for you a great future. The world's Master Man said,—he who would be chiefest must be servant of all. You have chosen the path of greatest service for all, and so are following up to the chief seats among those who are to help forward the world's redemption by real Christian brotherhood.



STAFF OF THE S. A. T. C.

I wonder if you have caught the full significance of your cheerful acquiescence to the President's recommendation! Not only have you revealed your own fine spirit, given to the University her greatest opportunity, and sent a challenge to the whole race, but you have done something greater: you have left a tradition of unselfishness, of large vision, which will, for many years, become a rebuke to those who seek only their personal gain, and an inspiration to those who would give their lives in largest service for others.

The past history of the Academy has been a remarkable history. I read with wonder the devotion of those early teachers who literally spent their lives for its success. I marvel at the consecration of these who turned from fields offering far greater personal advancement, that they might be chiefest in service. To them belongs that phrase of the Hebrew writer, "Of whom the world is not worthy." Now, their task is completed. The Academy ceases with this scholastic year, even though its numbers and influence place it at the apex of its usefulness and power. It ceases only in the sense that it merges into the larger life of the University and the whole race. It lives yet in the men and women who now become the leaders and pioneers of the race. To it belongs the encomium,—“Well done.” All Hail, Howard Academy! “*Ave et vale.*”



THE GIRLS' BATTALION