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Occidental College

I look back on the five years that I studied at Occidental College as among the happiest of my life. This was partly due to probably to the age at which I was then, and still more to the good friends whom I made. I fremember one of the fellows saying to me once, "This is the time when we can enjoy other people, perhaps more than any time later on. Later on we will be trying to advance our careers and will be suspicious of others and there will be all kinds of problems like that which we do not have here." I don't know whether that was true or not or whether that entered into it. I compare the five years at Occidental with the three years at Princeton Seminary, and my feeling is of having been more happy by far during the three years at Princeton. In both there were problems that were very important as far as the attitude toward the Bible is concerned, so I cannot but think that a great part of the difference was that life was more normal at Occidental, being coeducational, while at Princeton in that time it was strictly a male institution as far as students were concerned. I had many good friends in both of them. I think in Princeton I was a bit more closely connected with the sad developments as I saw a great Christian institution being gradually taken away from all it had stood for. A similar movement was in progress at Occidental while I was there, but I was not as much personally involved perhaps. I made many good friends in both places and I think both were important in my development.

At Occidental I believe I was very fortunate in being in a school with good scholastic standing, a school in which the moral standards were pretty in general pretty much like those to which I am accustomed, and thus there was only occasionally difficulty on this score, because of its being comparatively rare that my belief would shut be out from any make activity in which I would have cared to engage, as would be the case in most schools, and probably in Occidental now. At that time Occidental had a very fine Christian background. The man who was president there during my last two years once made the statement that proportional to its size there were more people in the ministry and missionary