

Lenox School
LENOX, MASS.

My dear Sir:

As you may know, Lenox School was founded in 1926, as a boarding school for boys, at the authorization of the Province of New England. At the recent meeting of the Synod at Lenox, the following report of the School was presented, which I am taking the liberty of sending you for your information and reference.

"In presenting this report, we are attempting to summarize some of the things which have been done during the five years since the founding of the School authorized by you, and to render an account of our stewardship. At the beginning, we bought a large private estate, and have, from time to time, made such alterations as were necessary and possible, adapting the old buildings to new purposes. Our present equipment is entirely adequate for present needs, and satisfactory in every way. There has been expended in all slightly over \$200,000, and donations have been secured from interested individuals to meet all but approximately \$20,000 of this sum. Each year we have been able to meet practically all running expenses and insurance out of tuition fees, the average annual deficit since the School has been in operation being under \$1,000. This year, with an increase in our fee to \$800, we can reasonably expect that there will be no deficit at all.

"It has not been the desire of Lenox School to enter a field already well-cared for by others, nor to compete with other Church Schools. As our catalog states, "The purpose is to offer, at moderate cost, a good secondary education with distinctly Christian emphasis." Each of these three points should be mentioned briefly. Our tuition fee is just over half of that charged by most of the New England Church Schools. While our student body is happily drawn from a very varied group, there is a preponderant emphasis on the sons of professional men and others who would probably not be able to send their boys to any Church boarding school were not such a place as Lenox available. Following the lead of Kent and other schools we have heartily and enthusiastically adopted the self-help system; yet we do not regard this primarily as a financial expedient, but as an important tool in furthering our philosophy of education. We deliberately prefer a reasonable simplicity of plant and surroundings as helping us to stress the values of self-reliance and a sense

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of responsibility towards the entire group. The whole method and philosophy of Lenox along that line is in many ways strikingly dissimilar to that prevalent in longer established Church Schools.

"We do not wish to define our entrance requirements in such a way that only those boys who have been at comparatively expensive private primary schools can satisfy them. Most of our boys come to us from public grammar schools or high schools. The five year course is strictly college preparatory in nature and grade. While we recognize the need and importance of a suitable education for those not suited for college life, we feel that at the moment we will do best to concentrate on this one particular aspect. We do not aim to provide a place where the unwilling or incapable student will be cajoled or tutored into college, but we do seek to present to earnest and capable students the opportunity of securing an education which, we believe, compares favourably with that to be obtained in any school. While not measuring our success primarily in terms of examinations passed, stressing education for life as opposed to education for college, yet it is gratifying to note that out of the eleven of our first graduating class, ten were admitted to Harvard, Yale, and other colleges of their first choice. One boy secured honours in all subjects at Harvard; another has won two important scholarships at Yale; and a third has won one.

"If a Church School has any special reason for existence, this reason must lie in its ability to contribute something which other schools do not contribute. Services of worship are important, but this alone is hardly a distinguishing mark, and unfortunately, they are frequently less attractive in Church Schools than in others. Definite instruction along religious lines is very necessary, and we attach great importance to this at Lenox, endeavouring to make the presentation more adequate and compelling than is usually the case. But probably the thing of prime importance is a constant and unashamed seeking to make the life of the School conform increasingly more closely to the life of the kingdom. A Church School should state its ideals primarily in terms of Christian service; this statement cannot be limited to the official catalog, but must form a large conscious part of the aspirations of the masters, and at least of the older boys, who compose the School family. A Church School must be at once a laboratory and a power-house of Christian living.

"From the beginning, the School has neither

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asked for nor received financial aid from the Province. It is better thus, but the School, of course, does feel in no small degree, the very distinct obligation to be of service to Church families of New England. We are sure that there are a large number of families in the various parishes of the Province who know nothing of Lenox, but for whom the School would be able to render, often more effectively than many other schools to which they turn, a genuine assistance. The Province can help us very much by seeking to make the opportunities of the School more widely known to such people, and by commending the School to their careful consideration. We are always delighted to tell people in detail of the things that we are trying to do, and it is only in so far as these meet with active and sympathetic approval that we may expect any to choose in our favour."

After the above report had been read, the following resolution, moved by the Bishop of Vermont, was adopted by the Synod:

"The Synod congratulates the Trustees, Headmaster, and faculty of Lenox School on the progress and promise of the School, and urges that the members of the Synod make the School known to their constituencies."

Sincerely yours,