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Dear Henry,

You appear to be at an interesting period in your life. You are soon to graduate from high school with an excellent record behind you. You now look at the rest of your life prospectively.

Not too often in a life does one stop to say, 'Well, I am over the first hurdles; what next?'

I can still remember the thrill of reaching the last semester of high school. I had lived in a military school through those years. The final 4 months of senior year meant relaxed rules in many ways for those graduating. It was a real kick and 60 years later still seems great fun. You have made your record, the college admission offices will have seen it by now.

So enjoy.

I had a wonderful uncle, Howard Balch, married to Frances Corrigan, a sister of my father. He told me this story once. He decided when young and ambitious that he wanted three things out of life. He wanted a) to own a Cadillac; b) to have a silver cigarette lighter; and c) to reach a certain level within the order of Masons. He managed all three at a fairly early age. To his regret he then learned that a) he was too tall to sit in a Cadillac with his hat on, so he switched to owning a big Chrysler for the rest of his life; b) he lost his silver lighter soon after purchasing it; c) he found the Jesters to be a bunch of foolish fellows with whom he felt no closeness. Thus all three objectives were largely disappointing. The moral is perhaps, be careful of what you want.

So now you are wondering what you want out of life. The best objectives I have found which stay with us are enlarging the contents of our head, and the other is turning our interest from ourselves alone to seeing what we can do for and with others.

The purpose of this note is to express my warmest wish that you find objectives in your life which will bring you happiness. Success is

terribly important, that going without saying. But success without happiness I have too often observed to be rather an empty victory.



Love,

J. E. C.