A “Tree Talk” Delivered by Mr. Charles F. Stanwood on the Last Sunday

In reading Dr. Watson’s beautifully written little booklet on Mr. Ned, we cannot help but be impressed by the importance to each one of us of the ideals upon which Pasquaney is founded. There is not one of us so young that he does not feel the existence of these ideals—and none so old that he need not frequently be reminded of them.

Every one of us—even the youngest new boy—must have recognized by now that Pasquaney is much more than a summer camp. It is the result of the vision and the spirituality of the two men who have guided its destinies, and it has been nurtured by the loyalty and affection of the hundreds of men and boys who have spent their summers here. We should never cease to wonder that in this modern world surrounded by flux and change, there can exist an institution so firmly founded on ideals and traditions that it remains for most of us the most unchanging and constant influence in our lives.

To be sure, Pasquaney in its purely physical aspects is a summer camp and a particularly well-equipped one, but its equipment, its activities, its sports, and its well-organized duties are not ends in themselves; that is, they merely serve as a means to an end—to Pasquaney’s end, which is the development of character. During the past nine weeks we have all felt the difference here from other environments. All of us, whether or not we completely understand it, have felt Mr. Ned’s influence—have felt the power of those ideals which live on in Mr. Teddy, and which all of us are determined shall never cease to influence those who live in this community.
It is only natural on the last Sunday in Camp that we should look forward to our return home. But let’s for a moment review the summer.

In a very practical sense we have all gained from our experience. Some of us have learned to row, some to swim, some to play tennis, some to act in the theatre, some to work with our hands in the shops. We have learned to camp out and to hike. We have learned to appreciate the beauty of flowers, trees, and mountains. We have lived a healthy life in the out-of-doors, away from the sweltering heat of cities. We have made new friends, and we have been in contact with people who expect and demand the best that is in us. We have surely had a tremendous opportunity along these lines.

But we have had other and, it seems, much more important opportunities. We have been, as some one once put it, “exposed to Pasquaney.” Being “exposed to Pasquaney” means being subjected to an influence which we shall never forget, an influence which many of us will in the future consider the most important in our lives. Even though a few of us have, perhaps, slipped temporarily during the season, the ideals of unselfishness, cooperation, purity, and love have been held ever before us. Even the youngest boy has felt them and almost without our noticing it, they have acted upon us.

For nine weeks then, we have lived in this community, absolutely sheltered from outside influences and with the whole environment making it as easy as possible for us to lead worthwhile lives.

But we have lived here for only nine weeks; we are going out into the world for over nine months.

No longer are we going to be sheltered from influences which we know in our hearts will work against the leading of well-balanced lives. What are we going to do about it? Are we, during the days to come, going to forget how we have felt up here? Are we going to put Pasquaney and her standards in a back corner of our minds, in mothballs for the winter? Every one of us impulsively answers, “No.” But even as we say this, we stop, for we know that the matter cannot be so easily dismissed.

This brings us then, to a short consideration of the quality, which seems to us to be the most valuable for him who would make the ideal nine weeks we have spent here live throughout the next nine months. This quality is loyalty. The word loyalty means a number of different things to different people. To some of us it suggests defending a friend against unjust criticism; to others it suggests showing affection to those whom we love; to still others it suggests the faithful following of standards set forth by a person whom we respect; and again it may suggest the ability to fight for ideals; and finally it may suggest sacrifice.

True loyalty includes, of course, all of these and more. It always invokes affection, admiration, unselfishness, and gratitude. Surely it takes a very brief period of self-analysis for each one of us to discover that we feel these four ingredients of loyalty toward Pasquaney and Mr. Teddy. We have, then, perhaps without being conscious of it, laid within ourselves the foundation of loyalty to Camp; and if loyalty also invokes sacrifice, the pursuit of ideals, and the faithful following of definite standards, we may be sure that Pasquaney demands these things of us. Pasquaney has always challenged us to take her into the world. Those of us who are willing to face the responsibility urged by loyalty will not disregard that challenge. In simpler language, we shall take Pasquaney standards into our homes, schools, and colleges. With a proper understanding of loyalty we shall no longer be content to consider this summer’s experience as an isolated and disconnected chapter of our lives. If we wish to speak in terms of conflict, nine weeks must conquer nine months.
In our heart of hearts, our conscience, our soul, or whatever we wish to call that part of us, which we recognize as being responsive to the spiritual, we know that the ideals fostered by Pasquaney are right and fine. We are cowardly if we evade the challenge implied by this intuitive knowledge. We are cowardly if, recognizing that Pasquaney as a character-building institution has developed our individual characters, we do not demonstrate that fact to other people.

Loyalty must be expressed in action. Simply to go home saying, “I am loyal to Pasquaney,” is not enough. That loyalty must be shown, and it can only be shown when we make it clear in our winter environments that we believe implicitly in the standards that Pasquaney has taught us. If we have learned to express affection for Camp, we must express the same affection for our parents. If we have learned how to cooperate in group life, we must use this knowledge in our homes, if we have learned the importance of honesty, purity, cheerfulness, and good sportsmanship, we must carry these qualities home with us. If we can do all this, then we shall be expressing the loyalty that we all feel at the close of Camp.

Pasquaney has given of her best to us; in return we must give our best to Pasquaney. In other words we must carry Pasquaney back into the world. Only by doing this can we make loyalty to Camp more than an empty word—a passing emotion. Only by doing this can we capitalize on the training Pasquaney and Mr. Teddy have given us. Only thus can we prove that this summer of 1936 has been, as we suspect, a “banner” one.

In 1934 Franklin W. Hobbs, Jr., Pasquaney 1912-13 expressed the wish to raise funds to level our baseball field. “Frank” died before he could start this wish toward realization, but Robert G. Stone, Pasquaney 1910, 12-13 and “Mr. Teddy” have arranged for a shovel and two trucks to do the work this autumn. The field will be called “The Hobbs Field” in memory of “Frank.” Also, we are happy to report that interested patrons in Detroit are making plans to enlarge our Theatre to an additional seating capacity of one hundred. All Pasquaney is very grateful for these generous gifts.