

Comment by the Editor

THE DIRECTION OF LEADERSHIP

Two men.

Both lived at the same time. Both were hardy, bold, and persistent. Both were trained in the rigorous school of experience. Both adapted themselves to the conditions of the frontier. Both won distinction. Both were leaders of men.

But what a contrast! Comparison is odious.

The one was a bandit — embittered toward society, ruthless, violent, unscrupulous, counterfeit. Jesse James was hated, feared, and despised. He was a menace to the country he raided. He wrecked a train, robbed banks, and murdered men. A paragon of iniquity, he went about doing evil.

The other was a minister — friendly toward all, kind, gentle, conscientious, genuine. George B. Bowman was loved, trusted, and respected. He was a benefactor to the communities he served. He built churches, founded a college, and saved the souls of men. A champion of righteousness, he went about doing good.

If fame is the measure of worth, then our standards of value must be sadly confused. The gangster and his crimes are widely known; but the

name of the clergyman is almost forgotten. Cowboys might be expected to fabricate ballads about the exploits of a desperado, but why William Benet should glorify James is beyond comprehension. No one sings of the church builder's triumphs. Perhaps the daily news of crime has warped our social judgment. Education, especially by the emphasis of current events, is a powerful instrument for good or evil, for civilization or degradation.

The test of culture is in the direction of leadership. Cornell College is after all a more substantial and enduring monument than dime novels and fugitive verses.

J. E. B.