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THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HELD IN COMMENCEMENT WEEK

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CONTENTS

BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS	PAGE
THE RIGHT REVEREND CHARLES S. BURCH	3
COMMEMORATION EXERCISES	
COMMEMORATION ADDRESS	
THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE MAXWELL	27
CONGRATULATORY ADDRESSES	
CHANCELLOR ELMER E. BROWN	48
PRESIDENT JOSEPH W. MAUCK	53
PRESIDENT WILLIAM O. THOMPSON	57
SPEECHES AT THE PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON	
PRESIDENT EMERITUS JAMES B. ANGELL	63
THE HONORABLE ANDREW D. WHITE	64
MR. CHARLES F. BRUSH	74
PROFESSOR WILLIAM H. HOWELL	77
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	
PROFESSOR JEREMIAH W. JENKS	89
SPEECHES AT THE COMMENCEMENT DINNER	
SUPERINTENDENT LUTHER L. WRIGHT	117
PRESIDENT EMERITUS JAMES B. ANGELL	121
PROFESSOR MARTIN L. D'OOGHE	125
PRESIDENT ROBERT S. WOODWARD	130
PRESIDENT ETHELBERT D. WARFIELD	137
THE HONORABLE ANDREW D. WHITE	142
LIST OF DELEGATES	149
PROGRAMME OF THE WEEK	157
HONORARY DEGREES	163

CONTENTS

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CELEBRATION	171
BOARD OF REGENTS, AND MEMBERS OF THE FACULTIES	195

**SPEECHES
AT THE COMMENCEMENT DINNER**

THE COMMENCEMENT DINNER

Regents and all favorable influences will continue to stand behind the University, and that our Alma Mater will go forward to still greater achievements in the future.

PRESIDENT HUTCHINS

It gives me pleasure to present as the next speaker the distinguished head of a sister institution of learning, Dr. Ethelbert Dudley Warfield, the President of Lafayette College.

PRESIDENT ETHELBERT DUDLEY WARFIELD, LL.D.

MR. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: One must needs feel himself at a great disadvantage this afternoon who does not speak as a graduate or former professor of the University of Michigan. I have greatly enjoyed the fellowship of this notable occasion, and have been profoundly impressed with the genius of the place as it has been unfolded. Though I have no title to any part in the fruitful past which has been so vividly recalled, and am only a looker-on in the University to-day, I have felt—I feel now—no stranger in your midst. Though in every respect representative of other institutions, I have the keenest appreciation of the unity of purpose and of feeling which binds American universities together. I like to recall that Lafayette College was founded by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians in a Pennsylvania German community and named for a Roman Catholic Frenchman. I may perhaps be pardoned on so informal an occasion as this if I make a more personal reference, and say that I by inheritance share in a peculiar degree that

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

pioneer character which is one of the chief marks and highest glories of your University. I am descended from a man who was called from the class-room of old William and Mary to a seat in the Virginia legislature at the crisis of the Revolution. He later on went to Kentucky, became a trustee of Transylvania Academy, which on January 1, 1800, became Transylvania University, one of the first of that noble company which have brought the gathered knowledge of all the ages to the service of the New West.

You have heard of the man who had large possessions in heaven—but all in the name of his wife. So when I turn to New England is it with me. But I am glad that my children claim descent from two men who in the old colony days subscribed, the one ten bushels of “Indian corn” and the other three, “to build the new brick college at Cambridge.”

It is a satisfaction to me to feel that in the household of the president of a Pennsylvania college so many strains meet together, and that each with the spirit of the pioneer brings a faith in the power of intellectual and moral culture to elevate society and energize man. Most of all I rejoice to recall that the sacrifices made by those far-seeing patriots were not in vain. The gifts for the building of the new brick college at Cambridge were as much “seed-corn” as any planted in the fields of the old Bay State, and the fruitage has been surer, fuller, and more precious to the people. All of the men who opened up the way sowed in faith, and faith as well as wisdom is justified of her children.

The founders were apostles of liberty, and they

THE COMMENCEMENT DINNER

had set their trust in the belief that it is truth that makes us free. The liberty which they loved was inseparable from law, from order, from morals, and from religion. They delighted to trace its sources to many springs, and they trusted that its combined flood flowed on to a very wide ocean.

I count myself happy on this occasion not only to be the guest of the University, but within the precincts of one who so fully represents the warmth and the beauty, the fascination and the power, of those elements of learning which belong to classic antiquity. Himself a freeman of those mighty states which shaped the laws of thought and conduct for us, Professor D'Ooge has made generation after generation of Michigan boys and girls feel the life that throbs to-day in the institutions and the principles of a world that is as much descended from Greece and Rome as we are from English and German forbears. The winds that moved the waters of the Ægean still stir old memories for us, quite as much as those that rustled amid the reeds of Runnymede, the primeval pines of Plymouth, or the oaks of our western forests.

This pride of ancestry may lay us open to the suspicion of being aristocrats—a fearsome thing in view of all we hear to-day. I love the name of democrat, but I confess I praise the vocation of the aristocrat. In this as in all else we need to distinguish the good and the bad—even as with “Trusts.” Not all democrats are equally admirable, nor yet all aristocrats enemies of the Republic. Our colleges certainly have aristocratic leanings. See how the boys and girls come flocking in, not that they may be brought to a com-

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

mon level, not that they may swell a numerical majority,—and yet if the University of Michigan continues to grow at the present pace, it will not be long before the one fixed majority in the State will be one of Michigan graduates. Go to the football field; see how earnestly the players contend for the “M,” the coveted symbol—not of democracy, but of aristocracy. Come to the class-room, and mark the men who are sought out all the world over to train and teach the youth of to-day for the services of to-morrow. Are they chosen as representatives of the long levels of life and learning, or of the soaring heights of knowledge or wisdom? Who are the men whom a great nation still delights to hail as its representatives? Are they types of its majorities, or the happy exceptions from the limitations that press upon the masses of men? Are they not, one and all, the men who by the grace of character, of industry, of achievement; by the consummate, synthetic grace of graces, the grace of God, are the aristocracy—“the best men”? He is in my judgment the best democrat who sees clearly that the best fruit of democracy is a true aristocracy—an aristocracy not of ancestry, nor of privilege, nor of office, nor of wealth, but an aristocracy of character, of service, and of knowledge. Surely the glory of democracy is that it offers every incentive to each individual to become wiser, better, and more serviceable to self, society, and the state.

I should like to picture Democracy, unlike the old ideal of Justice with the bandaged eyes, as wide-eyed, with searching gaze, fearlessly facing every problem of life, social and scientific. Yet though I should wish

THE COMMENCEMENT DINNER

my Democracy to be unafraid to open its eyes in the face of all human things, I should like it to be unashamed to close them in the presence of Almighty God. Yes, though I would have Democracy proudly erect in the face of all men and all institutions, I would have the shoulders of Democracy ample enough and humble enough for any and all burdens. And, in this presence, let Democracy remain teachable. Shall we not after all represent our triumphant Democracy best with a book, a microscope, and a scientific balance—learning; seeking truth rather than power?

At any rate, here they come, the boys and girls, the men and women of to-morrow, who, trained, as no generation before them ever was, in the great free universities of our land, are bent upon being and doing what is *best* for America and the world. Out of it all I dare hope for an aristocracy of conduct, of wisdom, and of faith, controlling, directing, and inspiring the progress of this beloved Republic.

We sometimes say that those who gave their little gifts to found our College builded better than they knew. Let us do them more ample justice. Let us recognize that their wisdom and their faith is our greatest endowment. Had their faith been no bigger than their purses, this had been a poor land indeed. And in what joy the alumni return to these celebrations. It seems but yesterday since Lafayette had its seventy-fifth anniversary. I see again the old men come back in all the vigor of an immortal youth—the springtime of the spirit of man. What trophies did they bring with them, honorable alike to their Alma Mater and themselves. How beautiful it was—how

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

beautiful and how inspiring. Let us look forward to a yet higher reunion time, when all the college men and women shall come with trophies of service in their hands to that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Then, as now, shall we hear sweet tales of wise and gentle deeds, and the oft repeated "Well done, good and faithful servant."

PRESIDENT HUTCHINS

As Professor D'Ooge has said to you, we have with us this afternoon one of the few surviving members of the Faculty that served under the first President of the University. I am sure you would not forgive me if I brought these exercises to a close without giving you an opportunity to hear a few words from the Honorable Andrew D. White.

THE HONORABLE ANDREW DICKSON WHITE, LL.D.

WHEN I yesterday again entered this campus, which is fraught to me with many of the most delightful memories of my life, I felt, in spite of my eighty years, rather a young man. To-day that feeling is somewhat changed, for I seem to myself much like a student of ancient Memphis or Thebes who had lived long enough to blunder into an Athenian school of the time of Pericles. In my service here I antedate every one of you, including President Angell. My lectures in this University were delivered in the days when Dr. Tappan used once a year to visit the State Legislature, and in his most eloquent speeches to demonstrate to that body that Michigan was a great State, not by virtue of her lakes or her copper mines, neither of