

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

CELEBRATION

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY

AND

INAUGURATION

OF

IRA REMSEN, LL. D.

AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY



FEBRUARY TWENTY-FIRST AND TWENTY-SECOND

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come from fields of work as far away as the Carolinas on the South, Canada on the North, and Kansas and California in the West.

My duty to-night is merely first, to remind you of the tie that should bind us together, wherever we may be, as workers for more sound thinking and more useful living; secondly, to thank these distinguished guests of the University who come here to-night to give us pleasure and profit; and lastly to present to you, as our chairman,—I will not say our toast-master, for we will not go through the form of drinking toasts,—one who was among the very first to take a high degree here, who was the first president of the association of the alumni, who is a distinguished professor at Harvard, and who since this morning has been a Doctor of Laws of this University, Professor Royce.

PROFESSOR ROYCE.

Brethren of the Alumni of Johns Hopkins University :

I regret indeed that it is not possible for the committee to put in my place some venerable alumnus of the Johns Hopkins University. I happen to be here as being one of the first company of those who received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. But, as President Eliot reminded us this morning, this is a body of young alumni. To

be venerable is not yet our office, we are in the midst of the battle of life. Wherever we are engaged in it, our concern is with work. At such a time, when we have so many distinguished guests, when we have heard the words of those who have done so much for the cause of learning, it would indeed be well if we could speak in return with the authority that the alumni of a more aged institution would have. But to my mind, at this very moment, our very youth suggests as our first thought:—For all that has been given to us, for all that this City, this State, this University, and this occasion have meant for us, what can we as alumni, in our various walks of life, do in return? For us, it is the thought of work that is first suggested by all these experiences, by the very joys of this occasion. We remember that this occasion means that the body of alumni inevitably gains, from this time on, a place of greater and greater importance in the affairs of their university; that they have more and more to do with supporting the leadership of the university; that, coming into more intimate relations with the public about it, they must establish sympathy between their university and community. They should work in their community. I feel also that more and more the influence of the Johns Hopkins University is about to be expressed in the way the University has always wished it to be expressed, viz. by our taking

a more active part in the great academic movement to which the University has contributed so much. And, therefore, in the very few words that I have attempted to speak to you this evening, it occurs to me to try to express more definitely at least the question,—What in particular can the alumnus of the Johns Hopkins University learn as the lesson of this occasion with regard to his own office?

And first, that I may speak briefly to the large number of those present who are residents of the City of Baltimore, I want to remind you that from henceforth it becomes more and more important that you establish a close sympathy between your community and your University. And how is this to be done? First, gentlemen, by remembering that the alumnus of a University like this, whatever his walk of life is, must be a public servant, and he must teach the public in the long run to look to his university for providing it with public servants. As the servant of the State, and of the City, and of the community, let every alumnus be a missionary, a representative, a prophet, to show that his university means service to the community, and that it is represented by the work that each individual does.

Consequently, gentlemen, it is true indeed of all alumni—but above all—all of you who are here in Baltimore—that by increased organization, and by increased efforts, you can do more and more to

interpret the purposes and the plans and the happiness and the meaning of your university to your community. And finally, it is possible for you to give that constant support to your new president, that all alumni of universities owe to their officers.

It is not enough, gentlemen, that we wait until our great leaders have toiled for us half a life time, with all the zest and self-sacrificing character of the great administrators; it is not enough that we should wait until they have resigned, and then honor them and support them. It is true that every great work of administration needs constant watchfulness and criticism; it is true that taking counsel, and free counsel, with all who are concerned in such work, must aid the progress of it. But it is also true, especially in regard to alumni of great institutions, that they do not always understand how much they can help their administrative officers by sympathy, and by sympathy which is patient. If they do not wholly understand their methods in some respects, let them wait, and the results will gradually show themselves. It is not freedom from criticism that the administrator desires, but it is a cordial willingness to comprehend. Therefore, be near to your university, endeavor to understand it, and endeavor to support its administration.

And now, to speak, especially to those also who are, like myself, working in other communities,—

it is for us to remember more and more what the spirit of the Johns Hopkins University has meant in the past, and in what way we can express that spirit in our work. There are two things that I connect in mind especially with the general influence of the Johns Hopkins University upon academic development. Both of these things have been mentioned in our discussion of the past few days; both of them can be well remembered by every scholar, who has served, or is to serve the cause of the Johns Hopkins University. In the first place, the Johns Hopkins University has stood in its influence for *academic coöperation*. The local pride that rightly guides the interest and the designs of every university in many respects, has not been permitted in the case of this University to stand in the way of a universality of interests, which has made this University willing to be known by its fruit,—not merely by its direct influence, but by its indirect influence upon other academic life elsewhere; so that from all sides, in this celebration, we have heard how much the University has done to bring to pass similar movements elsewhere. And another thing that the University has stood for is mutual coöperation among most varied types of study; that is to say for mutual coöperation among all academic interests. Whatever limitations fortune may have determined here in this place, the influence of the Johns Hopkins,

in connection with the whole academic movement, has been to insist upon the principle that various lines of work need not be kept utterly separate, but that, as they advance, they help one another. Thus, the advance of the study of pure science, means also the advance of the industrial world ; and so the reverse too is the case. The modern university, as our President to-day reminded us, is teaching more and more that the medical sciences, that the prosecution of all the sciences of life, stand in the most intimate connection, both with the advance of pure theory, and with the advance of the practical interest of humanity ; so that the pursuit, in general, of the most recondite sciences, and of all the most practical human interests, can be connected ; and so that not one branch can prosper without the others prospering also. That is one of the great lessons that the Johns Hopkins University has taught us ; and, therefore, my fellow-scholars, in our work in the various universities, let us remember this as a lesson that we, above all, learned here ;—coöperation and cordial mutual aid amongst universities, on the one hand ; and on the other cordial aid of every department of study by other departments. No true academic interest can stand in the way of this coöperation. If all of us, both those who work here, and those who work elsewhere, can learn thus to coöperate, then the lesson of this hour is not lost. Let us then

not merely experience and enjoy, let us not merely congratulate and thank, but let us go forth to further work in our communities. For the Johns Hopkins University needs workers; while we still have the youth to work.

And now, it is a great joy to me, to be able, at this point, to call upon my own honored chief, President Eliot, to say something to us concerning the relations between university and alumni, as this occasion may suggest them to him.

President Charles William Eliot, of Harvard University, being next called upon, responded as follows:—

PRESIDENT ELIOT.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

I feel that I ought to tell you why this extraordinary order of speakers. It is simply because I am soon going to a train, that I am now called upon. Perhaps an impending train might be helpful to after-dinner speakers in general.

Dr. Royce requests me to say something on the relation of the alumni to the university. It is one of great simplicity. The alumni are children of a devoted mother. What honors a mother? The good lives of her children. What honors and