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INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ALUMNI OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

In addressing you this evening, my first and natural feeling is that of unsuitness, holding myself as I must, for the moment, in memory of those who have preceded me here on like occasions.

At the inauguration of the University itself, we were addressed, to our lasting honor, by Edward Everett, the most accomplished of American orators. It is fifteen years ago, but his well chosen words of eloquent appeal, his glowing pictures and wonderful wealth of imagery, are still fresh in our memory. He had no equal in his sphere while he lived, and his superior is not likely to arise.

Next came the strong and manly address of Chancellor Joseph G. Hoyt, whom we remember with so much affection; a man of true heart, of earnest thought, who saw through the disguises of human nature by virtue of having no disguises himself; a perfect educator, who knew how to plant good seed in the pupil's heart and make it grow as of its own accord, cherishing the individuality of every mind and adding to it the inspiration of his own. His students scarcely knew whether it was he who taught them or whether they discovered the truth for themselves. He led them to it. He opened it in their own thoughts. He taught them to find it in their own nature. Above all, he taught them to love truth for its own sake; not merely, as some philosophers advise, for the intellectual exercise of seeking after it, but for its own precious sake when found. Some of his pupils, who went through the whole college curriculum under his guidance, are here with us, and I appeal to them for the truthfulness of my words. Among all the trials and losses of our earlier career, and they were many, the death of Chancellor Hoyt was felt the most keenly.

Of his immediate successor, William Chauvenet, a like record of mingled pride and sadness remains. He, too, was one of nature's noblemen. He was not only a man of genius, but had improved his natural gifts by an intellectual and moral culture as rare, in the present day, as it is admirable. Before he came to us, his reputation was fully established as a ripe scholar, standing in the small rank of foremost men in the departments of pure and applied science; and while with us he gained further honors by works of distinguished merit, which will long keep his memory green. His name conferred early distinction upon this University. It is a great thing in our history to have had such a man at our head, and by the Association the name of Washington University is already known in all parts of the world where the lovers of science are found.

No better proof could be given of the inherent vitality of our young Institution than its ability to bear the loss of two such men, in the days of its forming period, without feeling its progress seriously checked or its usefulness permanently impaired.

It may be further worthy of note, as showing how the older colleges send out their offspring to repeat their work, that these two, our honored leaders, were classmates, "first scholars," graduates of Yale, who sought to do honor to the loving mother of their youth by here illustrating the lessons she had taught.

Such were my predecessors, who "have gone before." I name them with profound respect, not unmingled with pride. But "what can a man do that cometh after the king?"

Most fortunately for me, the work required at my hands this evening is very different from that which devolved upon them.

It was their part to show, by elaborate argument, the principles upon which sound education rests. The relative value of classical and scientific studies, and the place properly assigned to each, were so ably treated by them that there is no room for me to enlarge. The same subjects, and almost everything else connected with the "higher education" have, also, of late, been thoroughly discussed by President Porter of Yale, by President Eliot of Harvard, by President White of Cornell, and by President Barnard of Columbia College, N. Y., to mention no others, in this country; and by Froude and Mill and others, of the older Universities of Great Britain, in their several inaugural addresses, recently published and accessible to all; so that it would be difficult for any one to throw new light upon the theme.

Nor do you expect it of me. We are here to-night not so much to
consider how a University may be conducted as how a University may be built.

At times, in the moments of self-conceit, we may think that we have done much; but in the thoughtful hours we cannot but deeply feel that to stop where we are would be a blunder and a wrong. Our University has attained to a healthy infancy, but not to the growth of vigorous youth, much less to that of mature manhood. All that we have heretofore done only serves to show the greatness of the opportunity, the magnitude and importance of the work which yet remains.

From the first inception of our enterprise, which was no more than the setting up of a grammar school under the care of two teachers, our aspirations and ideal have been unchanged. It is the permanent establishment of a University proper, including all departments of learning, art, science and aesthetic culture; a University, not fashioned in servile imitation, after the recognized patterns of the past, either ancient or modern, in the old world or the new, but in accordance with the wants of the present time and of the great Western world in which we live; an American University which shall touch with one hand the workman’s bench, and with the other the astronomer’s observatory; bringing practical and scientific culture within the reach of the apprenticed workman, for his elevation to the rank of intelligent skilled labor; and at the same time offering to all who are ready to receive it the best advantages of the highest education.

We recognize the duty of an American University to address itself to the every-day working world of a republic where every man is a sovereign, by opening its doors as wide as possible to every one, male or female, who can find time and disposition, if it be but for a few hours a week in the long winter evenings, or by occasional consultation with competent teachers appointed for the purpose. Thus, the best educated mind of the university world should be brought into immediate contact with the practical organization of the working world, to the advantage of both. Thus, the conventional wall of separation between working men of the hand and working men of the head may be thrown down. The fancied pre-eminence of the learned professions would disappear. A good education would gradually come to be recognized as a necessity in the training of every young man, whether for intellectual or mechanical pursuits. We believe that this is not the age or country, certainly not in this valley of the West, for the great activities of intellectual culture to keep aloof from the community. The University should be the leaven to act with creative and purifying power until the whole mass is leavened. Such has been and is our aim. Almost the earliest direction of our thoughts was towards the industrial interests. The O’Fallon Polytechnic Institute, organized with reference to the working classes, was established before the collegiate and literary departments, and has but recently been developed into its higher legitimate work of an advanced scientific school. We hope never to lose this feature of our Institution, but, as we acquire greater strength, to offer the instruction of our physical and chemical laboratories and of our School of Art and Design, more and more freely, to all teachers, both of public and private schools; to mechanics and manufacturers, and to that large class of intelligent women, who, without seeking for notoriety, desire, by useful employment, to secure to themselves the means of usefulness and of independent self-support.

The plan is not Utopian. We see it directly and clearly within our reach, at moderate cost, with assured results, as soon as our endowment funds shall have attained to the point of respectable University strength. At present there is but enough to rattle in the purse, to show its emptiness.

But, while speaking of the practical tendency which necessity imposes upon American institutions of learning, we do not forget what we have already intimated, that the peculiar province of every university, properly so called, must always be found in the highest departments of intellectual culture. It is not, primarily, a society for the diffusion of useful knowledge, nor a common school system for the education of the masses, however important a supplementary part it may take in both of these directions. Its distinctive work is in the higher realms of thought, there building upon the highest attainments of the past to reach upward to still higher, and thus enlarge the boundaries of human knowledge by discovery of new truths and by new applications of the old. Not quantity but quality of work is the ultimate test of a university’s success. To educate one man thoroughly, to carry him above the standard of his times, to make him one of those who stand first, leading, not following the world’s movements, confers more honor than to graduate a thousand upon the usual dead level of moderate scholarship. Nay, in this respect and rightly considered, quality of results includes quantity, and one man educated to do first rate work weighs more and counts more than many who are only competent to deal in second-hand ideas and to follow beaten
tracks. One best is more than many good. The man who looks a little further than his contemporaries discovers a new continent. The man who thinks a little more profoundly, invents the telegraph or reveals the laws of light. To train one such man, or to clear his way before him, adds more to the world's wealth, and gives a greater impetus to the world's civilization than numerical figures can compute.

Therefore it is, that the University should be supplied with all needful facilities for giving the best education to the few, as well as a good education to the many. The number may be small of those who are by nature capable of receiving the best gifts, but the best gifts should be kept ready, and no one, honestly seeking for them, should be turned away.

"It is specially the part of great universities to yield as little as possible to mere popular prejudices; to maintain the necessity and sacredness of learning in times when it is generally despised or depreciated; to tend most assiduously the lamp of the higher education, when the gushy breath of common clamor is blowing most violently upon it; and to uphold the standard of intellectual training with the bravest and highest hand, just when the idle public is most careless about its ensign, or even ready to trample it under foot."

An expensive programme, you may say, by which the average cost of education, dividing the total outlay among the recipients, would be fearfully great. Yes; but there are some things the value of which cannot be weighed in the balance even with fine gold.

When the city of Leyden was besieged, three hundred years ago, it came to pass, as in the old mythological days of classic warfare, that Neptune and Eolus, forming alliance with the Silent William, in answer to the prayers of a suppliant and heroic people, poured in their irresistible forces upon the panic-stricken invaders and rescued the beleaguered citadel. For four months the sufferings of famine and pestilence had been patiently endured. Six thousand, out of a total of forty thousand, had perished. The remainder were a ghastly crew, half-starved, half-maniac in their despair. When the boats came into the canals of the city and bread was thrown to the people who crowded along the banks imploring for food, hundreds who had survived the famine fell victims to the suddenness of relief. But their city was saved and their nation and the cause of freedom with it. The grateful thanks of their countrymen and of their great leader came as their reward. The people of Leyden were called upon to name the recompense for their sufferings, some monument of gratitude, in everlasting memorial of their self-sacrificing patriotism.

They asked that a University should be established there; and a few months afterwards, while the struggle for freedom and national existence was yet going on, the corner-stone of Leyden University was laid, with elaborate inaugural ceremonies, as if a triumph had been decreed.

It was a noteworthy reward for unparalleled services; and as, when Solomon chose wisdom, riches and honor were "added thereunto," so it happened to the brave city of Holland. From that day to this, its University has been the prominent fact of its history. It became one of the great centers of intelligence, of practical science and of art. Its learned men were the leading minds of Europe. It attracted to itself students and seekers after knowledge from all parts of the continent, and by the laws of natural selection gathered to itself new strength and new material for growth continually. The city of Leyden gained more by the choice it made than if its material wealth had been quadrupled. The annual return was better than if exemption from taxation had been granted to it forever. A great variety of fortune has befallen it. Its population, at one time advancing to a hundred thousand, has declined again to half that number, and its commerce has greatly dwindled, from causes affecting the general course of trade. But its University still numbers eight hundred students, and is the chief source of its remaining prosperity and continued renown.

What William of Orange did for Leyden we may do, if we please, for this city, on a far greater scale and with greater results, by so much as the Mississippi valley is greater than the delta of the Rhine.

Who would question the usefulness of such a work? We enter into no argument to prove it, for those who do not see it for themselves are not likely to feel any interest in the enterprise.

But we may say, and with emphasis, for it touches the exact point to which your attention is called, that the usefulness of which we speak is not that of a struggling, feeble Institution, doing battle for "dear life," laboring, as we are, to do the maximum of work with the minimum of workers, counting every dollar spent as if it were a drop of the life's blood, and afraid to look at its balance sheet when the year comes round. Every step taken is, indeed, so much gained. As our record now stands, and taking things as they now are, we have reason to feel encouraged. We should be ungrateful to complain, as if our progress had been slow. Very few Institutions, under circumstances of so great difficulty, have accomplished more in the same
time. From our first establishment until now, we have received almost entirely as free gifts more than three-quarters of a million of dollars, which has been used for the various purposes of the University, or for its endowment. We are now educating, in all the departments of instruction, nearly nine hundred pupils, including that most precious part of the University, Mary Institute, and the Law School, of which we are so proud. We may claim, without arrogance and without asserting superiority over our Sister Institutions, to have become an influence of moral and educational power in the city and State which could not be well spared.

Yet I must repeat that if this were all—if to hold our own were our best hope, and thus to continue one of three hundred half-fledged colleges whose wings refuse to grow—we should feel that we have signally failed. The sacrifices we have made; the anxieties we have endured; the prayers and longings we have breathed; the day and night labor and care which have driven sleep from the pillow and found no rest; the vision of a tree of life, planted by the river of waters, striking its roots deep, spreading its branches abroad, to bear fruit and flowers for the delight and strengthening of many, in all time to come; we do not say that it will have been all in vain if we should stop here, but assuredly our aim and purpose have reached far beyond. Our assigned task is to make for St. Louis what Harvard College is to Boston, or Yale to the city of its abode.

Washington University, in its ante-typical idea, prefigures an Institution worthy of the great name it bears: a name which is the symbol of Christian civilization and American patriotism, and to which, therefore, no thought of sectarian narrowness or of party strife can ever be attached; an Institution of learning, at once conservative and progressive, with foundations so broad that there is room for every department of human culture, and so deep that neither praise nor blame shall shake its allegiance to truth. We would found a University so strong in its faculty of instruction, so generous in its ideas, so thoroughly provided with all facilities of education, so hospitable to all comers and so rich in its benefactions conferred, that it should gather round itself a constituency of learning and science, and give tone to the educational movement of the region in which we live. We would found a University so widely acknowledged in its influence, that St. Louis and Missouri should be honored throughout the world by its being established here; and the best class of citizens from all parts of the land, the intelligent, the enterprising, the philanthropic,
character. But at all events, if we wisely regard the highest interests of the community in which we live, we shall labor for the speedy establishment of the best institutions, so that the reproach against us, whatever truth may be in it, may speedily be taken away.

But, will it not require a world of money and a century of time to accomplish such results?

No. Neither an exorbitant amount of money nor a long term of years is requisite. Give us, if you please, and as you can, if you please, give us one million of dollars and grant us five years' time, and we will provide for St. Louis and its region all the educational advantages of Harvard or Yale, and some greater advantages than they possess. For other things being equal, there is a greater degree of vitality and freshness and individuality here than there.

A million of dollars! some one exclaims, with parting lips and rounding eyes; what a prodigious sum of money it is!

But no, it is not. It is a sort of barbarism to call it so. Large and small are relative terms, to be measured by the object to which they are applied.

When we speak of our contemplated Merchants' Exchange building, upon the full success of which more depends than at first appears, we say, and rightly, that it will be cheaply built if it costs a million and a half. But a University is a greater work, and, properly established, will yield, directly and indirectly, far greater results.

When we speak of the grand viaduct over the Mississippi, at the other end of Washington avenue, we say that if it costs six millions, as it will, or more, the only thing to be regretted is, that it was not begun and finished ten years ago. But an American University, a highway of knowledge and art, bringing here to our homes and families all the appliances and wealth of intellectual culture from distant regions to make them indigenous here, is a greater work, and will shed its blessing upon all around, long after the piers of that magnificent structure shall have crumbled away. Material things perish. The mind endures.

Rightly considered and measured by the results to be gained, it is not a large sum, a million of dollars, nor do we despair of obtaining it within the limit named. There are individuals who could give it without feeling the loss, except in the diminution of their taxes and cares. If we had it now, by its judicious use the principal might be kept intact, and every thing could be put in right train. But however it comes, as come it will, it will accomplish a work for which the givers will be pronounced, in this community, blessed forever.

An honorable ambition, is it not, so to link one's self to the beneficent institutions of the land that one's name will be a title of nobility to his children's children, to the end of time!

But to no such motive do we appeal, nor have we appealed; upon no selfish foundation, however praiseworthy in the eyes of men, would we seek to build the structures of usefulness. In the service of God and humanity the work must be done, if at all. The secondary and lower motives may serve a purpose, but the desire to do good, under our Christian allegiance and as the stewards of God's bounty, "in the great taskmaster's eye," must be the strong purpose by which every large philanthropy is sustained. To that only do we appeal. They who believe that our cause is good, need no other urgency. They will seek for no lower end.

Another thing may be here said which experience has taught us. It is easier, in such departments of work, to do a great thing than a small; easier in itself, because greater motives are brought to bear, and at the same time, far more satisfactory in results. A few thousand dollars taken from a rich man's revenue, cramps his income and makes him feel poor, while it accomplishes little, comparatively speaking, and its influence is scarcely seen; but a hundred thousand from his capital is forgotten after it is done, and a great specific work, begun and completed, forever remains. In like manner, when several combine to secure some great result, and by united effort, complete it at once according to their first ideal, they can heartily rejoice in it, because they have finished the work which was given them to do.

Generally speaking, however, it is the few to whom we must look in large enterprises, not the many. Not always, not generally, to those of greatest wealth; for riches, when too abundant, become a prison house, with golden walls, so massive and self-guarded that the sympathies find no way to get out, and the owner, whose name stands on the door-plate, is only the guardian of his wealth; not its possessor, for it possesses him. The men upon whom the great philanthropies depend, are the few who have strong hands and equally strong hearts; who refuse to let their wealth get ahead of them; and who keep it down by keeping themselves above it. It is the men who are content to be single workers, if need be, not measuring themselves by what others do, but by what ought to be done; single workers, who do not wait for others, but step right forward, saying, "Here am I, send me."

We have had a score of such men, and therefore do we continue unto this day. We have the same men yet; and a score of others are
now leaning forward, ready to take that "first step which costs," as soon as they fully believe in the work to be done. It is not the want of means, nor of generosity. The only thing wanting is faith.

And a question here arises, which is frequently asked, and to which an answer must be given.

Is it not an impracticable scheme to establish a University in the heart of a city, and are not all the traditions of educational enterprise against such an idea? The question, with the doubt implied, is founded upon a notable error which needs to be exposed.

In Edinburgh and Glasgow and Dublin; in London and Manchester; in Gottingen and Leyden and Amsterdam; in Petersburg and Moscow and Prague and Berlin and Vienna and Munich; in Paris and Geneva and Venice and Padua and Milan and Naples and Rome—all of them the great cities of the regions where they stand—you find the universities and schools which have been and are the great educational forces of Christendom. Oxford and Cambridge, in England, seem to be exceptions; but they have gradually gathered cities about themselves, and their vicinity to London makes them suburbs of the great metropolis. Furthermore, considered as exceptional cases, they are on our side; for in proportion to their isolation they have been provincial rather than cosmopolitan in their tone of culture, resisting progress rather than helping it forward. Only of late years, by the fact of the living masses of humanity being brought nearer and nearer to them, are they becoming what they should be, through great university reforms, "the light set upon a candlestick," to give light to all in the house.

In like manner, Yale is in the largest city of Connecticut, and they would make it larger if they could. Harvard is but three miles from Boston, and its recent great advancement is attributable, not only to the great ability of its president, but to the fact that the city is enfolding it in its great arms, imparting as well as receiving life, and re-deeming it from its old reproach of being sectional and institutional in its ideas. It is gaining in every respect, just in proportion as its rural characteristics are changing for the more comprehensive influences of a city. And Columbia College, heretofore kept back from its legitimate influence by a certain narrowness of legislation, which its best friends have always deplored and opposed, is at length beginning to assert its metropolitan place, and, if its regents have the wisdom to see their opportunity, will soon become worthy of the great city which it adorns.

Is it not in the great centers of teeming city life that the great thinkers of the world have always chosen to live? The exceptions are so few that time would fail me to exemplify the rule. But, most evidently, where the great thinkers love to congregate, the great University can afford to be.

So much, therefore, we venture to assert of all the departments of university work, that there is nothing in city influences to prevent the best and highest success. On the contrary, we find there an atmosphere of intense vital activity to stimulate and freshen the thoughts, to save them from unreality and from the folly of dreaming dreams. A great deal of the prejudice among practical men against a college education is found just here. Young men are educated away from practical interests instead of for them, and have to unlearn the habits of four or eight years of artificial, monastic seclusion before knowing how to earn their bread. It would be better if they could be trained in the two-fold directions at once, which can be accomplished effectually and spontaneously, by placing the University where it hourly feels the beating pulsations of the world's life.

Especially is this true of all professional and technical education. For schools of law, and medicine, and scientific instruction, in all their branches, the large city is the only right place. The reasons for this opinion are so evident that they do not need to be set forth, nor is it a matter of dispute.

Therefore, whatever may be our ultimate decision as to the classical and literary department of the University, no part of what we are now doing, or may be able to do in this location, is in danger of being wasted or misplaced. For the needful preparatory education, for the rapidly growing demands of our scientific department, for the law school, which will soon number a hundred students, and for an academy and gallery of art, we shall eventually need all the room we now have and more.

Nor am I without hope that a medical department may, by-and-by, be added, somewhat after the Harvard plan, which requires an adequate preparation before admission, and insists upon a thorough three years' curriculum of study before conferring a degree. It is frightful to think that now, in almost every part of the United States, young men who can neither read nor write English correctly, and who know nothing about any other language, dead or living, can gain full admission to a medical college, and at the end of two or three years of un-systematic study, after attending the lectures of two sessions, having
learned a smattering of medical science so as to pass an easy examination, and to write a presciption in talismanic Latin for "Mass. Hydrag.," receive, as a matter of course, the diploma of Doctor of Medicine, and are sent forth with license to cure—or—to kill. All well instructed physicians deplore the evil and submit to it only as a necessity from which they see no escape. Can we not do something to remove that necessity? Perhaps the time of doing so may soon come.

But as to the desirableness of having some departments of the University in the suburbs, a few miles from the city's center, where we could enjoy the larger space of fifty or a hundred acres of ground, I would not have you think that I am obstinate or unopen to conviction. For several years past we have been looking for a suitable location, and shall obtain one as soon as we can; not with thought of immediate transfer, for our work for the next ten years is evidently here, but that we may be prepared for future exigency when it comes. Such a tract enclosed and properly laid out, with trees planted and avenues planned, would be ready, in ten years, for whatever might be proposed.

With that view I sent a mailed messenger, not long ago, after one of our best friends, now traveling in the Eastern World, and whose flight was not so fast but that the word reached him, asking if he would sell to us, for about half its value, a piece of land containing sixty or seventy acres, not far from the locality which we would choose. He answers, writing where he was surrounded by the "Heathen Chinee," that he will not sell at any such rate; but if the location should be fixed upon as the best that can be found, and the University wants fifty acres or so, he will be disposed to give it on demand. On such terms it would not be hard to take. Again, our fellow-citizen, Mr. Emil Malinckrodt, who lives on the same ridge of land, two miles further west, offers to us, as I understand, six acres, at the highest point within ten miles of St. Louis, for the uses of an observatory. No better place could be found; and if we had the means to build a house and mount a good telescope, we should accept the offer at once. But poverty prevents.

By some means or other, therefore, either for love or money, when the time comes for enlargement of our plans, we may rest assured the way will be found.

For the present, most manifestly, we must fight it out on this line. We must make the best of things as they are and improve them, as a city Institution, to the largest reach of our ability.

One thing, especially, I wish that we could do. I have it very much at heart as a step of progress which would secure us in what we have done, and make the University stronger and better in every way. You know that we have recently purchased from Hon. Nathan Cole, the lot of ground containing one hundred by one hundred and fifty feet, with his homestead, at the corner of Eighteenth street and Washington avenue, being the western fourth of the block on which we now stand; and I take this opportunity of acknowledging the liberality by which one-seventh of the purchase-money was remitted, being a gift to the University of five thousand dollars.

Upon that lot we ought to build a grand University Hall, to occupy the whole ground, with proper architectural construction, so as not only to meet a variety of University uses, but to serve an equally important purpose for other educational, scientific, literary and aesthetic interests. For the sum of one hundred thousand dollars a substantial brick building could be built—Chicago has taught us to avoid stone, and we want nothing for idle show—with an elevation of five stories, inclusive of the basement. It would be tedious to specify all the capabilities of such an edifice, but some hints, at least, may be given.

On the first story we should have an auditorium large enough for a thousand hearers, rightly arranged for lectures, with adjoining rooms requisite for such purposes. On the same floor, in the south wing, complete arrangements might be made for dining rooms and restaurant, where all students could obtain their meals at actual cost. The second story could be utilized for our undergraduates and alumni, and in due time perhaps for a University club, with ample space for reading-rooms, private parlors and whatever else might be required. Apartments could also be spared for the Academy of Sciences, and for the Historical Society, if they should desire it; and by thus joining hands we could at once concentrate these various interests, with economy of expenditure and enlargement of results. The third and fourth stories would still remain for study rooms and apartments, for the use, at moderate cost, of students in the undergraduate and professional colleges. The income from the building would supply all its wants for fuel, light and repair, and leave a revenue to the University beside.

If some large-hearted man or men would authorize it, we could have University Hall in full occupancy by the end of the year.

I speak of it now because its accomplishment would do so much, not
only for the University, but for similar interests, and because it is perfectly practicable, if we would but think so at the present time.

The great desideratum for the University, however, without the attainment of which it cannot prosper, is a large university fund, so that its income shall be adequate to its demands. Specific endowments add to its strength and usefulness, but they must be held in sacred trust, and not unfrequently increase instead of lessening the burden to be borne. Our new Polytechnic building, built and furnished and free from debt, yet requires large additional outlay for its support. Every professorship, specifically endowed, involves incidental expenditure, which lessens our general means. Thus it happens that although the last year was one of great progress, our revenue has not been increased nearly as much as our expenses.

Not that we object to special endowments. Sometimes they meet the purpose intended most advantageously. For the Law department we would thankfully receive fifty, or even a hundred thousand. For Mary Institute, ten or twenty thousand would be welcome, and would increase its advantages in a great variety of ways. For completion of the department of mining and metallurgy; for the school of art and design; for the establishment of two additional professorships; for the annual increase of the students' and professors' library; for the establishment of fellowships in aid of students, and for encouragement of good scholarship in the various departments of learning; for these and for other like uses, there is always a place where individual preferences can be met and satisfied. But an adequate university endowment, with its revenue at the disposal of the directors, would meet all exigencies and adjust all expenditures to the best advantage of all.

What hope have we then of so grand results? Is it not mere Quixotism to expect them? We do not know. "I believed, therefore have I spoken." Twelve months ago, at the last anniversary meeting, our condition was far from being hopeful. There seemed to be a gulf of difficulties that we could not pass. But from unexpected sources, unsolicited, there came, in the three months that followed, gifts amounting in all to two hundred and fifteen thousand dollars, and we have had good reason to praise the Bridge that carried us over. More recently we have received six thousand dollars for the Law School library, from a friend whose name is withheld; five thousand from Nathan Cole, as before mentioned; two thousand from F. B. Chamberlain; twelve hundred from William Glasgow, Jr.; five hundred, each, from Robert Campbell and John R. Shepley, to meet an occasion.

sional specific demand; making in all nearly two hundred and forty thousand dollars as the net result of the last year's munificence. Four years with an average like that would make up the full sum of our heart's desire, leaving to those who come after us the further prosecution of a greater work.

For university work has no limitation, and every step of progress opens the way to further steps beyond. Some things are essential to respectability and permanent existence, and of these only have we been speaking now. When these are secured, the future will take care of itself.

In the last educational report of Commissioner John Eaton, Jr., a most encouraging statement is given of gifts to educational institutions by private citizens, during the last year. In all, it amounts to nearly nine millions of dollars. In California, $2,000,000; in Connecticut, $846,000, of which Yale college receives nearly half; in Indiana, $537,000; in Illinois, $391,000; in Massachusetts, $2,502,000, of which Harvard receives $460,000; in New Hampshire, $168,000; in New Jersey, $324,000; in New York, $765; in Pennsylvania, $312,000; in Missouri, $230,000, all of which was for Washington University. Of these individual donations, two were of $1,000,000 or over; twenty-three were of $100,000 and over; eleven of $25,000 and over. Is not that a more than princely array of figures? And may not the future do as well?

It is a grand thing that American aristocracy of wealth should express itself in this noble manner. The simplicity of Republican Institutions debar us from the extravagant show of riches in palaces and splendid equipage, except at the cost of being pronounced vulgar. By such methods, notoriety may be gained, not distinction. But riches, when turned into the channels of philanthropy, diffuse abundance and fertility, like the rivers of God which are full of water. To be a millionaire is a proud attainment, if one has learned the art of spending money to do good. Many have already learned this, and the "school of the prophet" is becoming larger.

Everything incites us to continued and increasing efforts. Our charter is broad and strong, conferring all the privileges and establishing us in all the rights upon which success depends. We are in the heart of a region unequaled in natural advantages of every kind, and which must soon be, if not already, the controlling power of the Union. We are in a city, which, in the face of many difficulties, has added more to its population and wealth, during the last thirty
years, than any other city west of the mountains. For thirty-seven years it has regularly doubled upon itself every six and a half years, and we safely predict that before the close of the present decade it will have doubled, both in strength and numbers, again. That is St. Louis. It is no place for small things. “Noblesse oblige.” We are under a necessity of doing our work well.

To the alumni of the University we would especially appeal. They are few in number, and all of them are yet young men. Two of them have already taken their places as Directors of the University; for we believe in the infusion of young blood, thereby keeping our own hearts young. We hope that the whole direction of affairs will gradually fall into their hands, for to them it will be a labor of love, as it has always been. Young as we are, our alumni are among our principal benefactors. We earnestly desire their good-will and affectionately ask their hearty co-operation. Addressing them to-day, by their request, and as their orator, I thank them for the confidence thus reposed in me. With them as a continually increasing band of helpers, there is no such word as fail.

There is no such word. In our moral dictionary it has no place, and we will not admit it there.

We look also for sympathy and co-operation to the alumni of all colleges, whether at home or abroad. Why should we not make common cause here, where we meet on common ground, to build up an institution as the child of many mothers, receiving life inspiration from all the fountains of learning, to shed it all around us in our Western home? If the educated mind of St. Louis could thus gather round us and recognize the work here undertaken, it would redound to the gain of many, to the loss of none.

We look to our fellow-citizens in general, to the strong and to the rising men of the community, that they should take pride in fostering and strengthening a home institution. Make it, by your munificence, worthy of our city, and it will abundantly repay the debt.

We look to our old friends, faithful, disinterested and true. They need no exhortation from me. We have worked together thus far, and will work together to the end. Having put our hands to the plow, we will not look back.

Shall we succeed? Shall we see the work prosper in our own hands? I think, I believe, I feel assured that many of us will. Yet let us never forget the Divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them as we will.

Except the Lord build the house — except the Lord bless the University — they labor in vain that build it.