AN

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT

THE DEDICATION

OF THE

HINSDALE ACADEMY,

JANUARY 11, 1849.

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ADDRESS.

It is fitting that the completion of any important enterprize should be noticed and considered, especially by those who have had the chief agency in conducting it, and who are most interested in its results. It is due to a gracious Providence that we pause to refresh our minds with a sense of his goodness, in the contemplation of his counsel and his care. It is due to ourselves, to society, to future generations, that we become thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the enterprize, comprehending it in its various relations, and directing it to its legitimate ends. The spirit of these suggestions is, if I mistake not, the spirit of this occasion. You have established an institution in aid and in honour of the cause of learning; and it is but a reasonable service that, now at the commencement of its operations, you should devote an hour to grateful recollection of the success which has attended your efforts, and to some general estimate of the duties which devolve

upon you. I have been asked to give some direction to your thoughts on this interesting occasion. Had I supposed that you were looking for an elaborate discourse on education or any kindred subject, I should have felt constrained, owing to the peculiar circumstances in which your request found me, to have declined it altogether; but as I took for granted that a somewhat informal offering to your common sense and your good feelings was all that would be required of me, I have most cheerfully consented to take part with you in the gratulatory exercises of this hour. The few remarks to which I ask your attention, will have it for their object to deepen your sense of the importance of your undertaking, and to quicken your zeal and direct your efforts in carrying forward the noble work which you have so honourably commenced.

The establishment of an institution like this, apart from any peculiar circumstances, would be worthy to be noted as an event having an auspicious bearing on the interests of the race. For it is designed to aid in the culture of the human faculties; to form the youthful mind to noble attainments and lofty aspirations; to qualify for extensive usefulness in the various departments of life; and though its influence may act most intensely within a comparatively small circle, yet

so numerous and complicated are the relations that exist in society, that there is a sense in which it may be said that its field is the world. Yes, every institution designed and adapted to waken man's powers into more vigorous exercise and give them a right direction, should be regarded as a matter of common interest; as part of the great system of instrumentality by which the ultimate elevation and triumph of the human mind are to be achieved.

But, if I mistake not, a little reflection will show us that there are circumstances connected with *your* enterprize, which give to it a *peculiar* interest, and justify you in connecting with this occasion the most cheering anticipations. You will allow me briefly to advert to these circumstances.

The first is, that this institution *contemplates alike the education of both sexes.*

The old doctrine on the subject of female education was substantially this, — that it is safe, for the most part, to leave the whole matter to take care of itself. And hence, while there were colleges and academies scattered over the land, at which parents might educate their sons, an institution at which their daughters might enjoy the like advantages, was scarcely to be found; and the few that did exist were looked upon as

having had their origin in extravagance, and as rather conflicting with the designs of Providence by giving to the female mind an unnatural direction. But, happily, the present generation are permitted to look upon the doctrine which led to such unpropitious results, as an exploded doctrine; and if there are those who still hold it, they do so at the expense of being regarded, and justly, as the enemies of civilization, of social happiness, of the best interests of man. The world in its advancing wisdom has discovered that the intellectual faculties of the sexes are substantially alike; that they are equally susceptible of cultivation; and that this very susceptibility implies an obligation to bring within the reach of both similar advantages. For, can you tell, — can any one tell, why that immortal principle, capable of spanning the heavens and flying off into eternity, should be left to slumber, merely because it has its dwelling-place in the bosom of a woman? And then the relations which woman sustains, both within and beyond the domestic circle, — what an argument do *they* supply for giving her a substantial and thorough education! Is *she* qualified to be the wife of an intelligent man, who is at home only amidst her culinary utensils, or even by the side of her piano? Is *she* qualified to discharge the duties of a mother, —

to open the windows of the infant mind and let in the first beams of light, and then to nurse the various faculties in their successive stages of development, — whose own mind has scarcely emerged from the darkness of nature, — whose education has been either altogether neglected, or has been only that which might become a doll or a plaything? Is *she* qualified to move about in circles of dignity and usefulness, to co-operate efficiently with the wise and good in aid of the improvement of the race, whose unfurnished mind and vulgar habits proclaim that she is herself a fit subject for some plastic hand to work upon? The very constitution of your academy, providing as it does for the education of both sexes, shows that *you* have not only theoretically but practically reached the true doctrine on this subject. You are not willing that your daughters any more than your sons should be left under the blighting curse of ignorance. You have made provision here, that the education of the one sex should go hand in hand with the education of the other. Here will be an annual contribution to your domestic and social happiness. Young women as well as young men will be continually going forth from this institution, qualified by the diligent improvement of the advantages which it has furnished them, to diffuse a charm over soci-

ety and to sustain with efficiency and honour their various relations.

I am aware that the commingling of the sexes in the same institution may be regarded by some as an unpropitious circumstance. The reply to this, in the present case, doubtless would be, that in a place whose population is no larger than yours, it might be inconvenient to sustain two separate institutions. But allow me to say that this circumstance is by no means to be regarded as necessarily an evil. Only let there be a correct sentiment prevailing throughout the institution, and what might at first seem fraught with inconvenience and danger, becomes really a source of important advantage. Let the respectful distance between the sexes which nature and propriety dictate, be observed; and let their intercourse be characterized by mutual courtesy and dignity, and neither will be the worse, — both will be the better, for the relations into which they are brought. The softening influence of female manners on our sex is proverbial; and the high, considerate and honourable bearing of a well-disposed and intelligent young man, will tell, with no less power, on the intellectual and moral developments of the young ladies with whom he associates.

The next consideration which I beg leave to mention, as illustrating the importance of your

enterprize, is the *place* where this institution is situated. I am not aware that any place could have been selected more favourable to its accomplishing a glorious result.

First of all, then, let me say, it is in this *great and free country*, — a country which it is hardly presumptuous to say, holds in its hands the destinies of the world. Why, my friends, we have scarcely begun to find out the extent of our territory, — scarcely begun even to dream of the immense population that is hereafter to occupy it, or of the mighty influence which that population is destined to wield. It is a subject, I know, upon which it is difficult to speak; for in speaking of it, there is danger lest we indulge, or seem to indulge, an unbecoming self-complacency, instead of being deeply impressed, as we should be, with a sense of obligation and responsibility. Nevertheless, we may not shut our eyes against the light, because it is capable of being perverted to evil; and we are bound to contemplate our condition and prospects with the eye of sober calculation. I say, then, if any thing can be rendered certain by mathematical demonstration, then it is certain that, if the ordinary course of events in respect to this country be unobstructed, we are destined, ere long, by our surpassing vastness as a people, to become a wonder to ourselves as well

as to the world ;—destined, in the providence of God, to perform a work that shall tell mightily upon the physical, the intellectual, the moral condition of every kindred and nation and tongue and people under heaven. And then the air of this country is the air of freedom. Oppression,—that monster from the pit, has indeed a footing here: would to Heaven he had not; for he makes us stammer when we talk of our free institutions; and whenever we see the finger of scorn pointed at us from abroad, we always know what it means. But we do not expect that his reign will be perpetual; and there are those who believe that this generation will not have passed away, before his days will be numbered. But notwithstanding all the embarrassment incident to this sad feature of our national character, it is still true that we are the freest people on whom the sun shines: indeed, we have as much freedom as is consistent with stability, with efficiency, with safety. Here the mind may not only think its own thoughts, but proclaim them without fear. Here there are no walls built up high as heaven, which the imprisoned intellect cannot scale; no great gulfs fixed between the different classes which even a master mind may sigh in vain to pass. But every thing great and good is open to the pursuit of all. No one is forbidden

to run for the highest prize. There is nothing incongruous in the supposition that he who in his youth, slept on a rough board and was nursed on the coarsest fare, should, before he dies, occupy a place to which every other man in the nation would have to look up.

Do you not perceive, my friends, the mighty advantage which your institution derives from being situated in such a country as this, — so free, so vast, so powerful; — powerful already, but destined, in the common course of events, to become incomparably more so in the progress of years and centuries. Suppose, what indeed would be an impossibility, — but suppose that this institution had been established in Italy, or Portugal, or Spain; and that this very day, it were going into operation there, amidst all those restraints on public opinion, and that deep intellectual servitude, which have come down through so many generations, — what think you would be its prospects of usefulness? Why, the machinery would stand still the moment after it was put in operation; or if it continued to move at all, it would be only tardily and sluggishly; and the reason would be, that there would be every thing in the habits of the people and the genius of the government to retard and embarrass and defeat. Or, if any good were to be accomplished by such an

enterprize, it would be on an exceedingly limited scale, and in reference to but few individuals; for the great mass could not be brought within the reach of any such influence, nor would they be scarcely more susceptible of it than is the iron or the flint of being penetrated by the gentle dews. But *this* academy rises up in a country, where there is nothing to obstruct its influence, but every thing to help it; where the successive generations of its pupils can turn their acquisitions to the best account in sustaining the great cause of human improvement and human happiness; where every well-directed blow which is struck in aid of the cause of truth and intelligence, or in opposition to the powers of evil, is felt, I had almost said, to the very center of the universe, — is like the lightning's flash, darting from one end of the heavens even unto the other. Say not that I am magnifying beyond bounds the importance of your institution, — for that it is only a unit, and has but just commenced its existence; and that, however benignly it may operate on the interests of your immediate neighbourhood, it were unreasonable to suppose that it should reach much beyond. Herein, be assured, you mistake; for such is the nature of intellectual and moral influence under a free government, that you cannot restrict the influence of

this institution within narrow limits, if you would. It must work for the country and the world; and so it will work, unless you abandon your enterprize and shut up your building, or else pervert to purposes of evil the provision that has here been made for good.

Let me say, next, that this academy is a *New-England* institution; and New-England, — I may surely say it here among yourselves, — is the garden of the land, — in some respects the garden of the world. Rely on it, those of us who first breathed New-England air, and who became familiarized in our youth to New-England usages, but have since been providentially thrown into other parts of our favoured country, always love to remember that our fathers' sepulchres are here; and hither we are sure to come to find the objects of our most grateful and hallowed recollection. Here we find intelligence among the masses; and comparatively few who are born here, are without at least the elementary branches of education. Here the spirit of the pilgrims, — in some respects degenerated I must acknowledge, but still the same spirit, — lingers and throbs in the bosom of their descendants; and as long as their graves remain, that spirit will not cease to act in heroic impulses and noble deeds. It is a *Massachusetts* institution also; and who needs be told that

among all the sisters, there is none greater than she? Religious liberty in its infancy was nurtured from her bosom; and she furnished also the cradle in which civil liberty was rocked: and she numbers among her sons a host of intellectual and moral lights, to which kings and queens might well do homage. And may I not add, this academy is in the heart of *old Berkshire;* whose majestic mountains and beautiful valleys and rugged fields, may be regarded as an index to the bold and earnest character of her sons, to the graceful and lovely character of her daughters. I ask now, is not a plant of intelligence and virtue, rooted in such a soil as this, likely to flourish? Fanned by the breezes of freedom, guarded and nurtured by an enlightened public opinion, with the spirits of departed sages lending their influence to its growth and productiveness, may we not reasonably expect that it will reach a majestic height, and spread abroad its branches for the refreshment and healing even of the world?

It is worthy of notice also, that your institution is in a *quiet country village;* away from the din, the turmoil, the temptations, incident to a populous city. No doubt the city has its own peculiar advantages, and those whose lot is cast in cities ought thankfully and diligently to improve them. But neither does it admit of question that a stu-

dent's life in the country is in some respects far safer and happier than in a large town. The advantages for preserving the health in the former case, are much greater than in the latter: the air that is breathed is purer; the opportunities for exercise are better; and dangerous diseases are less frequently hovering around, and more easily resisted or repelled. And then, the quiet of the country, especially its still mornings and evenings,—there is nothing more favourable to the vigorous and undisturbed application of the faculties; while the bright scenes of nature which are constantly exhibited,—the broad expanse above and around garnished with so much glory, the genial influence of spring spreading verdure through the fields, the golden harvests and the variegated hues of autumn,—all, all are fitted to improve the moral sentiments and quicken the moral sensibility. And, last of all, there are fewer temptations to all the grosser forms of transgression in the country than in the city: in the former case the movements of a young man may be traced with comparative ease, whereas in the latter it is not difficult for him to hide himself in the crowd; and many a youth has actually, in this way, become accomplished in vice,—a very victim to profligacy, while his parents or guardians have scarcely begun to suspect any aberra-

tion. Hence we find that it is quite common for parents in the city who can afford it, to send their children, especially their sons who are the more exposed, into the country for at least a part of their education; and in doing so, they act from a conviction not merely that a change of residence and of association will be useful to them, but that they will be thrown into a more healthful moral atmosphere, and will be more likely to contract virtuous and exemplary habits. You have a right to expect that many not only from the surrounding country, but ere long from larger towns also, will come to avail themselves of the advantages of your institution, and thus that while you are here sustaining yourselves in dignity and quietude, you will be sending up a purifying influence into the heart of more than one crowded city.

May I not mention also, as another circumstance of favourable bearing in respect to your institution, that it is planted in the immediate neighbourhood of a manufacturing population, and that its influence will be likely to be felt in elevating the intellectual and moral condition of that important portion of the community. It would be no wonder if some of them should not be contented to spend the whole year within the factory walls, presiding over the mechanism which gives us the clothing that we wear, but

should by and by redeem a few months at least for the improvement of the mind;—if those whom you saw yesterday in the workshop, should be in the academy to-morrow, engaged in an honourable course of intellectual culture. Or, even if no such case should occur, — if every man and every woman should keep steadily at their work, without being moved to any special effort for the exaltation of the nobler nature, still it is impossible but that they should share in the general good influence which we may expect will embosom this whole community; and each successive generation that shall be employed there will, it may be hoped, be the more intelligent and the more moral, from being thrown within the atmosphere of this institution which you dedicate to the cause of learning and virtue to-day.

I must not omit to say, that there is that in *the character of the times* on which we are fallen, that gives great additional interest to your enterprize. Witness, for instance, the wonderfully accelerated progress of events in the history of man; how Divine Providence seems to be travelling in the greatness of his strength for re-constructing the fabric of society and producing a new order of things among the nations. Time has been when the world, in respect to every thing that pertained to individual or social interests, to civilization or

enjoyment, seemed to stand still: each age that passed just reproduced itself in the age that succeeded; and the man who had been dead for centuries, if he had come back to the world, would have found little, with the exception of a change in the earth's inhabitants, to indicate that he had been absent for more than a night. The human faculties seemed to have come to a dead pause; and each generation bequeathed what it had inherited, and nothing more. But how changed the state of things now! The mind of the world is up and doing. It has cast away the bands of an ignoble sloth, and put on the armour of light and action. It is going forward with a constantly accelerated motion. It is working out results that are astonishing even to itself. And when the Christian, with the Bible open before him, predicts that universal reign of knowledge and wisdom and virtue that is to mark the millennial age, the philosopher, reasoning from the common law of progress, can find nothing to say against it. I am not familiar with your manufacturing operations; but I doubt not that if I were to walk through any of these spacious establishments that are in sight, with the humblest of your operatives for my guide, he could point me at every step to labour-saving processes, which the ingenuity of man in latter years has discovered, and which

have marked an epoch in the history of the art. Less than half a century ago, the wizard power of steam had scarcely begun to be known; and for ships to sail without wind, or for a huge vehicle to roll through the country without any other agency than should be indicated by a volume of smoke, would have been a problem, at which the most absorbing credulity would have stood aghast. Not many years have elapsed since your own hills were regarded by the traveller as any thing else than a bright spot in his journey; but what care we for your hills now, when the rail-road has converted them into a plain? But the latest and most marvellous triumph of the age, is the putting in requisition of the winged lightning in aid of the whole business of life; the using of one of God's most terrible agents as a common messenger. Upon this last discovery especially, the world paused for a while in deep wonder; but already it has become incorporated with the established order of things, and we send our communications to each other through the heavens as freely as we send them by the mail. And while Science is thus busy and thus successful, Christianity is walking arm and arm with her through the earth. She is doing *her* work of renovation with greatly increased power. She is spreading herself as a broad mantle of light over

the nations; so that when the infidel attempts to laugh at the promises she has made, the way to seal his lips is to point to the triumphs which she has achieved. And we are to bear in mind that the thing that is, shall be; that the energies of the mind shall be awakened more and more; that the depths of nature shall continue to be searched by the exploring lamp of science; and that yet more profound secrets of which the human mind has not even dreamed, shall be evolved; and above all, that Christianity, — child of the skies, shall operate with increased energy till she has circled the world with her influence.

Now, I ask, is it not a great thing that your institution should have come into existence at a period that gives forth such a profusion of favouring influences? No doubt it may be regarded in one sense as the *offspring* of these influences; for such an institution as this, — so liberal in its provisions and so elevated in its aims, would scarcely be started or conceived in a dark age. But how mightily will its operations and its results be modified by the aspects of the times! It becomes a part of the intellectual and moral machinery of the day; and the good influence which it is destined to exert will be absorbed into the great system of influence by which Providence is working with such mighty power for the world's regene-

ration. Ye are fellow-workers with those great spirits with whom Nature herself holds the closest fellowship, revealing to them her hitherto undiscovered powers. Ye are fellow-workers with those men of moral might, — those heroes for the honour of the cross, who are giving their life to the extension of the cause of truth and virtue. Ye are in communion with the enlightened, the active, the philanthropic spirit of the age; and however unimportant your achievements may be in your own estimation, yet as component parts of this vast system, and as quickened in their influence and directed to their results by this all-pervading energy, they rise to a significance and dignity which it is not easy adequately to estimate.

And, if I mistake not, there are other signs of progress among the nations, less grateful indeed, but not less unquestionable, than those to which I have adverted. The last year has been a hard year for thrones and crowns. In several countries there have occurred bloody struggles tending to revolution and reform. The people have become so far enlightened in respect to their rights, and so deeply incensed under the yoke that has been galling them for ages, that they have gathered courage to substitute rebellion for silence or supplication, and to talk to kings in a way that has

made them feel that they are not the monopolists of human majesty. Even in those countries where the visible tendencies to revolt have been the least, it is believed that the elements have still been working together for a tempest; and where silence has seemed to reign, some have apprehended that they have heard the deep rumbling of a volcano preparatory to the belching forth of a torrent of fire. Even the Pope, himself a Reformer, and the most liberal representative of the whole succession, is now in exile; and it is easier to believe that his glory is departed, than to predict what will hereafter be the measure of his degradation. We, of course, would not sympathise with the spirit of evil in any form; not more in the form of unreasonable revolt than of unreasonable misrule; and we would ask the Ruler of the nations, in reverent submission to his righteous will, to save the earth from another deluge of blood. Nevertheless, we cannot fail to see in the present condition of the nations, the workings of a spirit of reform: it is as clear as the light that universal freedom is now struggling into existence, and that no tyrant will much longer be able to cling to his scepter. Marvel not if we should yet have other kings among us than we have had already;—not to rule over us, but to be ruled by us and with us; and I would al-

most dare to predict that before some present shall have tasted death, the last chapter in the history of tyranny may be written.

In view of this singular, this unprecedented state of things, how important becomes every accession to the intellectual and moral influence of the age; how important the kindling up of every new light for enlightening the world; may I not say, what fresh interest accrues to the occasion which you are assembled to celebrate. Because you cannot trace the influence which you are destined to exert upon other nations, do not therefore doubt its reality: the drop from the heavens is in no wise annihilated because it loses itself in the ocean, and you cannot distinguish it in the mass of waters; the fragrance of the flower is not lost because it is absorbed by the surrounding atmosphere and you cannot mark its invisible progress; neither will that culture of the faculties which we may here look for be lost upon the world, because it may seem to be merged in the common improvement. Be it so that the influence of your effort is to be realized first upon your own immediate population; but then it will gradually diffuse itself over your county and your state, and thus will work itself into the great body politic, rendering its pulsations more healthful and vigorous; and as the United States are

the great example which the nations now have in their eye, while they are casting off the old and rotten garments of hereditary oppression, be assured that whatever you do for your neighbourhood, you do for the *nations;* for your influence commingles efficiently with that mighty ocean of influence which is to cleanse and to renew the face of the whole earth.

I have dwelt so long upon the circumstances from which your enterprize gathers its peculiar interest, that I have but little time left for any suggestions in aid of carrying it out to its legitimate results. I must not forget to remind you, however, that what you have done, though itself a noble and honourable effort, must be but the beginning of a series of efforts, if you would accomplish what you desire. It is the ordinance of Heaven that no human work should ultimately succeed, but through the influence of persevering care and labour. And herein God exhibits himself as a prototype to his creatures; for when his wisdom had planned and his power had built this great and goodly world, instead of retiring from it in indifference or inactivity, resigning it to the blind operation of the laws he had established, he took it under his own especial guardianship, and has ever made it the object of his unceasing direction and supervision. And if the Almighty

and All-wise has bound himself to this mode of procedure, — if He who works all things after the counsel of his own will, is pleased to effect his purposes, not by the putting forth of one mighty effort, but by a course of gradual and silent operation, then surely it were vain for man to expect any enterprize of his to live and flourish in perpetuity, unless it concentrate upon it an ever-watchful and active regard. I say, then, you who have founded this seminary of learning are only at the threshold of your work. In building this commodious edifice, and throwing it open for the public accommodation, and providing yourselves with tried and competent teachers, you have indeed made a good beginning; but if you should withdraw your hand now, on the ground that what has been so well begun, may be safely left to work its own way onward to a vigorous maturity, rely on it you would not have to wait long ere the bright promise of this hour would go into dire and total eclipse. You must guard the interests of this academy, somewhat as you would the interests of your own house. If mistakes should occur in its administration, you must see that they are corrected. If additional means should be needed to sustain its operations, you must see that they are provided. If the pulse of the surrounding community in respect to its wel-

fare should begin to flag, you must do what you can to quicken it. You must become auxiliaries to the teachers, as there may be occasion, in carrying out their purposes of good; and the pupils, whether they are from abroad or from the midst of you, must be permitted to feel that you have an eye to their personal interests, while you consult the general welfare of the institution. In a word, every individual among you ought to take an interest in this enterprize, and to be able to reflect, as brighter and yet brighter days dawn upon it,—"I have lent to it some humble influence; because I have contributed to it of my substance, or counsels or prayers, I have some small deposit here that shall yield something of good to those who shall live after I am in the dust."

In regard to the system of *instruction* that is to be adopted here, it would ill become me, even if the time would permit, to offer any suggestions in detail; and yet I may be allowed to urge upon your consideration a single thought which must identify itself with the economy of every institution in which the true end of education is answered;—I mean the importance of an harmonious intellectual and moral development,—of giving the mind free use of those great and immortal powers with which the Creator has en-

dowed it. Let it be remembered that the acquisition of knowledge is really but a subordinate end of education: the more important end is the actual training of the mind, so that it shall at once know how and be disposed to employ its own energies to the best advantage. Not but that the knowledge you gather here is of immense importance; but the system of study and instruction should be such that in gaining the greatest amount of knowledge, you should also attain the highest capacity for vigorous and useful thought. Above all, the utmost care should be taken that the intellectual and the moral are not divorced from each other; that in striving to give to a youth an angel's intellect, you do not leave him with the heart of a fiend. There are institutions in our country from which Christianity is deliberately and formally excluded. Not so, I am persuaded, with yours; for you surely would not have invited her ministers to stand where she herself might not have leave to approach. I trust she will be recognized as the presiding genius of the place. She may not, indeed, come with the shibboleth of any one sect upon her lips; but coming in the holy attire of grace and charity, I am sure you will welcome and adore her.

If I were to speak of the *government* of this institution, I should say, let it unite mildness and

courtesy with dignity and efficiency. Let it be so simple in its principle that the merest child can understand it, and yet so comprehensive as to include every legitimate requirement and enforcement. Let there be no cumbrous, useless rules to be violated with impunity, and to impair the sense of obligation in respect to those which are essential to be obeyed. Above all, let the pupils be made to feel that the government of the school is, in a most important sense, in *their* hands; in other words, let every worthy principle of their nature be appealed to in aid of their self-government, — of their scrupulously avoiding every form of transgression, of their diligently discharging every duty, from those high considerations which ought to control them as rational and immortal beings. That school will always be the best regulated, in the government of which the pupils, not the teachers, have the larger share. And then, by this very process of self-government, they will be acquiring a character which will form the best prognostic of a life of honourable usefulness. Happy is that teacher who can feel that his school is under such control! Happy are those pupils who can feel that they always do as they please, because they are always pleased to do right!

My friends, I congratulate you from the heart

upon the truly praiseworthy object to which you have so vigorously and so successfully addressed yourselves. I congratulate you upon the completion of this monument of your public spirit,—upon the exhibition of this honourable testimony of your regard to the interests of future generations. Let God be praised that his providence has watched over your enterprize, and brought it to so propitious a result. Let those philanthropic individuals be specially honoured, to whose counsels and charities and active efforts the institution chiefly owes its existence. Let this whole community have their due share of praise in consideration of any countenance they may have given, of any service they may have rendered, to an object of such common interest and such extensive utility. And now, let the house that you have built, the institution which you have established, be sacred to the cause of learning and virtue. May it mark an epoch in your history as a community. May its influence reach to every circle of society and every department of life. May it move forward with majestic and rapid progress, like the almost resistless locomotive that daily works its way through your village. And when, of the thousand strangers that every week brings to take a transient glance of this beautiful landscape, some shall mark fresh

evidences of increasing prosperity and shall inquire the cause, let them be pointed to this goodly edifice and told that work is done here that casts the products of your factories all into the shade; that a fountain of intelligence and wisdom is open here, whose streams circulate as living waters throughout this entire population. And when other generations shall have succeeded to your places, may this institution still remain to speak to them of the public spirit and philanthropy of their fathers, and to encourage them to run with still greater zeal the race of knowledge and virtue!