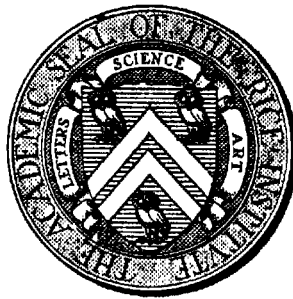


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THE GODWIN LECTURESHIP

AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION OF THE RICE INSTITUTE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE FROM THE ROSTRUM OF THE FACULTY CHAMBER THAT THE TRUSTEES HAD GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED THE GENEROUS PROVISION ON THE PART OF HERBERT GODWIN, ESQUIRE--A HOUSTON CITIZEN, IN JOHN DONNE'S FINE PHRASE, OF A LARGE AND A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING, AND WITH IT, A PUBLIC HEART--FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF A LECTURESHIP TO BE DEVOTED INITIALLY TO SPECIAL TOPICS OF NATIONAL CONCERN DURING THE PERIOD OF RECONSTRUCTION, IMMEDIATELY IN PROSPECT, AND THEREAFTER TO SUBJECTS OF TIMELY INTEREST RELATED IN THOUGHT OR ACTION TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF MAN AND HIS KIND IN ALL THE HIGH ENTERPRISES OF TRUTH AND FREEDOM AND JUSTICE. AND IN THE FOLLOWING AUTUMN AT THE EIGHTH MATRICULATION ASSEMBLY IT WAS ANNOUNCED FROM THE DESK OF THE PHYSICS AMPHITHEATRE THAT THE HONORABLE WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT TWENTY-SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAD CONSENTED TO INAUGURATE THE NEWLY FOUNDED LECTURESHIP BY DISCOURSES, ON THE CONSERVATION OF REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS AND WORLD-WIDE COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONS, TO BE DELIVERED IN THE CITY AUDITORIUM OF HOUSTON DURING THE SPRING TERM OF THE EIGHTH ACADEMIC SESSION OF THE RICE INSTITUTE, THUS LENDING FURTHER DISTINCTION TO A YEAR MARKED IN THE UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY BY THE HOME-COMING OF SOLDIERS AND SCIENTISTS, SAIDORS AND SCHOLARS, TO REUNION IN STUDY, RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND LEARNING, FOR THE DISCIPLINE OF SOUL THAT EXALTED A NATION IN CHRONICLING ON THIS PILE OF PARCHMENT EVENTS OF SUCH HAPPY IMPORT TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY. THE TRUSTEES, FACULTY, GRADUATES, SCHOLARS, AND STUDENTS WOULD BY WRITTEN WORD, UNDER THE SHIELD AND RUBRIC OF RICE ADVENTURE ALSO TO BEAR TESTIMONY TO THEIR LIVELY APPRECIATION OF ANOTHER BOND BETWEEN THE BUILDERS OF THE CITY AND THE BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITY. THESE LIVING EXPERIENCES OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ASPIRATIONS, REALIZING THAT A HIGH APPROXIMATION TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF THESE ASPIRATIONS CAN BEST BE ACHIEVED UNDER THE STIMULATING AND SUSTAINING INFLUENCES OF AN ATMOSPHERE OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT, RECOGNIZE IN MR. GODWIN'S GOOD GIFT ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF BENEVOLENT RESPONSE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL NOT FAIL OF EMULATION. NOW WHILE RESPECTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING HIM TO RECEIVE THEIR WARM THANKS CAN THEY REFRAIN FROM CONGRATULATING HIM ON THE CATHOLIC AND COSMOPOLITAN CHARACTER OF THE LECTURESHIP HE HAS FOUNDED, COMPREHENSIVE AS IS THE GARTH OF A UNIVERSITY WITHOUT RESERVATION OR ULTIMATE RESTRICTION, RANGING OVER THE WIDE FIELD OF HUMAN INTERESTS, PRACTICAL OR SPECULATIVE, IN MORALITY, POLITICS, SCIENCE, INDUSTRY, ART, PHILOSOPHY, OR RELIGION--REACHING OUT FOR NEW SOLUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSE OF THOUGHT AND THINGS, WHILE REFLECTING ON THE PRESENT GROWING CYCLE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS--INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, COMMUNITY, STATE, NATION, LEAGUE, WORLD--LIGHT FROM THE HISTORY OF HUMAN KIND, IN THE GRACE OF OTHER DISPENSATIONS, THE GLORY OF OTHER TIMES, THE GUIDANCE OF OTHER SYSTEMS, THE GAINS OF OTHER CIVILIZATIONS, THE GENIUS OF OTHER RACES, RANGING, REFLECTING, SEEKING, FINDING, UNDER A GREAT AND GUIDING SPIRIT OF INQUIRY AND INSPIRATION, THAT MAY OFTEN FAIL SHORT OF FINAL ANSWERS TO ITS FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS, BUT OWES ITS VERY LIFE TO ASKING THOSE QUESTIONS, AND RESTS FAITHFULLY AND THEN SECURELY, ON FAITH IN THE CAPACITY OF THE HUMAN INTELLIGENCE TO FIND IN HUMAN EXPERIENCE FIRM AND ENDURING FOUNDATIONS OF HOPE ALIVE FOR KNOWLEDGE, FOR CONFLICT, FOR GOVERNMENT, FOR WISDOM.

HOUSTON, TEXAS
DECEMBER, A.D. MCXXIX

Facsimile of testimonial presented by the Trustees of the Rice Institute to Mr. Herbert Godwin, of Houston, in recognition of the Foundation of the Godwin Lectureship at the Rice Institute