

LUNCHEON AT THE INSTITUTE COMMONS —CONGRATULATORY GREETINGS

PRESIDENT LOVETT: *Ladies and Gentlemen*—The trustees of the Rice Institute honored themselves and the new university by addressing to the universities and learned societies of the world invitations to participate in this our first academic festival. Many of these institutions are represented here to-day in the person of their president, professors, or distinguished alumni. Hundreds of others have sent us cordial addresses of congratulation, and in addition to these formal messages many telegrams and cablegrams have been received this morning. In number and significance these responses have far exceeded our best expectations of courtesy and good will. To receive all these communications with proper ceremonies it would be literally necessary for this academic assembly to sit for at least another three days. In the midst of such an embarrassment of riches we have been obliged to restrict this part of our program to a few responses from representatives of the representatives. Accordingly, we have asked one of our distinguished guests from abroad to speak for the foreign and American learned societies that have sent us greetings on this occasion, and another eminent guest from Europe to speak for the foreign universities, and for the universities of America we shall call upon a delegate from one of the oldest endowed institutions of the East, the representative of one of the earliest State universities in the South, the president of one of the newer endowed universities of the North, and the president of one of the younger State universities of the West.

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On the part of foreign and American learned societies, Professor Sir William Ramsay, of the University of London.

For the foreign universities, Professor Emile Borel, of the University of Paris.

On behalf of the American institutions of the East, Dean William Francis Magie, of Princeton University.

For the universities of the South, Professor William Holding Echols, of the University of Virginia.

On behalf of the universities of the North, President Harry Pratt Judson, of the University of Chicago.

For the American universities of the West, President Sidney Edward Mezes, of the University of Texas.

I have great pleasure in calling on these gentlemen, who have very kindly consented to address you, according to the program.

PROFESSOR SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY: *Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen*—We have witnessed within the last couple of days a birth, and there is one class of persons in this world which represents and is attendant upon births all over the world. This person is what is called in French the “sage-femme.” She is represented here by the wise men who have joined in conveying congratulations to this University on the occasion of its birth.

Personally I am the conveyor of congratulations from the University of London, from University College, London, and from the American Philosophical Society, and in the name of these three institutions I am here to wish a very long life and great prosperity to this newly born child.

I have in my hand a number of cablegrams from learned societies in every part of the world. From Kief, Moscow, and St. Petersburg in Russia, from Berlin and Göttingen in

Germany, from Bucharest in Rumania, from Copenhagen in Denmark, from Christiania in Norway, from Stockholm in Sweden, from Lemberg in Poland, from Rome in Italy, and from many other points of the compass congratulatory telegraphic messages have been sent. Besides these telegraphic good wishes which have been received this morning, there have been received from practically every literary and scientific center of the world formal addresses of felicitation and good will.

And so I am here to say that the fame of this institution has been spread broadcast to the uttermost parts of the world, and I am here to convey in their names—the names of the institutions and colleges which I have mentioned—to this newly born institution, their most hearty congratulations and their wishes for a long and successful life.

PROFESSOR EMILE BOREL: *Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen*—I have been commissioned to bring to the inauguration of your great and beautiful Institute the best wishes of the University of Paris and those of the Ecole Polytechnique. Besides the official messages of my mission, I desire to express to you also my warm personal appreciation of your cordial hospitality, which we can never forget, and also my great admiration for the university which you are founding. On my return to France I shall often recall the beautiful architecture of your Administration Building and the harmonious aspect of this large hall, with its decorations of flags. I am deeply touched to find, at so great a distance from our ancient Europe, a desire for work and for service animating your students altogether similar to the desire which animates ours in our faculties, in our schools. I am conscious here of the fraternity which unites men, in spite of the seas, in the same objects of research, of development, of progress.

Your organization, so eminently practical, your plans of work, so thoroughly studied, give promise of brilliant results. You have chosen some eminent professors. It is with complete confidence in the future that in the name of the University of Paris, in the name of the Ecole Polytechnique, and in my own name, I drink to your future success.

DEAN WILLIAM F. MAGIE: *Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen*—It is with feelings of pride and pleasure that I appear before you to-day as the representative of the Eastern Universities of the United States. In their name I bring to President Lovett and to the trustees of the Rice Institute the cordial congratulations of these institutions. They all join in welcoming to the number of the educational influences by which science and art are to be advanced in our country, an institution which takes its place among them with such flattering prospects of a great future.

Particularly, however, I appear to speak for Princeton University, in which President Lovett was for many years one of our most honored and best beloved colleagues. I shall not read the formal address with which I was furnished by the authorities of Princeton University, but I shall give expression in a more informal way to that which I believe no other institution can bring in so full a measure, the cordial and personal good wishes and congratulations of your president's intimate friends. We all remember him with affection. We all felt the deepest regrets when he left us, and we now can only express to him our sincere good wishes for the greatest possible success in his new and distinguished position.

Our president, who signed the formal letter of congratulation, of course also sent his warmest personal congratulations. I shall not attempt to enumerate at this time those of

President Lovett's Princeton friends who wished to be personally and by name joined with our president in these congratulations, but I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that I bring to President Lovett and to the Rice Institute the congratulations of a woman who is known and honored throughout the land—Mrs. Grover Cleveland.

I would like to say just a word or two besides these words of congratulation, and explain why I wish to congratulate so particularly your president and your institution.

I will first say a word on the subject which has just been referred to in the eloquent address of the representative of the University of Paris, when he spoke about the beautiful architecture of the buildings which are going up on this great campus. I feel that on this occasion it would not be right if we did not give full and hearty recognition—and I am glad to say that this has already been done in better words than I could possibly use—to the wonderful artistic success which has been attained already, and which you can, I think, expect to be attained in the future development of the institution under the guidance of your supervising architect, Mr. Cram. I had the peculiar pleasure of going about with him while he inspected the buildings. He saw them in their completed form for the first time, and I never appreciated so well as I now do, after seeing his delight in his own achievements, what is meant by the words, "And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good." I congratulate you most heartily on having Mr. Cram as the supervising architect of this Institute.

Then again, in line with what was presented in the speech of the Bishop of Tennessee and in the address of your president, I congratulate you upon the declared devotion of this Institute to science, literature, and art, in their pure form, as preliminary to the development of the technical sciences

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and arts which contribute so much to the comfort and pleasure of the world. I do not feel that, after what was said this morning, I need repeat the reasons why pure science is particularly important in an institution which is to be devoted partly to the solution of technical problems. All the great inventions grew out of scientific discoveries. I could give you example after example, and every other scientific man here could do the same, but I cannot stop for it. The pure sciences furnish the ideas which are developed in practice. They give the student the necessary theoretical foundation for his practice and make it possible for him to be more than a mere drudge in the technical applications of the sciences. Chesterton says, somewhere, that if a machine stops because a nut comes off, or a tire is punctured, an ordinary mechanic can put it in order; but if some real trouble happens and the machine really breaks down, it is far more likely that it will be put in order again, not by a mechanic, but by some white-haired professor who seems to have very little practical knowledge, but who has been trained by his theoretical studies to get to the bottom of the trouble and so to remedy it. Besides all this, the study of pure science stimulates research, and it is to scientific research that we owe the most striking development of the modern mind, and it is to research carried on by men trained in such institutions as this that we are to look for the advancement of knowledge in the future. I congratulate this institution that, in spite of the temptation to found and develop a purely technical school, the other course has been taken and an institution has been established in which the technical arts and sciences will spring, as they ought to do, from a thorough foundation in theory; and I again extend to the president our congratulations on the purposes and noble aims of this Institute, and our best wishes that these will develop into full fruition.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM HOLDING ECHOLS: *The Trustees of Rice Institute, Mr. President, my Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen present*—It is somewhat fitting that he who brings Virginia's greetings to you should be a Southerner and, as it happens, in a sense a Texan, since he was born in San Antonio.

I bear a message from the oldest Southern State to the youngest and most powerful of these States.

In old Virginia on the east, in younger Texas on the west, and in all that land which lies between them without a break, live the most homogeneous people of one blood in all these United States.

It is somewhat difficult at times for others to understand why we Southern people love so intensely the soil into which our blood has gone and out of which our blood has come, the deep affection and the swift understanding which we have in one another, the mutual dependence and trust with which we lean upon each other.

For forty years the energy of the South has been absorbed in striving to satisfy the craving of the primitive belly-need of a wrecked people.

During that period there was scant time among her sons for what is called education, there were small means for them for what is called culture.

Let there be no mistake when one says the South is uneducated, lest by that one means the South is ignorant. This Southern generation knows that it has been hewing wood, drawing water; that it has made its bricks without the straw, but steadfastly, quietly reconstructing, rehabilitating *ab initio*.

The South knows, and she has known it all along, that her people are coming into their own inheritance again. A suspicion of this is even now felt beyond her borders.

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The South has now passed through those dark days of feeding mouths and clothing bodies after devastation. She has not time, even as yet, for the gentler things of literature, music, and art. But she has come to the day when no longer shall she bear the transit, run the level, and drag the chain of an alien industry in the exploitation of her own resources.

It is of intensely human interest to reflect that, in one generation after the bitterest and most fratricidal war the world has known, much of the means for the highest rehabilitation of her people has come from the personal kindness and friendly generosity of a one-time foe.

Your splendid endowment has come from one initially across the line. Also to Virginia has come from a similar source, for a similar purpose, more than a million of dollars; and so it was with Vanderbilt University, the Peabody funds, and many others. He who writes the history of this people cannot ignore these deep-rooting influences.

Here to Texas, the youngest of these States, has come this golden opportunity, this great responsibility and sacred trust. It is within your power to respond to the great and crying need of a people near and dear to you. Yours is the exalted privilege and sacred duty to breed for that people leaders of men, leaders of industry, and leaders of thought; men trained to depend upon the solidity of scientific truth, with minds so philosophically trained that they may organize the present and with far-reaching insight design the future; men so prepared that they may enter the lists to claim and hold for the South her people's share in their birthright of her natural resources.

The South is potentially the richest part of the United States, and we are the legitimate heirs of her treasures.

It is only through the minds of men splendidly trained in technology and the laboratory, transmitting energy for the

transmutation of the raw products of mine and soil through furnace and mill into the finished detail, that we can hope to hold that which has been bequeathed to us.

Yours is the function to generate these men. Smaller institutions can supply the rank and file, but yours is the opportunity, the ability, and the solemn duty to carry forward this high mission of making high men, keeping ever in mind that *it is the knowledge of the truth that makes men free.*

There can be no need to fear for the coming of literature, music, and art to a sensitive and imaginative people. These things will come as naturally in their proper order as does the rising sun, after the sterner diet of which I speak. Food and clothing, then possession and power—after them, as always, the Muses come.

To you gentlemen of the Board of Trustees of the Rice Institute the University of Virginia bids me present her heartfelt congratulations upon the good fortune of your opportunity, upon the far-sighted largeness of your design, and upon that splendid courage with which you announce to those that are to come to you that there shall be no upper limit to intellectual attainment save that which God has placed upon their personalities. We assembled here could not wish more for the welfare of your progress and the success of your design than to hope that some of the genius of that great master of science, he who was to have been with us in body to-day, and whose spirit, we know, must ever be present where men gather in search of truth, may descend upon this place and energize it into creative thought.

Virginia congratulates you upon your choice of the man to carry forward your design and lead your hope to its fulfillment. She is proud that he is one of her own dear sons.

And now to you, Mr. President, from your Alma Mater, I pass the burning cross, and with it Virginia's congratula-

tions upon your high purpose. She looks with motherly sympathy upon your endeavor, and will follow with anxious, loving eyes the development of your plans. She bids you courage, honest work for the day, honest hope for the morrow, and prayerfully God-speed.

PRESIDENT HARRY PRATT JUDSON: *Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen*—It is my privilege to bring from the University of Chicago warm congratulations to you on this very auspicious occasion. I bring them from the faculty and the trustees, who know what it is to create a new institution, and who have confidence in what you are about to do here.

I come from a city which, I think, has special reasons to have a great interest in all the Southland. You will pardon me, Mr. President, when I recall one thing you said last night at the opening of the exercises, if I can remember back so long as that, because the opening and the closing of those exercises were very far apart, but I think you said you had forgotten every story you ever heard. I seem also to have forgotten every story I ever heard, except some of the stories about Chicago, and the particular one related last night I am not going to repeat. On consulting my note-book I find that my record for that particular story is 1746. Another one has a record of something like 762. The record of a third one up to the present time is 2107; that is to say, I have heard it repeated that number of times since I began to count, and for this reason, Mr. President, I will not tell any now. I mention this record, however, merely by way of indicating that I think many people are interested in Chicago. The invitation that we have received to your festival indicates at least that we are not forgotten in the South, and in turn I beg to assure you that we do not forget our friends. It has been said that a visitor in Boston is asked,

What do you know? In New York he is asked, How much have you? In Philadelphia, Who was your grandfather? But if I may judge, Mr. President, by the very lavish and extensive hospitality that we have enjoyed in these few days here, it appears that a newcomer in Houston is asked, What can we do for you? And it is because of this spirit that I desire especially to congratulate the City of Houston on this great enterprise. The coming of this institution, so splendidly and wisely erected, we believe will be a great benefit not only to your city but to your entire community.

This occasion takes me back twenty years, to the time when we were founding in Chicago an institution very well provided for at that day. And at that time the heads of our city and State institutions were saying that perhaps the new university would prove to be a dangerous rival. It was not many years, however, before they found that nothing better than the new university could have happened for the spreading of the university idea and its benefits to education. Since that time the other city and State institutions have gone forward by leaps and bounds, in students, in prestige, and in usefulness. Precisely the same way the Rice Institute will prove to be the very best of assets to the colleges and universities and all enterprises of public education in your section.

We congratulate you again, Mr. President, on the splendid and large views with which your institution starts. In the old days the teacher taught what he had been taught, and was satisfied to stop there. In these days a teacher is not alive unless he is on the firing-line of science, unless he has knowledge of the most recent achievements and is pressing those still further in all directions. And we rejoice that you are aiming to devote a large part of your resources to

research in scientific knowledge. The learned chief justice this morning told of some of the things which science has done in our day. There are few things more fascinating. The world has a very great deal to thank science for. For example, take medicine alone. Just think of the communities which a very few years ago were terror-stricken and harassed by epidemics of various malignant diseases. To-day such epidemics are practically unknown. Only a few years ago malaria and yellow fever were ills to be dreaded. To-day, thanks to applied science in medicine, we have found adequate remedies for each of these scourges.

Another cause for congratulation, Mr. President, will appear in what such an institution as yours is going to mean to the community in which it lives. Your great institution is going to be an evangelic light to your entire community, for it will be the means of advancing, among all people of all kinds, the scientific attitude toward life. The future of this university will depend not alone on your splendid and magnificent hospitality, not alone on these beautiful and majestic buildings, not alone on your large programs for study and research, but quite as much will the real fruitage of your institution depend on the men who work here. Its future will be made by the men who carry on in these halls the researches of the scholar; by the men who will lead and guide the university to success; by the men, the professional men, who will go out of it—the lawyers, the engineers, the architects, and the plain, solid men of business who make our country; the men who will put into the life of the Republic the knowledge and the training which they will derive from the results of your venture. On so auspicious a beginning and on so bright a prospect I congratulate you most warmly.

PRESIDENT SIDNEY EDWARD MEZES: *Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen*—From the first announcement of William Marsh Rice's magnificent bequest we have looked forward with lively anticipation to this day. We have watched with growing interest the development of the trustees' plans; we rejoiced greatly when we learned that they were resolved to risk the charge of tardiness rather than build heedlessly; we especially rejoiced when we saw chosen to the office of president one of America's ablest and best trained scholars.

In the new president we have found not merely an able and aspiring man, not merely a man of noble conceptions and prophetic visions, but a man so genial of heart, so true in his sympathies, so inspiringly hopeful, that he has carried light wherever he has gone, and conviction also that the institution whose course he guides will bring an influence that deserves and will find a congenial home in Texas.

In some States of the Union the several colleges and universities have not dwelt together in the unity commended of the Psalmist. The colleges, for the most part on private foundations, have often distrusted one another and united in distrust of the State university. This distrust has given rise to conduct at times organized into sustained campaigns, intent on the purpose of mutual harm, and only too successful in attaining that unworthy end. Few pages in the educational history of our country are so disheartening to high endeavor. But from such misguided enterprise Texas has most fortunately been unusually free. Across her broad expanses the winds of freedom and tolerance have swept, scattering the fogs of prejudice and self-seeking as from time to time they formed; and to-day, perhaps as nowhere in America, there prevails practically throughout our State a spirit of the fullest friendliness and co-operation among

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colleges and universities, endowed and State-sustained. That the new Rice Institute will strike a note of discord we have no fear. Why should we? Why should not a fresh worker be welcomed into the vineyard, when his aim is our own, with a slant of fortunate difference; when the field is white to the harvest, and the laborers are few? Seeing that barely one out of every ten high-school graduates takes any higher education whatever; that in Texas only one out of twenty of our boys and girls goes to college, whereas in California, for example, the proportion is one in eight; how can we do otherwise than rejoice at the founding of a new agency to help alter these distressing figures? Facing together some of the most vital problems before State and Nation, shall we not be glad that the new institution is now among us, blessed with the means to render great service?

And now, President Lovett and members of the Board of Trustees, we welcome the Rice Institute into the brotherhood of Texas colleges and universities; we welcome you formally and with all our hearts. You will play a splendid part in the upbuilding of Texas; you will help train our youth; you will cherish learning; you will foster research; your achievements and example will stir us to renewed endeavor. In the noble setting of spacious grounds; with buildings planned by a great artist; with a faculty chosen from all the world; with the stimulus of a rapidly growing city about you, to all human seeing the future holds for you a glorious destiny. One and all we unite to say:

Esto perpetua!

PRESIDENT LOVETT: *Ladies and Gentlemen*—For the trustees and faculty of the Rice Institute I thank most sincerely these gentlemen and all the institutions they represent for their cordial greetings and for the warm welcome with

which they receive us into their fellowship and that of the world of learning. I can find no words in which adequately to say to them what their presence means to us at this time. In return for their great kindness we can only offer them the place in our history which they have made for themselves. And most cordially do we invite them one and all to come back. For their coming we thank God, and from their messages we take courage.