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TO THE RICE STUDENTS OF 1937-38¹

CAMPUS and cloisters are calling. Corridors and halls are alight. And the doors swing wide. They cordially invite all of us to the opportunities and responsibilities of another academic year at the Rice Institute. In particular they offer in the name and memory of the founder a very warm welcome both to the students who are coming for the first time, and to those who are returning, to this the second home of their youth.

I should like to think of you in the terms in which I came to think, and continue to think, of your predecessors from 1912 on. That is to say, I wish to think of you as a goodly company composed in the main of hard-working, God-fearing, truth-seeking young women and men, mindful of obligation because aware of opportunity, and aware of opportunity because intelligent, ambitious, and resourceful. Such a characterization is no mere haphazard heaping up of words. It is derived, as I have indicated, from a happy acquaintanceship, direct and more or less intimate, with every Rice class from the beginning five and twenty years ago to this fair day. It is a characterization faithful on the whole to fact, though cases of exception jump to mind that would blank almost the whole of it. But the qualities it ascribes to you were attributes of most of the students who have passed through this institution.

¹ A note of welcome written for *The Thresher*, the student weekly publication of the Rice Institute.

Let a remark on one or two of these half-dozen qualities ride this word of welcome to its finish. From student to student the presence of them varies. The same is true of your individual endowments of whatever sort. Now no matter what your native ability, or whether your estimate of it be high, temperate, or low, you are taking desperately long chances if with that ability you do not learn to combine capacity for hard and continuous work. There are many reasons for working hard. Two of them are these: first, we value most what has to be worked for: value is appraised in terms of work: without appreciation of value, there is little pride in possession. We work for what we want, and what we want is worth; hence the idea of work for worth's sake. My second reason is like unto the first; indeed, it is a corollary of my first: it resides in the idea of work for work's sake: it is the sheer joy in the performance of hard work. Work thus comes to have a worth of its own, and exercise of mind like exercise of muscle becomes its own reward.

If hard work is hard, continuous hard work is harder. Your present environment has its distractions, but, generally speaking, it is conducive to sustained intellectual effort. And for the further reason that for a season the Rice Institute affords you an atmosphere of emotional calm in which not only opportunity is manifest, but justice in a high degree, and a sense of security. Within these academic precincts opportunity, justice, and security for the student are to be had in ampler measure than, I fear, you may expect to receive from the wider world outside. That ampler measure of provision is maintained in this institution by the fine quality of its equipment and the high character of its members. In none of the foregoing respects will trustees or instructors fail you. You may depend absolutely on their competence

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and good faith. You may rely as confidently on their sense of fair play and their desire to deal justly with you. They will offer and take advantage of every lead that might help you. They have an individual and an institutional interest in you as individuals. They want you to do well for your own sake and for the sake of the Rice Institute.

But above all this sincere business of welcoming and of well-wishing, I would that I could make you see how much of your future success and happiness rests right here and now in your own hands.