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TO THE "R" ASSOCIATION

SOMEONE asked me lately how we accounted for the success from which the enthusiasm of this occasion springs. Up to that moment I had been feeling rather than thinking about the outcome, but expressed the opinion that at least four factors were contributory to the result—you may arrange the four in any order; for convenience of comment I put them in the following order: first, sympathy and support from the outside, second, caliber of the men, third, character of the coaches, fourth, spirit and standards on the inside. More and more men have been saying to me how genuine and widespread has been the interest in the city throughout the present season. I do not hear everything, of course, but I have heard nothing but praise for the manifestly good qualities alike of the players and their teachers of the game. And on the campus we have remarked in the last two or three years that student confidence in our representatives at the weekend has removed the distraction of anxiety from six days of the seven and left the students free to attend all the more seriously to the old-fashioned academic duties of the place. In a word, worry and anxiety have given way to assurance and work.

I am happy to be in the present company. It is an altogether friendly company. I see many familiar faces and some new ones. I rejoice with you in the skill and sports-

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1 Some remarks made at the annual dinner, December 14, 1937, of the "R" Association, composed of the "letter men" of the Rice Institute.
Several Addresses

manship of the men who have brought the Conference pennant for 1937 to the Rice Institute. Your congratulations to the individual players and to the squad as a whole are also my congratulations. With you I applaud the winners of the year's individual honors, and especially the two young gentlemen, respectively, of the University of Arkansas and of Baylor University, who bear away the Houston Post Trophy. I think I was among the first to congratulate Mr. Gregory on his idea of this form of annual recognition to players in the Southwest Conference.

As usual, our obligations are again manifold. To our great regret, it is quite impossible to acknowledge all of them—to coaches and players, to press and patrons, to trustees and faculty, to business manager and the outdoor sports chairman, to students and alumni, to campus editors and reporters, to clubs and committees, to band and cheer leaders, to the Friends of Rice, Incorporated, to the fighting teams that we have met, to the officers and officials of the Conference—to all of these and all the rest, from all of us, most grateful thanks and our abiding good will. For my own part, and indeed for you, I accept the new captain's call to "go to town" with him and his comrades next autumn.

Finally, back of the whole of this inspiring business is the physical education that is making a fit nation. The best thing you can say about any of us is that we are good scouts and good citizens. Athletes are good scouts and athletes make good citizens because of the discipline and democracy of the game. Democracy as a manner of living and a mode of government on this planet is on trial today for its very life. In its rule amongst us I still have great faith, and I continue to believe that its battle for justice and freedom may be won—where?—on the playing fields, the playing fields of America.

Edgar Odell Lovett.