III

COMMENCEMENT INVOCATION¹

ALMIGHTY GOD, Maker of the stars, Master of the nations of the world, the High Incentive of all who stay their minds on Thee, Whose Holy Spirit is moving through our modern world like a mighty wind, overturning old institutions, forcing us to re-examine old traditions, old loyalties, unsettling all our solutions until they are settled right: Grant to us in these stirring days an adequate vision of Thy being and beauty, Thy holiness, Thy justice, Thy pity, Thy concern for man, that, touched by Thy pity and Thy love, we may give ourselves to Thy service.

Grant us grace to overcome the world’s injustice, to hear the cries of the oppressed, to succor the needy, and to heal the victims of man’s inhumanity to man. Forbid us contentment of soul in the neglect of the misery of so many of Thy children. Grant us the moving conviction of the unity of all mankind in Thee, that we may be goaded to organize our world accordingly. Grant us a profound sense of human solidarity that we may feel injustice anywhere as a blow at our own selves, and resent the wrongs of others just as bitterly as our own. We do not pray that Thou wilt keep us safe, but that we may be loyal to high ends at whatever cost. Give us the courage resolutely to stand for the hard right, gladly to suffer hardships for the sake of a better world, fearlessly to strike a blow for human justice and for the freedom of the human spirit.

¹Bishop Scarlett.
Let Thy blessing rest upon this great Institute of learning and character, upon those who administer and teach, and upon those who learn, and especially upon these young men and women who today leave the quiet haven of this school to embark on broader seas. May a gentle breeze straight from the secret place of the Most High quietly fill the sails of their barks and set them driving toward the harbor of highly useful lives.

We commend this Nation to Thy Providence. God bless our native land, firm may she stand through this storm and night. Use her and use us as the instruments of Thy purpose, for the advancement of truth and honor and good faith in this world, for the furtherance of human freedom and equality of opportunity and the brotherhood of men and of nations. Once again we make the Master's prayer our own: Our Father, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth. Amen.