

However, do not misunderstand me ; I am not finding fault with this demonstration, though it is somewhat irksome to me and to you probably. It must have its bright sides, its pleasant features. Let us seek them, for I may as well come out at once in my true colors—I am, what I will call, an orthodox optimist, in this sense that I invariably see in every creature (beyond the outer court open to the senses) a sanctuary, a Holy of Holies into which evil can not penetrate, and where the Christian mind loves to rest. I see even in a grain of sand, a drop of water, the most insignificant event, an abyss of positive good too deep for angels or men to fathom in time or eternity. This is what I seek in this demonstration and which I call pleasant features.

To begin with the least, is there not, as a general rule, a holiday attached to the ribbons of such beautiful, disinterested addresses? I am opposed to unnecessary exceptions to the rule? Let there be a grand holiday! For hard-working students it is a consideration, a pleasant feature indeed. Moreover, I think a holiday, complete, must have additional items on the bill of fare. Judging by what I have read in the Ottawa papers, and by the many swollen arms before me, doctors must have annoyed you lately, so you need a special diet in the form of dainties. Hence the cook has received orders to show what he can do. My inauguration speech may be poor (I am taken unawares) but I want the dinner to-morrow to be rich! Everyone, without exception or distinction, must be feasted to-morrow and feasted alike. This, however, is but one of the many pleasant features. There is another of a higher order, which is not a mere feature, either, but the countenance of this demonstration and a beaming countenance it is! I mean the grand spectacle of five-hundred young men, springing from our very best Christian homes in America, (and by America I mean Canada, the United States and Mexico, in fact, every civilized Pan-American Country)—five-hundred young men, the fond hopes of high-minded and devoted fathers, the saintly pride of loving mothers, the trusted shields of tender-hearted sisters—five hundred young men of incalculable capacities and capabilities, bent upon making the most of themselves so as to realize God's designs respecting them, the future champions of the