

in the City of Brotherly Love, to commemorate the growth of a century. The triumph of liberal and industrial arts, the progress of architecture, sculpture, and painting, were interpreted by the music of our Sidney Lanier. The year was certainly propitious. So was the place. Maryland was a central state, and Baltimore a midway station between the North and the South. The people had been divided by the war, but there were no battle fields in our neighborhood to keep in mind the strife of brethren. The State of Maryland had been devoted to the idea of higher education ever since an enthusiast in the earliest colonial days projected the establishment of a university on an island in the Susquehanna. Liberal charters had been granted to colleges, of which St. John's, the successor of the first free school, must have honorable mention, a college likely to be increasingly useful during the twentieth century. The University of Maryland, with scanty resources, encouraged professional training in law, medicine, and the liberal arts, (nominally also, in theology,) but its efforts were restricted by the lack of funds. Nathan R. Smith, David Hoffman and other men of eminence were in the faculty. The Catholic Church had established within the borders of the state a large number of important schools of learning. One of them, St. Mary's College, under the cultivated fathers of St. Sulpice, had been the training place of some of the original promoters of the Johns Hopkins University. Yet there was nothing within the region between Philadelphia and Charlottesville, between the Chesapeake and the Ohio, which embodied, in 1876, the idea of a true university. Thus it appears that the time, the place and the circumstances, were favorable to an endowment which seemed to be extraordinarily large, for the munificence of Rockefeller, Stanford and Carnegie could not be foreseen.

The founder made no effort to unfold a plan. He simply used one word,—UNIVERSITY,—and he left it to his successors to declare its meaning in the light of the past, in the hope of the future. There is no indication that he was interested in one branch of knowledge more than in another. He had no educational 'fad.' There is no evidence that he had read the writings of Cardinal Newman or of Mark Pattison, and none that the great parliamentary reports had come under his eye. He was a large-minded man, who knew that the success of the foundation would depend upon the wisdom of those to whom its development was entrusted; and the Trustees were large minded men who knew that their efforts must be guided by the learning, the experience, and the devotion of the Faculty. There was a natural desire, in this locality, that the principal positions should be filled by men with whom the community was acquainted, but the Trustees were not governed by an aspiration so provincial. They sought the best men that could be found, without regard to the places where they were born, or the colleges where they had been educated. So, on Washington's birthday, in 1876, after words of benediction from the President of Harvard University, our early counsellor and our constant friend, the plans of this University were publicly announced in the President's inaugural speech.

As I cast my thoughts backward, memories of the good and great who have been members of our society rise vividly before us,—benefactors who have aided us by generous gifts, in emergencies and in prosperity; faithful guardians of the trust; illustrious teachers; and brilliant scholars who have proceeded to posts of usefulness and honor, now and then in Japan, in India, in Canada, but most of them in our own land, from Harvard to the Golden Gate.

I must not linger, but lead you on to broader themes. May I venture to assume that we are an assembly of idealists. As such I speak; as such you listen. We are also practical men. As such, we apply ourselves to useful purposes, and to our actions we apply the test of common sense. Are our aims high enough? are they too high? are our methods justified by experience? are they approved by the judgment of our peers? can we see any results from the labors of five and twenty years? can we justify a vigorous appeal for enlargement? These and kindred questions press themselves for consideration on this memorial day. But in trying to answer them, let us never lose sight of the ideal,—let us care infinitely more for the future than we do for the past. Let us compare our work with what is done elsewhere and with what might be done in Baltimore. In place of pride and satisfaction, or of regret that our plans have been impeded, let us rejoice that the prospects are so encouraging, that the opportunities of yesterday will be surpassed tomorrow.

If it be true that "the uses of Adversity" are sweet,—Adversity that "wears yet a precious jewel in his head,"—let us look forward to leaving our restricted site for a permanent home where our academic life will be "exempt from public haunt," where we shall "find tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in every thing." In faith and hope and gratitude, I have a vision of Homewood, where one person and another will build the structures of which we stand in so much need,—where scholarship will have its quiet retreat, where experimental science will be removed from the jar of the city street, where health and vigor will be promoted by athletic sports in the groves of Academus. The promised land which Moses sees from Pisgah, our Joshua will possess.

At the close of our civil war came the opportunity of Baltimore. It led to an extraordinary and undesigned fulfillment of an aspiration of George Washington. As his exact language is not often quoted, I venture to give it here. In his last will and testament, after expressing his ardent desire that local attachments and State prejudices should disappear, he uses the following words.

"Looking anxiously forward to the accomplishment of so desirable an object as this is (in my estimation), my mind has not been able to contemplate any plan more likely to effect the measure, than the establishment of a University in a central part of the United States, to which the youths of fortune and talents from all parts thereof may be sent for the completion of their education, in all the branches of polite literature, in arts and sciences, in acquiring knowledge in the principles of politics and good government, and, as a matter of infinite importance in my judgment, by associating with each other, and forming friendships in juvenile years,