

Chase, Andrew P. Jones, Charles F. Hartt, Edward Hickson, William Wickwire, Robert Jones, Alfred DeMill, John Y. Payzant, Theodore H. Rand. If I were asked which of all the glories of that 6th of June—and they were manifold!—lingered the most gloriously in the minds of these ardent youths, I should be disposed to answer: The ringing words of the venerable and beloved President, Dr. Cramp,—*Quit you like men!* Certain it is these words were written at that hour in lines of fire on the hearts of some of them, and on none more enduringly than on that of him who had just spoken noble words of valediction. "The Future in the Past" was Mr. Wells' theme, and I may now, at this far off day, turn this torch of truth on his own unrecorded college past for a little, as I note his course of life since. But let me first note his way into college.

In Harvey, New Brunswick, within sound of the tidal waters, he saw the light. At fifteen or sixteen he began to teach a public school. Some two years later he attended the Normal School in St. John, and received a license of the first class. In the autumn of 1855 he entered Horton Academy and began Greek with Principal Hartt. By dint of special effort he overtook the first class, and forging ahead, got admission to the class preparing for matriculation, and matriculated with them in the following June. Financial reasons obliged him to teach school the ensuing year in Kent, New Brunswick, but he managed to read so much of the work of the First year that, on returning in 1857, he joined his old classmates in the Second year.

Now let me use the torch of his college days for a moment. In college, as in the Academy, he was a diligent, careful, and rapid worker, an all-round student; yet having special delight in moral and philosophical subjects. He was an independent thinker, and was prepared to follow where honest thinking led. A liberal in politics, with very radical tendencies, with unbounded confidence in the capabilities of man for progress, and a passion for bringing the Sermon on the Mount down into the plains and valleys of human society and life—an out-and-outer, in short,—such was Mr. Wells in his college days. He had surpassing faith in argument as a means of arriving at practical truth. "Let us reason together," was his process and method. His own conduct was wonderfully regulated by his ideal standard, and was the expression of an equable and noble spirit,—a man of principle in all things. He was the most fair and open-minded student I ever met, then or since, with ethical response as true as the needle to the pole.

His life's day, his "future," has been characterized by the same elements and qualities—fuller, clearer, diviner, perhaps, but rooted always in the Sermon on the Mount, and in the life and deeds of Him who uttered it. I never knew an instance in which one's "future" was more fully and accurately prefigured in one's "past."