

wage the bloodless fray, he does not aim lusty blows at the helm of the god-like Achilles, but Patroclus-like sits with him as trusty companion. Assuredly it would need the pen of a Homer or an Ossian to fitly describe how the battle clangs, and sing the glories of the dawn of peace. Year by year our Society increases in importance, enjoying no ordinary participation in the onward march of all the great influences for moral and intellectual advancement; of necessity then, the chief office in its gift, the Presidency, becomes more and more an object of honorable aspiration to the young undergraduate, when, doffing his chrysalis state, he no longer creeps, but winged with a Bachelor's Hood, he emerges to the light of day, exulting in his strength, and rejoicing in all the beautified glories of a mind seeking to nestle in "an eyrie on the heaven-kissed heights of wisdom." The years are not far distant, when the Presidency will mark certain great epochs in our College annals, when the term "Præside," coupled with the name of some distinguished graduate, will signalize events in our history, and have the same significance in our ear, and recall to all memories as dear as the term "Consulibus" did to the ancient in the palmy days of the republic, when the seven-hilled city stood, or the "Archon Eponymus" to the old Athenian, dwelling among his temples and his statues; and circumstances of interest will be recalled, not as belonging to the year 18— or 19—, but as having happened in the distinguished Presidency of such-a-one.

It becomes me then, as President, to deliver to you the annual Inaugural Address. Of what this so-called Inaugural Address must necessarily consist, as yet remains an inscrutable mystery: the most sagacious men, after mature deliberation, stating that it is a species of composition whose subject must come within the range of the Encyclopedia, but not having any essential characteristic, it is in consequence an aberrant type of essay beyond the limits of logical definition, Protean in form, and receiving its subject-matter from the particular requirements of time and place. And when one considers the many excellent addresses you have heard from this chair, and which, moreover, you hold in your hands as publications, the writing of one which will reflect glory on you as a Society, and fitly represent your renown, is surely a task which demands the highest powers of original genius. With a full appreciation, then, of the difficulty and responsibility entailed, I address myself to the work in question, animated by a determination to offer nothing for your acceptance "*nisi perfectum ingenio, elaboratum industria*," feeling deeply, too, the pleasure it affords me in giving the first impetus to the work of the session before us, and in bidding another page be opened in the Life-book of our Society to be illuminated, let me hope, by new triumphs. I shall indeed feel well recompensed for my labor, if, in the course of these