

to the Baptist denomination. We are here to pour out our gratitude to God, who has permitted him the honor of doing what few could do, however strong their desire. We congratulate our brother that God gave him both the means and the heart to erect this building and to found this College, not by a provision in his will, but while he could see his work and mould the character of the College by his counsels. We are here to join our prayers with his that God would accept this offering by making it a fountain of pure sacred learning whose streams shall flow down the ages and refresh and gladden our country and the world. A nobler use for accumulated wealth could not be found than its consecration to the mental, moral, and spiritual improvement of all succeeding generations. Let us thank God that one characteristic of this age, which some vilify as selfish and degenerate, is the foundation of seats of learning by individual men whose energies and virtues have been crowned with wealth. All hail the Durants and Vassars, the Packers and Cornells, the Hopkins and Holloways, the Crozers and McMasters of our own day. Their wealth becomes perpetual and sublime.

I have said, fathers and brethren, that this is a joyful hour, bringing the fulfilment, and more than the fulfilment of our hopes, the happy consummation of plans and toils. But I more profoundly feel that this is a solemn hour. It surely is to those who are immediately concerned in the management of the College, its Trustees and Faculty. We realize that we are accepting a vast responsibility in becoming the teachers and trainers of our rising ministry. The stability, intelligence and progress of our churches are involved in our success in inspiring our young ministers with enthusiasm in their calling, filling their minds with sacred and wholesome doctrine, developing their ability as plain, earnest, direct and eloquent preachers of the gospel, and their tact as wise, enterprising and yet conservative administrators in the churches. We have not rashly assumed our office. We have considered its solemnity and responsibility. Movements of divine Providence have summoned us from other spheres of loved and useful labor to attempt to do precisely what we believe our brethren and our Master wish us to do for his church. We are not confident in our own strength, or ability or acquisitions. But where God manifestly calls his servants to a given