

It is quite, perhaps wholly, impossible, that an affair of your kind attempted shall go off without some creaking at the joints. But the sublime indifference shown by "somebody" as to the amenities of the occasion must mark the attempt. To invite guests and then to eat up all the biscuit yourselves is a film show rather surpassing the ordinary run of amusements.

That you have a great university; that you are doing good work, that you have honored yourselves by this outburst and have (as might be said) "well advertised" yourselves, -goes without saying. Perhaps, when flunkeyism is dead (if ever it dies)!, when selfishness becomes altruism (if the miracle ever is worked.) when vanity becomes humility (if ever the transformation is effected!), when "the learned pate" ceases to duck "to the golden fool", (if ever he ceases to duck!) when your estate is fully re-forested and the tiny oakling has become the giant of the forest, (if oaklings ever become giants!), when the delightful spirit of you and yours is practised by all (if the world ever shall become filled with amenity!), then, possibly, even universities will be able to escape the perils of the academic voyage.

I inclose a copy I made of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, for Mrs. Bouvie. I will thank you to hand it to her with my compliments. I regret at not being enabled to accept her kind invitation. You and I are on the shady side of the road, and we journey with circumspection. Whatever the past, -it is secure. There are brighter worlds beyond. And shall I not ever pray that all the kindlier lights shine upon you and yours, -always?

Sincerely,

Francis W. Thorpe.