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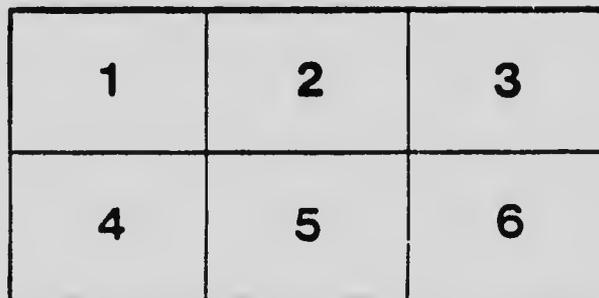
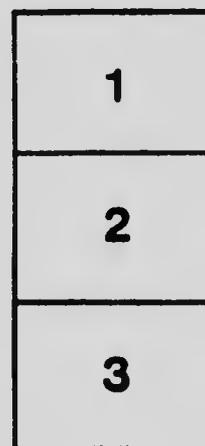
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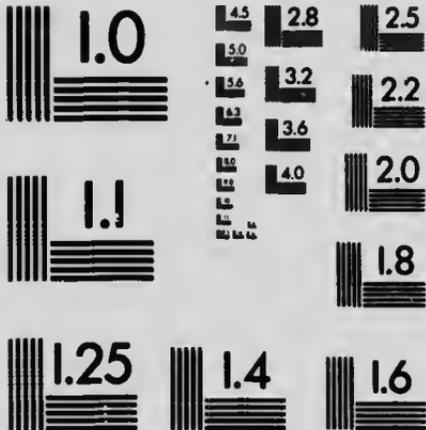
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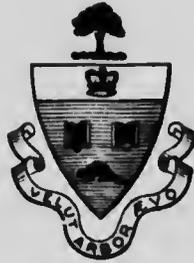
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Special Convocation
by the
University of Toronto
to confer the
Honorary Degree of LL.D.
on
Members of the
**American Peace Centenary
Committee**

Special Convocation
held on
September 28th, 1915
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1915

A SPECIAL Convocation of the University of Toronto was held in the Convocation Hall of the University on Tuesday, September 28th, at three o'clock in the afternoon, the Chancellor, Sir William Meredith, LL.D., Chief Justice of Ontario, presiding, for the purpose of conferring the honorary degree of LL.D. upon the following members of the American Peace Centenary Committee:—

The Hon. Joseph Hodges Choate, Honorary Vice-Chairman of the Committee, and formerly Ambassador of the United States to Great Britain; the Hon. Alton Brooks Parker, Honorary Vice-Chairman of the Committee, one of the leaders of the American Bar, and a former Democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States; Nicholas Murray Butler, Chairman of the Sub-committee on Historical Review and President of Columbia University; William Bailey Howland, Chairman of the Sub-committee on International Organization; William Church Osborn, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, and John Appleton Stewart, Chairman of the Executive Sub-committee.

Sir Edmund Walker, LL.D., C.V.O., Chairman of the Board of Governors, spoke as follows:

"Early in 1912 certain Americans, who deeply cherished the friendly relations existing between the United States and the British Empire, felt that we should not allow the centenary of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent to pass by as if it were an event not worthy of commemoration. A Committee was, therefore, formed which, while nominally a committee of citizens, has always had the President of the United States and some ex-Presidents among its members, and at its suggestion were formed the British Committee, with Lord Grey as the Chairman, and the Canadian Peace Centenary Association, of which I have the honour to be Chairman.

"After much preliminary work by correspondence the three Committees met in New York in May, 1913, and later in Boston, Washington, Philadelphia and other cities, and arrangements were made with a view to many most interesting functions in celebration of the peace. It was also planned to erect monuments of a national character in London, Washington and Ottawa and others in

various cities, at many points along the 49th parallel and on certain historical sites, all carrying a tablet on which a joint message from the King of England and the President of the United States would urge the continuance forever of peace between the English-speaking peoples of the world. We also hoped that this tablet might be erected in every high school, college and university throughout the British Empire and the United States, so that the next generation would accept as a fundamental factor in international relations the principle that those who speak English do not fight one another. Many of the functions I have mentioned may never take place, but the monuments will I hope arise after this terrible war has passed, and they will doubtless seem to be grander tokens of what is possible between two ambitious but right-minded nations than they would have seemed but for the war.

"We contemplated a history of the relations of the United States and Great Britain during this hundred years, so that students might know what the years of peace have meant, what dark moments of anger there have been, what rough places to pass over, and what problems to be solved that might easily have

created war. This history has been written by Professor Dunning of Columbia University, and it goes to the world with an introduction by Lord Bryce and a prefatory note by Dr. Butler, whom we are to honour to-day. Nor did the war prevent the prayers poured out at one moment in hundreds of churches in the United States and in Canada in thankfulness for the 3,600 miles of undefended boundary which lie between us. So while much must await a happier day for its consummation the Senate of the University of Toronto, deeply conscious that the great war in Europe emphasizes most painfully the blessings of honourable peace, desires to express its profound gratitude for the happy relations which for a century have existed between us and our cousins and to mark this occasion by honouring, as far as lies in its power, those good American friends who so strongly laboured to bind the Empire and the Republic together by chains of love.

“I have the very great honour, Mr. Chancellor, to present the Hon. Joseph Hodges Choate for the degree of Doctor of Laws. Mr. Choate had begun to receive degrees as early as 1852 when he graduated from Harvard at the age of twenty. He finished his law

course within two years thereafter, and by 1860 had become a partner of the most celebrated lawyer in the United States, the Hon. William M. Evarts.

“In his own country six universities have conferred honorary degrees upon him, while in Great Britain Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, St. Andrew’s and Glasgow, and in Canada McGill University have done likewise. Mr. Choate is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and has the very great distinction of being a Bencher of the Middle Temple, the highest honour that can be conferred by English lawyers on an outsider. As early as 1870, when a Committee of seventy citizens was formed in New York to break up the Tweed Ring, the public were gratified to know that the brilliant young lawyer Joseph Choate was a member of that Committee, and to him was largely due the success attending their efforts at municipal reform.

There is not time to refer to the many great legal contests in which Mr. Choate has taken part, but I am sure that every citizen of Canada who has studied the history of the Civil War in the United States must remember with deep satisfaction that when, after years of disgrace, justice was

finally done to General Fitz-John Porter, it was Mr. Choate who obtained the reversal of the court-martial. In this country, however, he is doubtless best known as the United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James from 1899 to 1905 and as Ambassador and first United States Delegate to the Peace Conference at the Hague in 1907.

“Joseph Choate came into prominence almost immediately after the death of his great ancestor Rufus Choate. The lives of these two men stretch from 1799 to the present time; they have given to their country one long line of greatness in law, of high-minded citizenship and eloquent and powerful exposition of national questions. Especially is this true in constructive statesmanship, and it is interesting to note that Rufus Choate was a member of the State Constitutional Convention of Massachusetts in 1853, while Joseph Choate was president of the New York State Constitutional Convention in 1894.

“I may remind you, Mr. Chancellor, that it is not altogether our fault that we are so late in the day in conferring upon Mr. Choate an honorary degree. An American citizen, as you know, established in this University

what are known as the Marfleet Lectures which provide that eminent Americans and Britons shall from time to time deliver lectures bearing upon the relations between the two countries or upon subjects of equal interest to both. When we decided that the first Marfleet lecture should be delivered we asked the Hon. Mr. Choate to open the course, but unfortunately his engagements made that impossible.

“Admired and beloved as he is by all who speak the English tongue I present him for the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.”

The Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance of the Dominion of Canada, presented Judge Parker *in absentia*, and alluded to his legal and public life. He also took occasion to refer to the Hon. Mr. Choate, to his public service, his culture, his intellectuality, and his urbanity. He termed him “the dean of the great international gentlemen of his day and generation”. Referring to the relations between the United States and Canada, Mr. White declared that the best assurance for the continuance of that peace lay in many fortunate circumstances. “We speak the same tongue, we have inherited the same traditions, we under-

stand each other better than any two other nations in the world to-day. There is between us an understanding of and a sympathy for and with each other which cannot fail to make for peaceful relations. We have the same problems to solve, the same difficulties to surmount, and, above all, as making for peace, we are both self-governing countries where the people really rule. The great foe of war, the great foe of militarism, is democracy, and it seems to me that in the rule of the people as we have it in Canada and the British Empire and in the United States lies the best hope of the world for universal peace”.

Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.P.P., in presenting Mr. William Bailey Howland, declared it to be one of the tragedies of history that when they were celebrating one hundred years of peace they should find themselves engaged in the greatest war of all times. Because of that fact they appreciated all the more one hundred years of peace, and the testimony that reason was better than the sword in settling international disputes.

The Hon. I. B. Lucas, M.P.P., Attorney-General of Ontario, in presenting Mr. William Church Osborn, looked with confidence to

continued peaceful relations between the two countries. Difficult questions might arise as in the past, but if they were approached in the same spirit as hitherto he was confident that an honourable way out of these disputes would be found during the next hundred years.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Riddell, in presenting Mr. Stewart, said:

"I ask that you take into our fellowship my friend Mr. John Appleton Stewart of New York, by conferring upon him the Degree of Doctor of Laws of the University of Toronto, *honoris causa*.

"Mr. Stewart has taken a leading part in the formation of organizations for the celebration of the Century of Peace among the English-speaking nations. We might have had some movement toward that end, but had it not been for him it would assuredly not have been the movement in its present form.

"Never obtruding himself on the public, he has withdrawn from the front of the stage, which he left to others; he has contented himself with the more laborious, if less conspicuous task of organizing, arranging, settling in advance what might easily become

matters of controversy. He has brought to this business capacity and has applied business methods—a drop of oil here, a belt tightened there, now a cog-wheel adjusted, and again a nut loosened, have kept the machinery in splendid working order and enabled it to perform the grand work for which it was constituted. Others played parts which have earned more public applause; none a part which more deserved public gratitude.

“In my by no means infrequent visits to our friends in the south on occasions like this intended to promote and cement our international harmony, in New York, New Orleans, and elsewhere, I have almost invariably met Mr. Stewart and have found him always courteous in receiving, eager to assist, aiding by counsel, encouraging by example. Of British and Canadian descent, he recognizes a Canadian and a Briton as a brother; he is himself almost Canadian and British, and wholly democratic.

“I ask you, Sir, to honour the University by honouring Mr. John Appleton Stewart.”

President Falconer said, in presenting Nicholas Murray Butler *in absentia* for the honorary degree: “It is not on account of his

purely personal academic attainments (the many honorary degrees that he has already received are a proof that these are widely recognized) that I ask you to confer this honour upon Dr. Butler, but as a representative of the academic world whose common interests in the intellectual life, finding expression in many scientific and literary associations, are a strong factor in creating a mutual feeling of respect and friendship between the two countries."

MR. CHOATE'S ADDRESS

The Hon. Mr. Choate spoke on behalf of the recipients of the degree.

"I am ordered by the highest authority to speak for a few minutes and pronounce the benediction which will bring these exercises to a close. I was set upon this morning by a great body of the reporters of Toronto, and I was struck with their wonderful gallantry and dash, and thought they ought to be in the trenches, and for a moment I wished they were. They wanted to know what I was going to say this afternoon, and I was obliged to tell them that during a long lifetime I had cultivated the habit of speaking without

saying anything. So they got nothing out of me.

"I am a neutral and therefore my tongue is nationally tied, but I can say for myself that wherever men are fighting for liberty and justice and civilization I am in full sympathy with them. Perhaps it is only fair for me to say that I believe that of the 100 millions of my countrymen at least 90 millions are in full sympathy with me.

"It is a wonderful thing that two great nations living side by side, who for forty years before had been squabbling all the time, and in those forty years had fought two wars, one of seven years' and the other of three years' duration, were able afterwards to live together in peace for one hundred years. When I went to The Hague as the delegate of the United States in 1907, to attend the second Peace Conference, all nations of the world, great and small, were living in peace with each other.

'No war nor battle's sound
Was heard the world around.'

We sat four months cheek by jowl with the Germans, the Austrians, the Turks and all other outlying nations. We all thought that we had done something at the end of the

four months to advance the cause of peace, to prevent the breaking out of war, and, if war must come, to mitigate the horrors of war. Well, it seems that our success was only for the moment, it was only transient. Everything we did at that conference, every provision that we enacted for the purpose of preventing war or mitigating its horrors, has been trampled upon and violated, and all our agreements have been torn into shreds of paper and thrown to the winds.

"I am often asked what is going to be the end of all this. Is it a fact that a century of united labours on the part of all the universities of the world, including this great University of Toronto and the McGill University, have all been for nothing? Has civilization been thrown to the winds? Has liberty been entirely forgotten? Has justice ceased to be respected among men? And what is to be the end of all this? Well, by-and-by peace will come. We do not know when or how, but it will come, and the work of the universities will have to be resumed with greater ardour and, I believe, with greater success than ever before. I should like to recommend the motto of my own University of Harvard for general acceptance and as a guide of conduct for all

the universities of the world. That motto is 'Veritas', the Truth. Harvard has flourished under that watchword for nearly 300 years. There is only one thing that can hold civil society together. There is only one rule which can hold the nations of the world together in peace, and that is the law of good faith, and nobody knows it better than the men who are fighting in the trenches on your side and on the other side.

"I have little confidence in, although much sympathy with all the schemes that are on foot for promoting peace, but it is no use crying 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace and no possibility of peace—no possibility of peace until the authors of this awful war are brought to a condition where their adversaries and the whole world can see that hereafter they will obey our rule, the rule of good faith, the rule of keeping contracts, the rule that when they make a treaty they must stand by it, whether it is to their interest or not, and put an end forever to this awful theory which they have propounded and which they have acted upon during the last twelve months: that whenever their interests required they could throw all treaties and contracts to the winds.

"When war broke out, the idea prevailed in some malignant minds that the British Empire would fall to pieces, that Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and other British dominions beyond the sea, great and small, would go each its own way; but instead of that, when the first blow was struck, when Belgium was invaded, the British Empire proved to be more closely united and more impregnable than ever before.

"When we heard how your strong young men were marching to the fight, when we heard of their great and gallant achievements, when we heard how freely they laid down their lives in this cause of liberty and justice and civilization, our hearts bled with yours, and the people of the United States were actually in full sympathy with you. Of course there are a few—shall I say, malignant? I do not wish to use any offensive words, but we have many millions of men of foreign descent, one-half of them on one side and one-half on the other. But if we should go to war with you against an unspeakable enemy—I do not want to mention its name—I think nineteen-twentieths of all those people would stand by

our flag, the Stars and Stripes. I wish in closing to express for myself and on behalf of all my colleagues on whom you have bestowed the signal honour to-day our deep sense of gratitude and our high appreciation of the honorary degrees conferred upon us by this great University. We wish also to acknowledge the generous enthusiasm with which your Canadian Committee joined with us and the British Committee in the programme for celebrating the Centenary of Peace, and to express the confident hope that Peace between your nation and ours and our common Mother Country may last forever."

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