

The Faculty and Students of Leland Stanford Junior University, Ladies and Gentlemen:-

Meeting together as we do on this occasion to commemorate the natal day of one of the founders of this temple of learning that has thus early in its career sent forth good fruits from the tree of knowledge, reared by its fostering care.

It seems appropriate to indulge in some reminiscences of his life and career.

It has been well said that he who has made a blade of grass grow where none ever grew before is a public benefactor.

How pre-eminently then is the man entitled to the appellation of benefactor of his kind whose life has been spent in constructing colossal works that minister to the material use and intellectual advancement of his fellow man. Such was the man whose memory we all delight to honor.

Little did the boy as he stood in his father's yard watching the puffing locomotives go by, as the couriers of advancing civilization, dream that the day would come when his own actions guided by a penetrating intelligence, would set in motion powerful forces for the building up of a Western Empire, and the shaping of events fraught with the highest possibilities to the State and Nation.

Little did that youth with earnest face and honest heart as he delved over some problem in arithmetic or geometry, dream that the time would come when hand and brain would be devoted to problems in the solution of which rested the happiness and prosperity of thousand of people yet unborn: That in his breast were implanted the germs of undertakings whose evolution and practical workings would in after years mark him as one of the world's greatest benefactors.

In those days of patient study, rural employment and in-

nocent dreaming, how far from his thoughts was the idea that he would be selected as the instrument for a series of achievements that would redound to the lasting benefit of his fellow men and surround the name of Leland Stanford with a halo of imperishable honor.

It will be my duty equally with my pleasure on this occasion to speak of him who has gone before us, in a reminiscent and biographical way, dealing more with plain facts than indulging in empty laudations.

And in speaking of Leland Stanford I must of necessity refer to the beloved companion of his life, of her who was ever his intelligent, sympathizing and resourceful help-mate, and who now left alone is in the abundance of her benevolence carrying out the plans which they together so grandly conceived and inaugurated.

Leland Stanford was born seventy-four years ago to-day, at the village of Watervliet in the State of New York, near the City of Albany.

He was of good New England parentage on both his Father's and Mother's side. His Father, Josiah Stanford, was of good English stock with a strain of Irish blood.

There in the lower end of the beautiful Mohawk Valley ~~and~~ undulating hills and woodland, young Stanford spent his early youth, developing a vigorous constitution and storing his mind with such learning as he might acquire at the public schools and at the Clinton Academy. And now after nearly sixty years absence I can vividly recall my own bright memories of that lovely valley and can picture in my mind the sturdy farmers boy, strong of muscle and active of brain preparing himself for the eventful life he was destined to lead.

While yet a lad the construction of the Albany and Schenectady Railroad was commenced and completed. This road passed near young Stanford's home. In fact, his Father was one of the contractors for building it. He thus at an early age had a val-

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uable and instructive object less in railroad building and at a time when railroads were great novelties.

He had also the advantage of listening to the conversations of prominent engineers and contractors of public works on ~~the~~ occasions of making his Father's house their stopping place, and then heard ~~discussed~~ discussed the feasibility of constructing a railroad to the Columbia River.

Thus early great thoughts, great feelings came to him much like instinct, yet undigested, to bud forth in maturer years and produce golden fruit.

The study of law has always been an attractive field for the American youth, due to a large extent to the influence of our free and democratic form of government. Indeed, Buckle characterizes us as a Nation of Lawyers.

Young Stanford became imbued with that desire and at the age of twenty years commenced the study of law with a prominent firm of attorneys at Albany.

He assiduously applied himself to acquiring a good knowledge of his chosen profession and at the end of three years was admitted to the bar.

He then cast about him for a favorable location to practice his profession, and anticipating Horace Greeley's advice to the American youth to "Go West young man", he located in 1848 at Port Washington in Wisconsin, on Lake Michigan.

It is needless to say that equipped as he was with energy, brains and learning he soon established himself as a successful practitioner and earned and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the people in his new home.

After establishing a good practice he returned to Albany, and there married Jane Lathrop, the daughter of Dyer Lathrop, a prominent and honored citizen of that City.

Returning to Port Washington he continued in practice until 1852 when he suffered the misfortune of losing by fire his office and effects including his law library, but as the sequel

proved it was in reality a disguised blessing, for had not this misfortune come to him at that time his after career although it would doubtless would have been far from profitless in respect to both honor and worldly gain, might have been confined to the dry routine of a lawyer's life, or the administration of affairs unconnected with the history of the Pacific Coast, and the grand international and educational enterprises which form such important parts of its history.

That such a loss was a severe blow to a young lawyer, those only who have had a like experience can fully appreciate, but Mr. Stanford was made of steamer stuff, he could look down such misfortune and conquer it.

It was the immediate cause of his decision to seek his fortune in the new Eldorado on the Pacific which was then holding out glittering promises to men of brain and courage.

He returned to Albany with his young wife and there left her to faithfully nurse and attend to her father in his lingering illness.

How well this filial duty must have been performed, those who have witnessed the deep and steadfast devotion which she has ever lavished upon those who were near and dear to her, can well understand.

Mr. Stanford went to New York and there made his way by water, crossing Nicaragua and arrived in San Francisco July 12th, 1852 and shortly thereafter found his way to the mining districts of the State and engaged in merchandizing at Cold Springs, Eldorado County, and in the following Spring established a store at Michigan Bar, Placer County. He also engaged in mining enterprises which in the main proved successful. He was engaged in business in the mines for several years, and there laid the foundation of a comfortable fortune.

In common with the pioneers of that time he endured with undaunted spirit the hardships and privations incident to the early mining days of California.

Then as ever he was both just and generous, and there are many residents of the State to-day who can bear grateful witness to his helpful benefactions.

His popularity then and in the years that followed down to the time that saw his inanimate form committed to its last resting place, arose as much from his noble qualities of heart as from the rich endowments of his mind.

Many stories are extant illustrating his kindly interest in suffering humanity, and the *Spontaneousness* of his generosity, which to here repeat would sound like fulsome flattery, but the unostentatious relief he gave came like balm to the needy and grateful recipients.

In 1855 he removed to Sacramento and purchased the mercantile business of his brother. The same year he went East and brought back his wife and together they made their home in the Capital City.

Their residence was very pretty and quite complete for those early days, and there for years they dispensed generous hospitality.

It was in the Winter of 1860 on the occasion of the meeting of the Presidential Electoral College to cast the vote of this State for Abraham Lincoln, that I with a number of friends had the honor of breakfasting with Mr. and Mrs. Stanford at their lovely home.

Mrs. Stanford presided with the grace and dignity of the true gentlewoman, while the spirit of ~~national~~ friendliness and sympathetic consideration for the hopes and ambitions of those just entering upon the active pursuits of life marked every word and act of the distinguished host.

Mrs. Stanford on that occasion entertained her guests with her *experiences* in crossing Nicaragua, and naively added that her husband had promised when she should next visit her Eastern home she should make the journey by rail.

To the amusement of all he admitted the soft impeachment and with his characteristic ~~enthusiasm~~<sup>earnestness</sup> maintained that the construction of an Overland Railroad was by no means an impossibility.

Before that it had been my pleasure to form his personal acquaintance, and with many of the young men of those early days I gave him my enthusiastic support in his campaign for Governor. From that time to his death our intercourse was cordial, I might say intimate.

Although not a politician, he always manifested a lively interest in political questions, and he from the first evinced a deep solicitude for the success of the Republican party.

Against his inclination and without much hope of being elected he accepted the nomination of his party for Governor of this State at its convention held on the 8th day of June, 1859. He was selected to lead a forlorn hope, for the party organization at that time was in its infancy. Milton S. Latham, his opponent was elected, though Mr. Stanford, under the circumstances received a remarkably flattering vote. But undaunted by defeat the prominent men of his party appreciating and admiring the ability and fitness displayed by their standard bearer, he was at the next Republican Convention, held on the 18th of June, 1861 again nominated as a candidate for the same high office.

His competitors were, John Conness, nominated by the anti-Le Compton Democrats and John R. Connell, by the LeCompton Democrats.

The election took place on September 4th, resulting in a flattering majority in favor of Mr. Stanford, over the combined vote of his two competitors. He receiving 56000 votes to 3100 for Conness and 33000 for Connell.

His administration illumines some of the brightest pages in the history of California.

At that time the Nation was in the throes of a civil war. California by reason of its isolated position from her sister

States, with a heterogeneous population gathered from every State of the Union, and from foreign Countries, became the hotbed of an element dangerous to the peace of State and Country. The question whether the destinies of California would be cast upon the side of Union or that of dis-union was for a time kept in painful suspense.

So well however, did our chief executive perform the trying duties of his high office, and so successful was he in holding California to the line of Union and in rendering material aid and moral support to the general government that he justly earned the patriotic designation of "War Governor".

It was indeed a happy day for this State when he was called by the suffragers of its loyal citizens to become the arbiter of its destinies.

As indicating the sentiments with which he was imbued and illustrating his loyalty and sense of justice it may not be amiss to quote a passage from his inaugural address. He said, "The Citizens of California are by birth the representatives of all parts of the Union, and are naturally imbued with more or less of local sympathies, let us be as tolerant and charitable of opinion as possible, but none should ever forget that California is one of the United States; that she is loyal to the Union; that her citizens have quite recently ~~and~~ unmistakably declared their devotion to our national unity, their recognition of the supremacy of the national government and their determination to maintain both inviolate. Every citizen of California must remember his duty and remembering, discharge it faithfully. ~~His~~ His fellow citizens are now in the field armed against traitors and treason and for the preservation of the Union and the national government. The whole power of the State should, if necessary be wielded to encourage support and sustain those patriotic citizens and their compatriots. Let treason meet a just and speedy punishment; and may we soon, as I doubt not, we shall, see peace restored to our beloved Union, our institutions more firmly implanted

than ever, and sustained by a national sentiment that shall pervade every section of our Country."

During his term of office many substantial internal improvements were inaugurated and some completed, notably the breaking of ground for the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad. The railroad from San Francisco to San Jose was completed. The North Beach, Mission and Central Street railroads in San Francisco were opened, and the Oakland Wharf 1200 yards long built to obviate the necessity of navigating the mud flats of San Antonio Creek by the ferry boats plying between San Francisco and Oakland.

He brought to his aid in the administration of his office that fund of practical good judgment that he so successfully applied to his personal affairs.

In his first message to the Legislature after adverting to the fact that the State debt amounted to over five and one-half millions of dollars, he declared his object to be "to put the treasury upon a strict cash basis, believing as I emphatically do, in the pay-as-you-go system wherever it is practicable."

After serving the people of California as Governor for one term his extensive business interests compelled him to lay aside the cares and responsibilities of office, after having been instrumental by his wise administration in decreasing the State debt seven millions of dollars and ~~reducing~~<sup>seeing</sup> the value of property in the State increased eleven millions of dollars.

This gratifying evidence of prosperity was largely due to the enforcement of his official policy, not to permit outside extravagance and to keep the expenses of Government within the limits of the annual appropriations.

One paragraph from his farewell message to the Legislature might be studied with profit by office seekers and office holders of the present day:

"In public affairs", said he, "as in private transactions the policy that grasps the present and wisely anticipates the

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future is the one that should prevail; and the same combination of sagacity and prudence with judicious expenditure that conducts individual enterprises to a successful issue should be the governing rule that controls legislative action."

After the expiration of his gubernatorial term his extensive private and railroad interest demanded his undivided attention, and he declined to allow his <sup>name</sup> ~~time~~ to be used in connection with any public office, until the Fall of 1884, when his personal friends and political ~~advisors~~ <sup>supporters</sup> prevailed upon him to become a candidate for the United States Senate, and on January 28th, 1885 he was elected to that high office in joint assembly over his opponent, James T. Farley, for the full term of six years, and in 1891 was re-elected to succeed himself, and continued to hold the office at the time of his death.

His career in the Senate was in keeping with his comprehensive grasp of public affairs, and his conscientious regard for the best interest of the nation and his constituents.

His active work during the eight years that he was in the United States Senate was ~~mainly~~ <sup>mainly</sup> ~~as~~ a member of several important committees. He originated the Land Loan bill, a measure that created wide spread discussion in the financial world.

It was early espoused by many prominent political economists, and whatever we may think of the feasibility of the plan proposed it cannot be denied that it marked its author, <sup>as</sup> a man of far reaching and penetrating mind, well versed in the intricate science of finance.

He was respected and beloved by his fellow Senators, and he attained an influence in that body ~~consummate~~ <sup>commensurate</sup> with the esteem in which he was held. His death left a void recognized and regretted by the whole nation.

It was, however, as one of the governing spirits who projected and consummated the grand railway system that spanned valleys, o'er topped mountains for half the continent and

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wards sent out its feeders to all parts of the ~~the~~ State and Coast, that he is best known for the years that preceded the establishing of this University.

He was early impressed with the importance of a national highway from the Pacific Coast to the Mississippi Valley, and his career from the moment he sought to put this idea into practical form is remarkable.

T. D. Juda, a civil engineer of superior ability, and who had been the engineer to survey the rout of the Sacramento Valley Railroad had as early as 1859 made some preliminary examination for a railroad rout across the Sierra Nevada Mountains and was an enthusiast~~XX~~ upon the subject of a transcontinental railroad, but although he advocated the scheme in San Francisco and elsewhere he found none willing to entertain what by common accord was considered a wild chimera.

Later in the following year and without being advised of the interest taken in the matter by Juda Mr. Stanford independently originated the same idea.

At that time the extensive freighting from Sacramento the distributing point ~~To~~ the gold mines on the western slopes of the mountains and to the silver mining region east of the mountain crest was carried on by heavy teams of horses.

Passing along the streets of Sacramento one day Mr. Stanford noticed this mode of transportation and immediately his active mind recurred to the ~~importance~~<sup>importance</sup> of better facilities for transportation, and visions of a trans-mountain railroad ~~formed~~<sup>formed</sup> in his mind.

He broached the subject to Mr. C. P. Huntington, they discussed it earnestly from time to time and later on enlisted Charles Crocker and Mark Hopkins in the scheme.

By accident Mr. Juda who was visiting Sacramento was introduced to Mr. Stanford and his associates.

The result was that the ~~three~~<sup>four</sup> associates sent Mr. Juda to

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make a more thorough examination of the passes through the Sierra for a proposed railroad. His report was gratifying to the projectors.

As time went on their zeal increased. They formed a preliminary organization and on May 20th, 1861 the Legislature of the State then in session passed the general railroad incorporation act, under which on June 28th, 1861 the Central Pacific Railroad Company of California was incorporated with a capital stock of eight and one-half million dollars. Mr. Stanford was elected its president and Mr. Huntington Vice-president.

As soon as the corporation was formed Mr. Juda was sent out to make a <sup>permanent</sup> ~~part~~ location of the route, ~~he~~ selected the route by way of Dutch Flat as presenting fewer obstacles than any of the several others examined, and the road was finally built on that line.

For six months despite the untiring energy <sup>of</sup> the incorporators the enterprise lagged for want of support, the great mass of the people looked upon it as the vaporings of dreamers. The people cast ~~r~~ ridicule upon it and those engaged in it, and jeeringly called it the "Dutch Flat Humbug", and ironically asked where the road would run to after leaving Dutch Flat, in the fastness of the Sierra.

It was possible to eliminate the scepticism of the people as to the possibility of overcoming the engineering difficulties in the way. Mountains of granite might be pierced with a multitude of tunnels, dizzy heights might be reached by tortuous grades skillfully engineered, the forbidding mountains of snow of the Nevada Range might be overcome, but it was painfully manifest to very one that the financial part of the problem was too vast to be successfully dealt with by private capital. Nor could the general government have been induced to take upon itself the financial guarantees necessary for the purpose, had it not been for the breaking out of the Civil War.

The unhappy condition into which the nation was plunged

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strange as it may seem created two potent factors in bringing government aid to the scheme, one the demonstration that a transcontinental Railroad was an immediate military necessity for the protection of the Pacific States, their retention in the Union and the cementing together with stronger ties the entire tier of Northern States and Territories from the Atlantic to the Pacific; the other the withdrawal from the halls of Congress of the secession element which by reason of territorial prejudice was opposed to the scheme and thus leaving the loyal element and <sup>the</sup> friends of the enterprise in the ascendent.

The result was <sup>that</sup> on July 1st, 1862, an act was passed and approved entitled "An Act to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraphic line from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, and to secure to the government the use of the same for postal, military and other purposes".

By this act the Union Pacific Railroad Company was incorporated, and among other things <sup>it</sup> authorized the Central Pacific Railroad Company of California to construct a railroad and telegraphic line from the Pacific Coast to the East boundary of the State upon the same terms and conditions as those granted to the Union Pacific Company.

Those terms as ~~required~~ <sup>to necessitate</sup>, government aid were that bonds of the United States to the extent of sixteen thousand Dollars per mile should be issued to the corporations as fast as sections of the road should be constructed, the same to be secured by a first mortgage on the aided roads, also a land grant of the odd numbered section lying within ten miles on each side of the line the aid by bonds was to be thrived from the western base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, eastward for one hundred and fifty miles.

Material changes were subsequently made by an act passed July 2nd, 1864, one of the most important provisions of which was to give the Railroad companies the right to raise

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mortgaging the road and making such mortgage a first lien.

Stimulated by this legislation and some aid from several of the Counties of the state material was contracted for and on the 8th day of January, 1863 ground was first broken at Sacramento and the grand work actually commenced.

Governor Stanford as president of the Company made the address on that occasion. It was replete with expressions of high hopes for the success of the enterprises and abiding confidence in its success. He said, "I feel proud that the ground in the progress of the construction of the Pacific Railroad is first broken by my hand". He was indeed proud, as well he might be, of the part he was enacting in that history making event.

From that moment the work of subduing ~~mountains~~ nature's barriers of mountains and deserts went rapidly on until the iron bands of the Central Pacific Company clasped those of the Union Pacific eight hundred miles east of the Pacific terminus and on the 10th of May, 1869, the grandest republic of the world wore for the first time a priceless girdle. As at the inception, so at the completion of this gigantic work Governor Stanford presided at the appropriate ceremonies, on that occasion his breast swelling with laudable pride born of the conscientiousness of having accomplished a stupendous and masterful work. He said, "Never since history commenced her record of human events has she been called upon to note the completion of a work so magnificent in conception and so marvelous in execution."

The construction and subsequent operation of the Pacific Railroad like nearly all other great business enterprises directly or indirectly affecting the people at large and diverse individual interest produced **antagonism** and at times persistent and acrimonious opposition, and each of the principle actors including Governor Stanford came in for his full share of misrepresentation and abuse from certain quarters.

These men who carved history on the eternal rocks could

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well afford to be the targets of ~~envious~~<sup>envious</sup> shafts. It has ever been that "the man that makes a character makes foes." But the softening influence of time and the extending of the horizon of human observation and knowledge has wrought a change, and he who to-day might write the history of those times and events could confidently appeal to the sober honest judgment of the people to support him in the assertion that the originators and builders of the first Pacific Railroad were noble men of high resolve who have earned the gratitude of succeeding generations.

Many great events lastingly affecting the happiness and destinies of the human race are the out-come of preceding acts or circumstances, the result of which no human power could at the time have anticipated. Some persons advent into the world, his departure from it, a marriage, or the result of some business venture may shape the entire subsequent life and conduct of an individual, and even the destiny of a Country or a people. And so we find an illustration of this trueism in the career of Senator Stanford and his estimable wife.

They were the parents of an idolized child of comely form and possessed of moral and intellectual qualities of high promise. This one <sup>on</sup> whom their earthly affections were centered while traveling Abroad, sickened and died, on the 13th of March, 1884, leaving the stricken parents ~~childless~~<sup>desolate</sup> no one of their immediate descendants to perpetuate their name, none on whom to lavish their abundance and none to take their place.

The parents with their hold thus loosened upon the material things of this life, resolved to do for ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> youths of the Country what they had hoped to do for their own, and at ~~the same~~<sup>the same</sup> time to perpetuate his name by erecting to his memory a monument of marble to crumble away in the passing years, but by

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ing and endowing an educational institution bearing his name, that would afford to the youth of this Country, of both sexes, opportunities for acquiring a liberal and practical education, fitting them the better to battle with the stern realities of life.

Upon examination of the then existing legislation it was found inadequate for the purpose of founding an institution of ~~the~~ contemplated scope and character, accordingly an act was passed by the Legislature of the State containing more appropriate provisions.

It is a co-incidence that I take occasion to mention that this act was approved on the 9th day of March, 1885, the anniversary of the day we are now assembled to commemorate.

The legal obstacles being thus removed on the 14th day of November, 1885, they executed their joint grant to twenty-four trustees therein named, founding and endowing the Leland Stanford Junior University.

The founders by this grant dealt exclusively with real property, the legal title to which was vested in the trustees securing the administration of the trust to the grantors during their respective lives.

The ~~dominion~~ <sup>domain</sup> thus donated to the University was indeed a principality in extent. It composed the present Palo Alto Estate aggregating Seven Thousand two hundred acres, with these sand stone jewels set in its center, and I delegate to some lover of this, his Alma Mater whose soul is ~~exposed~~ <sup>attuned</sup> to poetic strains the pleasing task of describing its charms and beauty.

Next the Vina Estate, situate in the fertile upper Sacramento Valley and comprising fifty five thousand acres. On this estate is the famous Vine Vineyard, comprising 3575 acres, the largest vineyard in the world, with ~~its~~ its complement of wine making and brandy making machinery and appliances.

And lastly the Girdley Estate in Butte County, consisting of Nineteen Thousand Acres and devoted to the growth of ~~of~~

So much for the endowment proper, but think not that this was all, still richer gifts came from Governor Stanford and more are constantly coming from his noble relict.

After the endowment Governor Stanford was impatient to see the work actually commence and go forward to completion. He wanted to see it in working order during his life. He has frequently said to me that the best way to have his trustees carry out his design would be to afford them practical object-lessons of what his wishes were. That it would give him greater assurance that his plans would be punctually followed and the trust not diverted from the exact purposes designed, than the most elaborate posthumous written directions.

His absence from the State attending to official duties delayed active operations, and it was not until the 14th of May, 1887, that work on the buildings destined as the seat of the University had sufficiently progressed for the laying of the corner-stone.

This imposing ceremony was performed by Governor Stanford in person in the presence of a grand concourse of interested spectators, with the prayers and best wishes of all for the success and prosperity of the grand undertaking.

Work then went on apace, quaint morisco structures arose on the four sides of your now familiar quadrangle.

In the meantime the founders recognizing the fact that massive and expensive structure, nor munificent endowments cannot alone make a University. That these material manifestations are but the husk set about to <sup>note</sup> supply the kernel and <sup>supply</sup> leave with which to vitalize the hope of ~~the~~ souls

And here again we find an exhibition of his capacity to read character and measure men. He had the good fortune to engage the services of your accomplished and well equipped president, and turned over to him the selection of the required number of professors and teachers and the organization and management

of the institution.

The result was that the University was opened for the admission of students on the 1st day of October, ~~1881~~ 1891, over five hundred being in attendance.

The result thus far was more than gratifying to all and especially so to the founders. Governor Stanford said on that occasion, "For Mrs. Stanford and myself this ceremony marks an epoch in our lives for we see in part the realization of the hopes and efforts of years; for you, Faculty and students the work begins now, and it is to commemorate this commencement of your labors that we are here assembled."

He was spared for over a year and a half after this memorable event to see the University develop upon the lines he had planned, its influence, reputation and patronage more than doubled. He builded better than he knew.

With the joint efforts of Senator and Mrs. Stanford this noble legacy to education has been endowed, erected and started upon its prosperous career, but the permanency of the institution, its present development and stability, is in a great measure owing to the zeal and fixedness of purpose of the surviving founder, who with unswerving devotion to the sacred trust she assumed with her husband, and supported by an unquestioning faith in the beneficence of an overruling providence, which if we may not imitate commands our unbounded admiration. She has struggled against adverse conditions which would have overborne a woman of less heroic mold. But the victory is hers. Hard by in the shadow of this grand University by the side of the loved one whose name it bears, lies one of the founders. Loving hands have marked the spot where rest their mortal remains with a fitting memorial, but this seat of learning to which they gave name and material form and hope and trust in its future greatness, is the real monument of the cherished ones who have gone before as it will be to her who

in the course of human events must ere long follow.

Of the two founders and the twenty-four original trustees, twenty-six in all, ten have already paid nature's debt. But a few years will elapse when all the other original actors in this founding will have done likewise, and none will remain to personally <sup>remind</sup> ~~receive~~ the Alumni and students of this University, May I ask that in the coming years you and those who come after you, will keep green in your memories this ~~anniversary~~ anniversary day and all that its observance signifies?

I thank you.