

Tuttle, J. F.

Wabash College.

1865



Wabash College.

1870, June 29.

Gift of

Rev. Joseph F. Tuttle,
Pres. of Wabash College,
Crawfordsville, Ind.

By Joseph F. Tuttle

The following address was delivered on Commencement day, June 28th, 1865, and is published by direction of the Board of Trustees as discussing some facts and principles which in their opinion ought to be laid before the friends of the College. For special reasons, the peculiarities which marked it as a "salutatory address" to our friends from abroad, and "a valedictory" to the graduating class, are preserved.

WABASH COLLEGE,
Crawfordsville, Ind.,
July 4th, 1865.

ADDRESS.

FRIENDS OF WABASH COLLEGE AND CHRISTIAN LETTERS :

In behalf of the Faculty and Board of Trustees, welcome to our ancient and stately grove ! welcome to these halls erected by Christian beneficence to learning and religion ! welcome to these places hallowed by the toils of good men and their wrestlings with "the Angel of the Covenant," good men who have gone home to their reward ! welcome to these retreats where so many young men have felt the pulsations of an elevated ambition to attain the refinement and power of liberal culture, and where so many have found the higher wisdom, the beginning of which is the fear of the Lord ! welcome to this source of power whence have gone out so many earnest workers into the various spheres of life ! welcome to this haunt of patriotism whose atmosphere is so pure that a traitor breathes it with painful and difficult labor, this haunt in which so many noble young men have caught the inspiration of country teaching them to prefer her above their chief joy, this sacred haunt in which so many lofty spirits with an irrepressible impulse have laid themselves on the altar of their imperilled country ! welcome to this spot, now doubly hallowed by recollections of men who once dwelt and wrought here, and hence went forth to die for their country, men whose names are ever to linger in the grateful memory of the coming generations, because here they overcame even the love of letters and the aspirations of professional ambition by the higher claims of patriotism ! Yes, welcome to the place which was once the home of Alexander, Mills, Lingerman, McKinney, Adams, Chapin, Rabb, Bassett, Bevan, the two Millers, Daggy, Humphrey, Lusk, Ornbaun, Farner, Beach, Groendyke, Jackson, Blinn, Fullenwider, Seaton, Smith, Patterson, Humphrey,

Ingersol, Pratt, Kingsbury, Moores, and others as noble who here caught the sacred fire and hence went forth to die for their country !

“O! it is sweet for our country to die! How softly reposes
Warrior youth on his bier, wet by the tears of his love,
Wet by a mother's warm tears; they crown him with
garlands of roses,

Weep and then joyously turn bright where he triumphs above.”

Not as yet can we welcome you to certain venerable buildings, whose every stone is haunted with some thrilling association in some far off time as at Oxford and Cambridge. We cannot take you to the rooms of Wickliffe, or Milton, or Newton, or Johnson, or Bacon, nor can we lead you along some “Addison's Walk” consecrated by the footsteps of some great man who has been destined to wield an imperial scepter in the realm of mind. As yet—thank heaven—we have here no spot associated with the name of Calhoun as at Yale, nor that of Burr as at Princeton, nor that of Jefferson Davis as at West Point.

Our College is still young and yet we are not ashamed to welcome you to her annual festival. Although she is young “there are those who love her,” and fondly call her Alma Mater. Already her children are widely scattered over our own and foreign lands. They are achieving for her a noble name in their own successes. On this favored day Wabash breathes a blessing on her beloved children wherever they may be.

And what is the aim of the friends of this College? To what do they aspire in her behalf? To make her the *first* in the sisterhood of Western Colleges, and inferior to none East or West, in the facilities she may afford to young men for the most extended and liberal education. We do not assert that she will be the first, for she has generous and determined rivals in the field who may distance her in the race, but *she will try*. And should some more fortunate peer win the prize, she will strive to make such attainments as shall give her no reason to be ashamed of herself, or envious of the more favored sister whose brow shall receive the crown.

Alma Mater aims at great things so far as regards the culture of the intellect and heart of those committed to her care. She seeks to impart to them the most careful training ; she wishes them to be scholars, animated with a beautiful enthusiasm for letters, and moral goodness. And how are we to realize such a destiny for our College ? By God's blessing on the intelligent and resolute efforts of her friends. We recall that touching fact in our past history which relates how some men of God one winter-day drove the stake to mark the site of the first College edifice, and then knelt about it on the snow in token of their dependence on God and of their consecration of the College to Christ, and we also recall the history of the enterprise thus begun in prayer, a history marked by instances full of saintly faith, romantic devotion and divine interpositions, and the retrospect animates our own faith and shames our faint-heartedness. This College has not been built without difficulty. Its progress has not been unopposed. Some from whom we had a right to expect better things have stood aloof or in active opposition. If there be anything in which this community should feel an honest pride it is a College whose influence is already so widely felt as to make the name of the town known not only in distant parts of our own land but even in foreign lands, and yet one of our chief hindrances has been the indifference of many and the hostility of some in the immediate vicinity of the institution. Its most appreciative friends with some marked exceptions have been compelled out of their poverty to relieve its wants. And yet neither the fire which consumed our building, nor the indifference of the lukewarm, nor the opposition of enemies, nor the poverty of friends could repress the enterprise which through God's mercy and the generosity of its friends, now occupies a position of which we are proud. Our excellent and able Treasurer imparted to a report made up of tedious columns of figures an eloquence that was thrilling as yesterday he informed the Board of Trustees *that our College is out of debt!* These fine buildings, Libraries, Cabinets, and all our machinery for educating

the young men, with our peerless grounds, are unincumbered with one farthing of debt, except that unliquidated and inextinguishable debt, which the College owes to God, country, and mankind. That debt we confess in the court of heaven, but of every other debt we are able to say "it is paid." Nor is this all, we have wild lands to the amount of several thousand acres, the nucleus of a cash endowment amounting to some fifty-seven thousand dollars, and the good will of a large constituency, which is of more value than any mere money. From the beginning the College has never occupied a fairer vantage ground in regard of the mission to which its founders consecrated it.

It is a fact at which we look with profound satisfaction that the College has outridden the storm of war so gallantly. The waves beat vehemently and the winds bore down mercilessly upon her, but the brave craft has not lost a spar. The storm has tested her sea-worthiness, and at this moment she claims at our hands such confidence as we never before reposed in her. In plain words, the College survives the war unscathed. Her sons have gone to the army by scores, and we would point to her roll of honor with just pride and challenge comparison. If any rival College in proportion to her number has equalled or excelled Wabash College in this respect it will be a fact which shall command our respect without exciting our envy. It is true that at least twice we thought we should be compelled to close our doors because our gallant boys were rushing almost *en masse* into the army, but we were never driven to that extremity. Our classes have been decimated but not annihilated. Our recitations, our literary exhibitions and our Commencement exercises have in no single instance been suspended, and never have we seen the time when our devotional exercises in the Chapel or Church were omitted, or our petitions for "our comrades in the army" forgotten. This is a reminiscence which affords us much lively satisfaction.

Indeed I am sure that Wabash College is dearer to her students, her friends, the Church, the Commonwealth, and

the nation—which may God ever bless—than ever before because of her consecration to country in the hour of peril. And hence it has come to pass that at many a fireside, in many a soldier's tent or home, by many a soldier's lip, the name of Wabash College is pronounced with heart-felt affection. And thus we desire it ever to be, that as our College has made our country dear to her, so she may ever be dear to our country.

And it must not be supposed that this unfading laurel has been won for Alma Mater without many sacrifices. Not all the noble youth she sent forth to deliverance of the country have returned to her. The crown she wears is very beautiful, but the price she paid for is too precious to be estimated in gold.

The esteem the community have for our College has not been a barren sentiment. Never before, even in times of profound peace, have her friends displayed a nobler generosity in her behalf than during the war. To those who handle thousands of dollars in their business it may seem a very trifling thing, but to us whose daily thought is concerning this College, it seemed a very great event, causing us on our knees to render thanksgiving to God, because he had inclined one of his stewards to send us a gift which at a blow cut off the heads of a whole brood of debts, which like so many spiteful serpents were hissing in our ears. The name of this noble friend may never be spoken by us but with profound esteem.

And then another friend, who has never seen the College, but who is intimately acquainted with its history and who loves it, sent enough, with a previous gift in permanent funds, to endow, in part, the professorship of Mathematics to bear the honored name of the first President of the College and in so doing, also the name of the generous donor. And then our appreciative friends in the city of La Fayette bestirred themselves to endow in part with ten thousand dollars a professorship to bear the name of their city, a sum which we confidently hope they will at some future time raise

to a full endowment by doubling their donation, and we will promise not to complain if they raise it to fifty thousand !

Besides these, we have received from liberal gentlemen several Soldier Scholarships of five hundred dollars each, for the benefit of soldiers and the sons of soldiers, who may need assistance in pursuing an education. We ought to have many more of these foundations as so many comely memorials of the part which the sons of this College have borne in the war. To these we may add several scholarships of a like amount for general purposes.

All these facts point to *success*, and I may add without any breach of confidence, that another warm friend of the College whose love for it is as abiding as the hills of his own New England, not long ago caught me in a fit of despondency and lifted a mountain load off from my heart by telling me some things which he knew and I did not, things which have already assumed so definite a form that they seem very like a reality.* And we have other signs of interest on the part of friends which bid us take courage.

These facts are in part our compensation for the terrible struggles through which we have been passing, and they point us to God and to our devoted friends, as the grounds upon which we anticipate success so confidently. But we must arise at once and build, for we have come to such a crisis in our history that not to push the enterprise most vigorously by securing further endowments, and the means for enlarged usefulness can be regarded as nothing short of a calamity. Let good men now give us the money we need and we will carry our noble College to a position where to the highest advantage she can do her work.

But you ask me, why not let those who wish these enlarged

* This gentleman pledges ten thousand dollars to the permanent funds of the College on condition that thirty thousand be added by other parties. Another gentleman adds the generous offer of ten thousand dollars on the same condition. The Board have resolved to raise one hundred thousand dollars in order to put the College in a position to add to its buildings, Library, &c., &c. We most earnestly appeal to our generous friends to aid us in so grand and necessary an enterprise.

facilities of liberal culture pay for them as in any other business transaction? Why tax the liberality of the benevolent in a cause which should be governed by the principles of common business? If any young man wants an education let him pay for it, just as he pays for a coat or a loaf of bread? Bear with me while I discuss this question.

At the very outset I make the assertion, which will be startling to not a few, that to some extent in the very nature of the case the education of youth must be gratuitous, very little education is offered to the young at its actual cost. This is notoriously true of what is called "Common School education." In all the Western States the every sixteenth section of the land was set apart by the Government for the support of Common Schools, and in 1850, more than fifteen millions of dollars were paid out of the public treasuries of the different states for the support of Common Schools that year alone. The school-houses, and the schools themselves are supported by public charity. The vast school funds and all the arrangements for educating the young, are all public charities. There are few men or women in this country who have not learned even to read and write at the public expense as *charity scholars*. No one will deny this statement.

But when we trace this educational charity to its fountain-head we find it flows from Christianity, and I may add, *Protestant* Christianity. The Common School, free to all children without money and without price, is a Protestant idea. The Church has taught the state this obligation and mainly out of her own treasury has provided the means of a more liberal culture for the young. The barest reference to the Colleges and seminaries at the East and West, is sufficient to prove that Christian men, as a duty to Christ and their fellow-men, have founded and endowed these institutions at immense expense, and that the learned professions receive their largest supplies from these charity schools.

It is true that in most of these institutions the students pay a tuition fee. It may be called "matriculation fee" or an "incidental bill" as at two institutions in this State, still

it means the same thing, that the student is required to pay a bill in order to have the privileges of the College. Suppose a young man pays thirty dollars a year for tuition, has he paid what that tuition actually cost? By no means. A careful computation has proved that tuition, in any respectable and well furnished College in this country, costs from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five dollars a year, and each student receives as an outright charity the difference between what he pays for tuition and its actual cost. There are very few lawyers, physicians, authors, editors, civil engineers, professional teachers, educated gentlemen of leisure, in one word, very few educated men who are not the beneficiaries of Christian charity. The candidates for the ministry who are aided by educational societies are no more truly charity scholars than *all* the students of our higher institutions. Even the children of the wealthy classes rarely pay for what they receive, but are compelled as truly as the humblest to receive and enjoy the privileges which are the offspring of Christian Charity. Many unkind things are said about poor young men as *charity scholars*. Let those who sneer, and those who are sneered at, in this unkind manner, remember that *all the young are charity scholars*.

And this fact is based on a necessity which obliges society to furnish this great charity to all as a debt which it owes to itself. Our nation recognizes this fact not only in our Common Schools but in our Naval and Military Academies. At an immense expense certain young men are educated as charity scholars, in order to provide men to lead our armies and navies. There was a time within five years when West Point was held at a discount in the popular estimation, because so large a number of its graduates proved themselves traitors to the government which had trained them. People noticed that not a private soldier or marine in the regular Army and Navy proved false to his flag, whilst hundreds of the nation's charity scholars from West Point and Annapolis—especially the former, proved "most toad-spotted traitors." Hence arose a prejudice against the Military Academy so

sharp that for a time popular indignation called for its suppression as dangerous to the liberties of the people.

But time has rectified this prejudice and justified this great Military charity. No unkind or slighting word may be spoken here unrebuked concerning our volunteers in the war just finished. Some of the best general officers in the service, and thousands of lower rank, were not educated at West Point, and yet when the "tug of war" came, that very West Point asserted its superiority and discharged all its debt to the country in the education of a few men, who planned and executed the brilliant campaigns which crushed the rebellion. It is admitted that a large number of worthless men have been sustained as beneficiaries at the Military Academy, and that some men educated there have proved themselves the most dangerous rebels, but the fact is also admitted that a dozen of its graduates may be named whose education is a thousand times over a compensation for all the institution has cost from the beginning. The education of Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Canby, McPherson, Lyon, Thomas, Kilpatrick, Rosecrans, Schofield, Wright, and Meade, is such a compensation. I go further and assert that the education of Meade, the hero of Gettysburgh, Sheridan, the hero of the Shenandoah, Sherman, the hero of all the victories suggested by the single word Atalanta, and finally and above all, GRANT, the hero of the war, the broad-minded planner of its campaigns, the modest recipient of the highest honors which a grateful country can bestow, is such a compensation. It is not a rash assertion, that such is the imperious necessity to society of such men, that if in the education of one thousand cadets the Government had secured only one first class man, the selection and education of that one man is more than a compensation for the expense incurred on the nine hundred and ninety-nine worthless ones. Had Yale College done nothing more than train for mankind the elder Edwards, President Dwight, and Lyman Beecher, had St. Andrews University given to the world no other great men than Dr. Chalmers and Dr. Duff, all the expenditures in bricks, books and brains

would be fully repaid. It is so with all educational institutions. A few really great men are an ample repayment for what these institutions cost.

But the education of such men is only a part of the benefits conferred by our institutions. West Point has graduated not only a few very great men, but a large number of men who, though not great, have been useful in a high degree in spheres to which their talents were adapted. It has been said by Mr. Barnes that there is but one Niagara in the world, but there is a multitude of rivulets and streams which in their humble way contribute to the good of mankind. Thus it is with the college ; it may give to the world a truly great man only once in a hundred years, and he be a sufficient return for all the college cost society during that period of time ; but this is not its main work, which is to educate and send forth a large number of good men to fill the ordinary spheres of life in the most useful manner.

Wabash College was founded for this purpose, and has succeeded already in a remarkable degree. Friends of our College and of Christian letters, let us gather about this institution, to make her in endowments and educational facilities all that her most sanguine and devoted admirers can desire. Sir Walter May expressed the whole matter in his reply to Queen Elizabeth concerning the college he had founded : " I have set an acorn," said he, " which when it becomes an oak, God alone knows what will be the fruit thereof." What better thing can we do for the country in the midst of which it is placed, and for Christ our Lord, than to lift our College out of all want, and to give it all the facilities it needs ?

YOUNG GENTLEMEN OF THE SENIOR CLASS :

I congratulate you on the arrival of a day for which you have been long waiting with such deep solicitude. It is your natal day. We feel sad to bid you farewell, and yet we bid you go forth and be men.

Let me remind you, as members of the republic of letters,

that among the ancient Germans it was accounted the deepest disgrace that a soldier should lose any part of his armor. We have armed you and taught you the use of your weapons. See to it that you retain your armor, and by use keep it bright.

You finish your course at this College in a very remarkable year. Many of your classmates went to the army. All but one of you has done service in the defence of the republic. Your class has been conspicuous for the patriotism of its members. The war of carnal weapons is ended, and the war of ideas begins. You are coming on the stage at an auspicious moment. It is both your duty and your privilege to make the most of yourselves for man, for country, and for God. How wise you will be if you take a right view of what you *may* do, and then seek with all your might to realize the bright *possibilities* of the future ! Rise, then, above all self-indulgence, all low aims, all mean ways, and be men in mind, in purpose, in humanity, in virtue, in piety, and this College will bless you.

My beloved pupils, the time is short. Our interviews in the class-room and in the place of prayer are at an end. You have just completed one pleasant stage of life, and now you enter upon another. You have bright anticipations of the future. May they all be realized ! Since my connection with this College, among those whom I have commended to God as I am now commending you, I recall the names of some whose hopes and prospects of life were as high as your own, but they have passed into the world of spirits. Life is uncertain, and, at best, it is short. Use its moments so honestly and nobly for God, mankind, and your country, that you may have the approbation of God and of your own conscience.

My young friends, your successes will be our's, your sorrows our's, and this day, Alma Mater sends you forth to the conflicts and victories of life, committing to your keeping the precious jewel of her own reputation. Guard the trust sacredly, and may God bless you. Farewell.

A P P E N D I X .

The following statements concerning Wabash College were made by the Rev. James H. Johnston, in the admirable "Historical Discourse" which he has recently given to the press. I may add that "the productive permanent fund" mentioned in the summary of the College property has been increased to nearly sixty thousand dollars :

"In reference to Wabash College, at Crawfordsville, the following facts, gathered from published statements made by those connected with it from the commencement of its existence, or otherwise fully acquainted with its history, are presented.

This college owes its origin to the counsels and efforts of *five Home Missionaries*, who early selected the upper Wabash Valley as their field of labor. One of the earliest to agitate this subject was Rev. James Thomson, who settled in Crawfordsville, November, 1827, and others connected with Crawfordsville Presbytery, then embracing most of the country of the upper Wabash, who often spoke to each other of the importance of a timely effort to plant an institution of learning, under good religious influence, and after the model of those planted by the fathers in the older portions of the country. It was not, however, till the autumn of 1832 that any definite measures were taken to carry the design into effect. The first meeting on this subject was held at the house of Rev. James Thomson, November 21st, 1832. Present at this meeting were Rev. Messrs. James Thomson, James A. Carnahan, John S. Thomson, Edmund O. Hovey,

and John M. Ellis, together with Messrs. John Gilliland, Hezekiah Robinson, and John McConnel.

The deliberations of this meeting resulted in the unanimous resolution that efforts should be made without delay to establish, at Crawfordsville, an institution of learning in connection with manual labor. At that time there was no literary institution, either located or projected, in this State north of Bloomington. Some of the considerations that showed the importance of the measure determined upon at that meeting, are stated in the following extract from a letter written afterwards by one of the persons who shared in its deliberations: "Being at that time an agent of the American Education Society, I became acquainted with the painful destitution of educated ministers in Indiana, and I learned from the brethren that they had been urging the moral destitutions of the State on the attention of eastern churches and theological seminaries, imploring their aid in sending more laborers into the great field whitening for the harvest. And that for these four years of entreaty, only two additional ministers could be obtained. This was a most depressing demonstration, that the east could not be relied on to furnish pastors for the teeming multitudes of this great State. At the same time it was found that there were some twelve or fifteen pious young men, of the best promise, in the churches of the Wabash country, who would study for the ministiy could they but have the facilities of education. This seemed, in those circumstances, the clearest providential indication to found a college for the education of such young men."

A committee, to act temporarily as trustees of the institution, was appointed at this meeting. A liberal subscription was obtained from the citizens of Crawfordsville, a tract of fifteen acres of land was donated by Hon. Williamson Dunn, upon which the trustees, having selected a site for the building in the forest, in the midst of nature's unbroken loneliness, consecrated this enterprise for the furtherance of

virtue and knowledge among mankind, to God, and solemnly invoked upon it the divine blessing.

Measures were shortly afterwards adopted for the erection of a suitable building for the Preparatory Department of the Institution. The Trustees appointed Mr. Caleb Mills, then a theological student at Andover, Mass., as the Principal of the Preparatory Department and Teachers' Seminary, under whose instruction the Institution, in this form, went into operation December 3rd, 1833, with *twelve* students, nine of whom were professed Christians.

In January, 1834, application was made to the State Legislature for a charter, which was granted, under the name of "Wabash Manual Labor College and Teachers' Seminary." One feature of this charter—that requiring the Trustees to provide manual labor for the students—has, in a subsequent modification of it, been laid aside; the other is retained, and deemed of prime importance.

The enterprise thus commenced was prosecuted with unremitting zeal. By proper efforts at the West and at the East, funds were obtained; as the number of students increased additional teachers were appointed; regular college classes were formed; a President for the institution—Rev. Elihu W. Baldwin, of New York—a man peculiarly fitted for the work to which he was called, was secured; the erection of a large college edifice, was entered upon, and, in the fall of 1838, was completed; a library was collected, and a philosophical apparatus commenced. Everything promised prosperity; but reverses and trials were at hand. This edifice, just completed, was destroyed by fire, and library and apparatus were consumed with it, causing a loss of not less than 15,000 dollars. This loss occurring at a period of great commercial embarrassment, involved the necessity of procuring a loan of 8,000 dollars, in addition to all the funds that could be obtained by voluntary contribution. The debt thus incurred was a crushing incubus on the enterprise for eight years. In the meantime, a loss still more deeply felt

was occasioned by the death of the beloved President of the College, which occurred October 15th, 1840.

But amid these discouragements, the friends of Wabash College yielded not to despondency. A successor to Dr. Baldwin, in every respect worthy of the position which had been made vacant by his death, was found in Rev. Charles White, D. D., who entered on the duties of President in the fall of 1841, and whose useful and efficient labors for the advancement of the institution, were continued for a period of twenty years. The college was also relieved, at length, from the pressure of its pecuniary embarrassments. Through the liberality of individuals, means were furnished, in 1846, for the liquidation of the debt that bore so heavily upon it. Important aid has been received also from the "Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West." Liberal donations for founding professorships have recently been made.

The following statement, exhibiting the present resources of the College, furnished by Rev. Dr. Tuttle, the able and acceptable successor of Dr. White, as President of the Institution, is found in the last Annual Report of the Society just named :

Three good buildings valued at	-- -- -- -- --	\$33,000
Apparatus and Libraries	- - - - -	12,000
Cabinet	- - - - -	5,000
Productive Permanent Fund	- - - - -	40,000
Eight Thousand Acres Wild Land	- - - - -	40,000
Notes and Subscriptions	- - - - -	10,000
		<hr/>
		\$140,000
Amount of Debts wholly to Professors	- - - - -	6,700
		<hr/>
Total	- - - - -	\$133,300

This estimate does not include the College Campus of

twenty-five acres, and some ten acres of valuable land adjoining it.

A marked feature in this college has been the frequent revivals of religion that have been granted. In 1851, the President remarked that "no class has ever graduated here without having enjoyed from one to four revivals of religion, and four-fifths of all its Alumni have gone forth from their Alma Mater the enrolled servants of the living God." Since that time repeated visitations of Divine grace have been vouchsafed.

In speaking of the results already secured by this college, Professor Hovey, in a historical sketch, published in 1857, says: "Of the one hundred and eleven graduates, eighty were hopefully pious, thirty-three of whom were converted while connected with College. Forty-two are ministers of the Gospel. More than one hundred have been teachers in Common and Select schools or Academies, and four are Professors in Colleges of our own State. Many occupy important stations of influence in the learned professions, and the several departments of civil and commercial enterprise, in this State, in other States of the Union, in the British Provinces, in South America, in India, and in Turkey."

Since the time this statement was made, the number of graduates that have entered the ministry has increased to sixty-two, while fifteen or twenty others who have pursued their studies for a longer or shorter time at the College, have also become preachers."