

**INAUGURATION OF MERRILL  
EDWARD GATES PH. D.,  
LL. D., L. H. D. AS PRESIDENT  
OF AMHERST COLLEGE**

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Inauguration of Merrill Edward Gates Ph. D., LL. D., L. H. D. as President of Amherst College  
by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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THE  
INAUGURATION  
OF  
MERRILL EDWARDS GATES  
PH. D., LL. D., L. H. D.  
AS  
PRESIDENT OF AMHERST COLLEGE



MDCCCXCI



# AMHERST COLLEGE



THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT GATES,

WEDNESDAY, 24TH JUNE,

MDCCKXCI,

IN COLLEGE HALL, AT TEN-THIRTY O'CLOCK.



THE REV. DR. RICHARD SALTER STORRS,  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PRESIDING.

## *Music.*

PRAYER by the

Rev. Professor William Seymour Tyler, D. D., LL. D.

## *Hymn.*

Lord of all being! throned afar,  
Thy glory flames from sun and star;  
Centre and soul of every sphere,  
Yes to each loving heart how near!

Sun of our life, Thy quickening ray  
Sheds on our path the glow of day;  
Star of our hope, Thy softened light  
Cheers the long watches of the night.

Our midnight is Thy smile withdrawn;  
Our noonday is Thy gracious dawn;  
Our rainbow arch Thy mercy's sign;  
All, save the clouds of sin, are Thine!

Lord of all life, below, above,  
Whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,  
Before Thy ever-blazing throne  
We ask no lustre of our own.

Grant us Thy truth to make us free,  
And kindling hearts that burn for Thee,  
Till all Thy living altars claim  
One holy light, one heavenly flame!

ADDRESS on the part of the Trustees by

The Rev. Richard Salter Storrs, D. D., LL. D.

DELIVERY OF KEYS, CHARTER AND SEAL, AND ADDRESS by

The Rev. Julius H. Seelye, D. D., LL. D.,

Ex-President of the College.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS by

President Merrill Edwards Gates, PH. D., LL. D., L. H. D.

## *Benediction.*

#### PREFATORY NOTE.

The public exercises in connection with the inauguration of Merrill Edwards Gates, LL. D., as the sixth president of Amherst College, took place at the College Hall, Amherst, on Wednesday morning, June 24, 1891, at ten-thirty o'clock.

The addresses are herewith published, by vote of the board of trustees.



## REPORT OF DR. STORRS'S ADDRESS.

Rev. Dr. Storrs spoke, in part, as follows: By appointment of the trustees it becomes my pleasant and honorable duty, as one of the older members of that body, to act as president of this occasion, when no president is needed, to see that the charter, seal, and keys of the college are delivered to Dr. Merrill E. Gates, to see that he is formally installed in the important and honorable position which he has practically held already for the current academic year. The significant and self-interpreting act of delivering the college insignia will be performed by President Seelye; but I am asked briefly to express for the trustees their sense of the importance of the occasion, with the gratification and high expectation with which they have come to it.

The titular dignity only imperfectly represents the importance of the office of college president. He has a large and constant influence in the faculty, and in the board of trustees; and he represents each of these bodies to the other, as no other officer does or can. In this delicate position the college president has often need of the patience which our honored father, Prof. Tyler, has prayed that he may have. He needs also courage, wisdom, and tact, with a clear understanding



of all wants of the college. In his office he may do a great work for the institution, both within and without the college. The personality of the president impresses itself more continuously on the students than does that of any individual teacher, although the influence of the latter may at times be more intense on that part of the student-mind which he immediately reaches. The president is at the same time to represent the college abroad, and to attract to it, if he may, influence, confidence, and affectionate enthusiasm. It is not his province to solicit subscriptions by personal appeal, but rather to call such forth by beauty of character, by eminence in scholarship, and by relation to great public movements. It is of cardinal importance therefore, we think, that he be apt and able, competent and cultivated, for the service; and we find in him who is to be our president these qualities, we are sure, while we abundantly confide in his proved ability.

Of the five preceding presidents of Amherst College, every one has had some special fitness for his work, and every one has done memorable service. I have known all but the first of them, personally. The reputation which he left behind him has always represented President Moore as being justly eminent, as a scholar and as a teacher. Humphrey, Hitchcock, and Stearns had sweetness and strength, wisdom and grace, steadfastness of purpose and fervor of consecration. A large, rich, and generous character was manifested in each of them; but none has a higher place in our esteem and honor than he who last year felt constrained to retire from active duties, because of physical infirmity, but who is able to be with us to-day,

greatly to our delight. We hope that he may long reside here, and add constant benefit to the college by the wisdom of his counsels and by the splendor of his name.

The function of the Christian college was never more important than it is to-day. The materialistic tendencies of the age need to be instructed, elevated, purified, and restrained by the influence of such institutions. The multitude of questions pressing to the front in politics, science, religion, and social reform require the touch of precisely that influence which goes forth from the college, an influence which is continually gaining a wider reach. Let us never forget that American colleges, with the churches around them, the churches which have always hitherto been behind them, hold in their hands the future of civilization in this country—measurably in the world. Whatever adds to their equipment, fame, and power insures and hastens the coming of that day, foreseen by seers and promised by the Lord, which it is the glory of our age to be marching toward with strenuous and swift celerity,—the day of universal wisdom and righteousness, praise and peace. With unfeigned gladness, and gratitude to God for the opportunity, we welcome to the presidency of the college him whose fitness for the office and for its great services has been proved elsewhere, and in whose capacity and culture, in whose character and enthusiasm, we entirely and joyfully confide.

## ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT SEELYE.

PRESIDENT GATES: Fourteen years ago it was my privilege to receive upon this platform the charter and the keys of the college. It is now no less my privilege to transmit these same to your friendly and capable hands. Their surrender to your service signifies that you need no longer stand outside the college, but may enter within its innermost doors, which it now becomes your rightful province to open and to close. We are assured that you will ever keep these open to the truth and never close them against freedom. Truth and freedom—truth coming from whatever direction, and freedom knowing no bounds but those the truth has set—have ever been the light and the life of this college; and we do not doubt, from your work and worth, from your open eye and open heart, that they will continue to be the glory and the strength of your entire administration. May He who is the truth, and in whose Spirit alone there is freedom, clothe you and crown you with his constant fellowship, and give you increasing gladness and power in the work now committed to your hands; and may He bless the college with all good through all coming time!