

**SELECTED  
ADDRESSES  
AND ORATIONS**

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Selected addresses and orations by William F. Vilas

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**WILLIAM F. VILAS**

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ADDRESSES AND ORATIONS  
OF  
WILLIAM F. VILAS

*To seek the power of knowledge for the gains  
of mere selfishness, is criminal debasement; to  
accept its investiture for increase of usefulness  
among men, exalts and ennobles the soul.*

— FROM THE JUBILEE ADDRESS.

MADISON  
PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION  
1912

LOAN STACK

GIFT

E 173  
V 69

THIS VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED  
TO  
THE PERSONAL FRIENDS  
OF THE LATE  
WILLIAM F. VILAS  
BY HIS WIFE





“IN ALL THE POSITIONS TO WHICH HE WAS CALLED, IN ALL THE WORK WHICH HE UNDERTOOK, HE APPLIED HIMSELF TO THE DISCHARGE OF DUTY WITH AN ENERGY WHICH KNEW NO FLAGGING, WITH A DEVOTION WHICH KNEW NO TURNING, SPARING NEITHER HIMSELF NOR OTHERS THAT FAITH MIGHT BE KEPT AND DUTY PERFORMED. THIS CHARACTERISTIC RUNS THROUGH ALL HIS LIFE AND ILLUMINATES ALL HIS WORK. HE WAS, IT IS TRUE, AMBITIOUS; BUT IT WAS THE NOBLE AMBITION TO EXCEL. HE DESIRED PLACE AND POWER, NOT FROM SORDID MOTIVE, BUT FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY OFFERED FOR USEFULNESS. HE SOUGHT TO AID HIS KIND BY TEACHING THEM AND HELPING THEM TO HELP THEMSELVES. HE RECOGNIZED THE TRUTH THAT INDISCRIMINATE CHARITY IS HURTFUL BOTH TO THE GIVER AND TO THE RECEIVER, AND THAT THAT IS THE TRUE CHARITY WHICH AIDS TO BUILD UP INDEPENDENCE OF CHARACTER AND SELF-RELIANCE. WITH WISE STATESMANSHIP, HE SAW THAT THE BEST REMEDY FOR THE ILLS OF GOVERNMENT, THE TRUE SAFEGUARD FROM THE EVILS OF PASSION AND PREJUDICE, THE SURE FOUNDATION FOR MANLY INDEPENDENCE OF CHARACTER AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP, THE ANCHOR WHICH CAN HOLD THE SHIP OF STATE IN THE STORMS WHICH BESET HER, THE MAIN ESSENTIAL OF SUCCESS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, IS EDUCATION.”—*From the Memorial Address by the Honorable James G. Jenkins.*

