

**PROCEEDINGS AT THE
INAUGURATION: TOGETHER
WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE PRESIDENT OF UNION
COLLEGE, 1871-72**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649345212

Proceedings at the Inauguration: Together with the Annual Report of the President of Union College, 1871-72 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**PROCEEDINGS AT THE
INAUGURATION: TOGETHER
WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE PRESIDENT OF UNION
COLLEGE, 1871-72**

PROCEEDINGS
AS HELD
INAUGURATION,
TOGETHER WITH THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
President of Union College.
1871-72.

ALBANY, N. Y.:
J. MUNSELL, 82 STATE STREET,
1872.

ADDRESSES

DELIVERED

AT THE INAUGURATION

OF THE

REV. ELIPHALET NOTT POTTER, D.D., S.T.D.

President of Union College.

JUNE 26,

A.D. 1872.

INAUGURATION EXERCISES.

The formal inauguration of the Rev. Eliphalet Nott Potter D.D., S. T. D. as President of Union College, took place in the Presbyterian church at Schenectady, on the 26th of June, 1872.

The Hon. Ira Harris LL.D., chairman of the Board of Trustees of the College presided, and the exercises were opened with prayer, offered by the Rev. J. Trumbull Backus, D.D.

The Hon. chairman, as presiding officer, then said :

“ It is fifty years ago, this present summer, that I entered Union College. I found here the two most distinguished men connected with its history. They received me with great kindness and became my life-long friends. To-day it is my privilege and pleasure, as the organ of the Board of Trustees, to welcome their descendant and successor to the Presidential Chair.

At the Annual Meeting of the Board in June last, the Reverend Eliphalet Nott Potter, D.D., was unanimously elected President of Union College. His formal and public induction into office was appointed to take place at this time. We are now assembled for that purpose. The opening Address upon the occasion, on behalf of the Trustees, will be delivered by his excellency Governor Hoffman.

Gov. Hoffman spoke as follows :

“ I am glad to be here to-day at this inauguration of our new President, not only as one of the representatives of the state in the Board of Trustees of Union College, but as an alumnus whose heart is full of affection for his *Alma Mater*.

"As I stand here, how thick and fast memories of early days crowd upon me! Twenty-nine years ago I entered my class and witnessed for the first time the commencement exercises. The scene seems the same, and yet how changed! There were gathered here then a goodly array. Eliphalet Nott, Alonzo Potter, his chief of staff, Proudfit and Jackson, Reid and Yates, Foester and Pearson, and others of the Faculty, some now dead, some yet living. And there was one other whom I cannot omit to name. Perhaps some here remember him only as a tutor; poor William Kelly, a noble hearted fellow, who, not long after went down somewhere amid the waves of the broad Atlantic, and was never heard of more.

"And my classmates, where are they? How few are left of all who on that commencement day stood here. Those were among the palmy days of Union College, and she prospered greatly. Soon after that came her trials. Alonzo Potter was called away to another field of usefulness. The physical powers of President Nott yielded to advancing age, and our *Alma Mater*, which had leaned on him so trustingly, and whose steps he had guided so faithfully, faltered and staggered. Then came the war. Young men sought the battle field rather than college halls. Many gave up this union; some to save, some to destroy, if possible, another. Both, thank heaven, are preserved, and have before them a bright and glorious future.

"The death of President Nott was a great blow to our *Alma Mater*, and though not, we trust, irreparable, she has never yet fully recovered from it. But she will, and that now rapidly.

"It often happens in the state, when some commanding intellect is stricken down, that the people who had been guided and led by it, wait longingly and patiently for a new leader; until at length, some crisis brings forth the man.

“In the household, when the head and master is taken away, children stand by their sorrowing mother, left alone and hopeless, without a protector or a guide. Yet, when all hope seems dying out, some younger son often steps to the front, and all look up to him in trust and confidence as he takes his father’s place and does his work. So it is in all the spheres of life, and so it is here in old Union. We meet to-day to give public welcome to our new President, this our younger brother, Elihualeh North Potter, who unites in his own, the names of two distinguished men whose lives were identified with the college. In him we trust and believe, are blended also many of the virtues and traits of character which made them illustrious as teachers of youth and examples worthy of imitation. While I recognise the high character of our colleges in other parts of the country, yet, as governor of New York, and as an alumnus of old Union, I am proud to say that none of them has a more brilliant record in the past than she has; and that to-day she renews her youth and vigor. I welcome you, sir, thus publicly, to the Presidency of Union College. May your life be spared to witness new triumphs which will gladden the hearts of all her sons and to rejoice with them in her perfect and complete restoration to the greatness of other days.”

At the conclusion of Gov. Hoffman’s address, Judge Harris, addressing Doctor Potter, spoke as follows:

“And now Dr. Potter, in the name and on behalf of the corporate authorities of this institution, I salute you as President of Union College and commit to you its care and supervision. In performing this grateful service permit me to add my most cordial congratulations. In your person I recognize the representative of two most valued friends, the most honored names Union has ever known. I shall always hold them in grateful remembrance.