

**THE COMMENCEMENT  
ANNUAL OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN,  
VOL. 10, JUNE 26, 1890**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649474257

The Commencement Annual of the University of Michigan, Vol. 10, June 26, 1890 by W. F. Hubbard

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**W. F. HUBBARD**

**THE COMMENCEMENT  
ANNUAL OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN,  
VOL. 10, JUNE 26, 1890**



VOLUME 10.

JUNE 26, 1890.



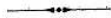
410322

THE

# COMMENCEMENT ANNUAL

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.



JUNIOUS E. BEAL,

PUBLISHER.

W. F. HUBBARD, Editor.



ANN ARBOR, MICH.

THE COURIER OFFICE, PRINTERS

1890.

---

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1880,

BY JUNIUS E. BEAL.

In the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.

---

## COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

### Baccalaureate Address.

BY PRESIDENT ANGELL.

#### THE HEROIC SPIRIT IN LIFE.

In reading the life of Jesus Christ in the Gospels, one is struck by the fact that while inviting men to be his disciples, he plainly instructed them that if they were to be his followers, and especially if they were to do conspicuous service in his name, they must cherish a brave and heroic spirit. In most impressive language he declared to them that they must practice self-denial, that they must make pleasure subservient to duty, that they might be called to sever the dearest ties of friendship and love. To some of them he foretold a violent death. To the scribe, who early in the ministry of Christ proposed to follow him whithersoever he should go, he said, "the foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head." To another man who proposed to follow him, but wished first to bury his dead, he uttered that astonishing command, "follow me, and let the dead bury their dead." When he sent out the twelve apostles, he announced to them in the clearest terms that they would be hated, delivered up to the councils, and scourged in the synagogues, that the brother should deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child. "Think not," he exclaimed, "that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. A man's foes shall be they of his own household."

Does it seem to you that language like this was ill-suited to attract followers to the great Teacher? But he practiced no devices to secure disciples. His aim was to make known the truth. He wanted no followers save those who were willing to accept the truth and shape their lives by it. Yet he did not altogether lack for disciples. Many indeed like the rich young man, whom he directed to give away all his possessions to the poor, found his sayings too hard, and went not after him. But he did find men of the very sort he was seeking. A little company gathered about him who were willing to share his privations, to confront the contumely of men, to endure persecution, and at last to be stretched upon the cross, or to bow their heads to the executioner's sword.

And this fact is in accord with what we see everywhere. The call for men of heroic spirit brings heroes to the front. Who ever knew to go unanswered the call of the military commander for men to lead "the forlorn hope," and to make the most desperate charge? Danger itself has a charm for the brave. The sailor is fascinated by the very perils of the sea. The soldier who cannot be hired to serve in time of peace and safety gladly volunteers for the service of death. There is a heroic spirit in men of brave and noble soul that makes them welcome hard and honorable service. Obedience to duty is the regnant spirit of true hearts. Pile up obstacles in their path of duty, and you stimulate rather than quench their zeal. If our Lord had promised easy and luxurious service, he might have been followed by an army of weaklings or sybarites. But he wanted men, bold, true, faithful, large-hearted men, who should endure to the end. Therefore he softened no feature in his picture of the life of those who were to do his work. He set forth in detail the trials which they should undergo. He bade them count the cost before they enlisted under his banner. So it came to pass that this band of twelve proved themselves with a single exception the royal souls of Judea, who laid so deep and



strong the foundations of his church that the gates of hell have not prevailed against it.

He did indeed promise them divine help in their great tasks. He even assured them that his yoke was easy and his burden light, and so they are to those who are in spiritual harmony with him, even when their trials are gravest. The martyrs sang hymns of joy in the midst of the flames. His gracious words of comfort were not intended to kill out the heroic spirit in men, rather to make heroism easy and glorious. God's service does not rob man of the highest qualities of manhood, but rather calls them into action and develops them to perfection. The belief once cherished that Christianity values only the passive virtues, that it can endure and suffer, but not achieve, is utterly false. It is to conquer the world, not alone by resisting evil and bearing persecution, but also by the aggressive virtue of going forth with its glorious messages and carrying them to the ends of the earth. It is not to win its victories by sitting patiently behind theological breastworks and awaiting attack, but by sallying forth from its redoubts and storming the strongholds of sin. The loftiest, most vigorous, most manly type of character must be the Christian character. It must have the heroic spirit which is ready both to bear and to do hard things for the sake of the truth.

Times have changed since our Lord was on earth. In this land at least men are not often persecuted for righteousness' sake. Many of the trials of his apostles are not our trials. Nevertheless every life now has its obstacles and its trials. Now as then no man who has not something of the heroic spirit can expect very signal success in life. None of us have been chosen for such preeminent work as fell to the twelve elect companions of Christ. But surely you, who have been by a kind Providence set apart for years from the ordinary cares of life to complete a course of special training here, are elect men and women in such a sense that you are under the exceptional re-

sponsibility which flows from the enjoyment of exceptional opportunities. You are called to high and special service. I venture to believe that not one of you purposes to be a mere dilettante, to float lazily down the stream of life, without an active effort to reach some worthy goal. Every one of you feels that his real work in life is now truly to begin, and every one is burning to make a good beginning. At the first blast of the trumpet of war in '61, how quickly the halls of this University and of every college in the land were emptied of students, who heard the call for heroic sacrifice. Happily peace reigns now, but the air is resonant with calls for men of heroic mould to enter upon every worthy vocation, and the civic life of to-day has scope enough for the best endeavor of every heroic spirit. Let us see what are some of the demands which life is to make on you for lofty purpose, manly courage and strenuous toil, if you are to render worthy service.

1. Those homely virtues, patience and industry, are required in abundant measure, especially in the years just before you. To persons who are ardent in temperament, ambitious of success, ready for toil, and conscious of power to perform difficult tasks, there come few experiences in life harder to bear than the enforced waiting for opportunities to exercise one's gifts, which so often marks the beginning of one's professional career. The painful stillness of the freshly rented office, unbroken by the welcome intrusion of any client or patient, wears on the restless spirits like solitary imprisonment. The loneliness of the wilderness is more cheerful than this solitude among men. The young graduate, with his teacher's diploma in hand, sits scanning the horizon round in quest of that ideal school board which is willing to take a teacher "without experience," and he sadly wonders how one is ever to gain any experience, except that of hope deferred. If I refer to my own personal experience, it is because I hope it may furnish a ray of comfort in the coming months to some one of you. The most wretched weeks of all my life were

those immediately following my graduation, when I sought in vain an opportunity to give instruction on any subject to anybody. To feel that apparently after all your trouble to prepare yourself for usefulness, the great, selfish, busy, greedy world has no use for you, cares nothing for you, halts not for a moment to express the least sympathy for you, much less to help you, this tries of what stuff you are made. But my trial came to an end by my receiving after a time and gladly accepting a call to teach one half blind boy at a salary of four hundred dollars a year, and so I gained experience if not wealth. I counsel you in such circumstances to take any position, however humble, if you are competent to fill it, rather than to sit in idleness bemoaning your bad fortune. To fill a humble position well is the best way to secure a call to a higher position. And in due time you will all find your opportunities. But whatever pursuit you undertake, you will do well to enter upon it with the heroic purpose to maintain your courage and persistence through those trying days of slow progress, which are generally encountered at the beginning of a professional career.

If patience is required at the beginning, a heroic spirit of trial is needed to carry one on to the heights of eminent success. In the sharp and pitiless competitions of American life, even the most gifted men can hold positions at the front in such callings as most of you are likely to follow only by strenuous, systematic, incessant toil. Perhaps no error is more common to persons at your stage in life than to suppose that brilliancy of intellect will suffice for them without hard work. No justification for this belief is found in the careers of great scholars, great merchants, great engineers, great physicians, or great lawyers. With few exceptions the most brilliant men have achieved solid and lasting results only by the most prolonged and arduous toil. Occasional dashes of hard work, what the boating men would call spurts in the race, are easily made under some temporary excitement. But it is the oarsmen