

**THE INAUGURATION OF  
WILLIAM ALLAN NEILSON, PH.D.,  
LL.D., AS PRESIDENT OF SMITH  
COLLEGE, THE THIRTEENTH OF  
JUNE, MCMXVIII**

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The Inauguration of William Allan Neilson, PH.D., LL.D., as President of Smith College, the Thirteenth of June, Mcmxviii by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTES

### BIOGRAPHICAL

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 14, 1917, William Allan Neilson, Professor of English at Harvard University, was elected President of Smith College, succeeding Marion LeRoy Burton, who had resigned to become President of the University of Minnesota. Though his inauguration was postponed until the following spring, President Neilson entered at once upon the duties of his office.

William Allan Neilson was born in 1869 in the village of Doune, Perthshire, Scotland, where his father was schoolmaster. He prepared for college at Montrose Academy, and was graduated from Edinburgh University with honors in philosophy. Receiving a travelling fellowship in education, he crossed the Atlantic and spent some time visiting schools and colleges in the United States and Canada.

During the next four years he was English Master in Upper Canada College, Toronto, a position he resigned in 1895 to enter the Graduate School of Harvard, where he held a Morgan Fellowship. After taking the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Harvard, Mr. Neilson went to Bryn Mawr as Associate in English, returning to teach at Harvard in 1900. Four years later he was called to Columbia University, where he served as Adjunct Professor and Professor from 1904 to 1906, lecturing also in Barnard College. From 1906 to 1917 he was Professor of English at Harvard and Radcliffe. In the summer of 1909 President Neilson lectured at the University of California, and in 1914-15 in Paris at the Sorbonne as Exchange Pro-

fessor. At the close of his courses there he received the medal of the University of Paris in recognition of his services to the University in war-time.

President Neilson's activities in English scholarship have covered a wide field; he has lectured and published in the Mediæval, the Elizabethan, and the Modern periods. Apart from special articles, he has written these books: "The Origins and Sources of the Court of Love," a study in mediæval allegory; "Essentials of Poetry," lectures delivered at the Lowell Institute in Boston; "The Facts about Shakespeare" (with Professor Thorndike); and "Burns, How to Know Him," which has recently appeared. As editor he is responsible for a number of school editions of Milton and Shakespeare, for the new text of Shakespeare in "The Cambridge Poets," the only complete text constructed in America since Grant White's; for the "Chief Elizabethan Dramatists," and the "Chief British Poets of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries" (with Professor Webster). He is joint general editor of the Tudor Shakespeare; general editor of the series of Types of English Literature; and he collaborated with President Eliot in the editing of the Harvard Classics.

His most important work in the Harvard Graduate School has been the directing of research in the field of modern literature. He has been President of the New England Association of Teachers of English, Vice-President of the American Folk-Lore Society, and of the Modern Language Association of America, and he is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

#### CONCERNING THE INAUGURATION

At President Neilson's request, the Inauguration took place during commencement week, and was ob-



served with war-time simplicity. No invitations were extended to other institutions, and no honorary degrees were conferred. The only official guests were representatives of the Alumnae Association and alumnae clubs. On the evening before the Inauguration the *Carmen Sæculare* was sung by members of the Freshman class. The Inaugural Exercises were held on the morning of June 13, and were followed by a buffet luncheon for guests, trustees, and members of the faculty. In the evening President and Mrs. Neilson received both Inauguration and Commencement guests in the Browsing Room of the Library. Simple as these observances were, they were full of spirit and interest, indicating truly the rejoicing of Smith College in entering upon the new administration.

## ORDER OF THE EXERCISES

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### ORDER OF THE PROCESSION

THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESIDENT EMERITUS  
THE GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE AND THE CITY  
THE TRUSTEES  
THE SPEAKERS  
THE FACULTY

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### ORDER OF THE INAUGURATION EXERCISES

#### ORGAN PROCESSIONAL

"Grand Chœur" . . . . . Dubois

#### INVOCATION

The Reverend Laureus Clark Seelye, D. D., LL. D.,  
President Emeritus of Smith College

#### THE INDUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Trustees of Smith College  
The Honorable Charles Nathaniel Clark, A. M.,  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Smith College

#### THE RESPONSE OF THE PRESIDENT

#### ADDRESS

Charles William Eliot, LL. D., M. D., Ph. D., President  
Emeritus of Harvard University

#### HYMN

"O God, our help in ages past" . . . "St. Anne"  
O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our help for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home. Amen.

**ADDRESSES OF GREETING**

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
His Excellency Samuel Walker McCall, LL. D.,  
Governor of Massachusetts

On behalf of the Faculty  
John Tappan Stoddard, Ph. D., Senior Professor of  
the Faculty

On behalf of the Alumnae  
Elizabeth Cutter Morrow, B. L., President of the  
Alumnae Association

On behalf of the Undergraduates  
Alison Loomis Cook, of the Class of 1918, Former  
President of the Student Council