

**THE INAUGURATION OF ERNEST  
FOX NICHOLS, D. SC., LL. D., AS  
PRESIDENT OF DARTMOUTH  
COLLEGE, OCTOBER 14, 1909, PP.  
1-157**

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The Inauguration of Ernest Fox Nichols, D. Sc., LL. D., as President of Dartmouth College,  
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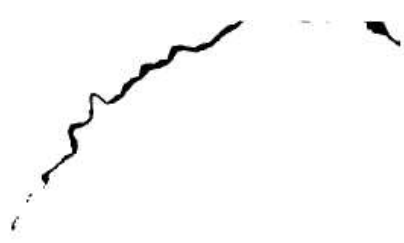
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**ERNEST MARTIN HOPKINS**

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE INAUGURATION  
OF PRESIDENT NICHOLS**



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 Ernest Fox Nichols

THE INAUGURATION OF  
ERNEST FOX NICHOLS  
D. Sc., LL. D.  
AS PRESIDENT OF  
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

OCTOBER 14, 1909



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## INTRODUCTION

On April 6, 1907, President Tucker forwarded to the trustees of Dartmouth College his letter of resignation and asked that it be accepted at the earliest possible time. However, at the insistent solicitation of the trustees, he consented in a later note, written May 11, to withhold this letter and to retain the presidency under the necessary limitations of his illness, until such time as the board could study the educational field and make intelligent choice of his successor.

On June 8, 1909, the trustees met in Concord and by unanimous vote elected Professor Ernest Fox Nichols, D. Sc., to be the tenth president of Dartmouth College. Dr. Nichols was at that time professor of experimental physics at Columbia University in the City of New York, and he had been formerly for five years, from 1898, professor of physics at Dartmouth. In his chosen field he had taken high rank and his work had received wide appreciation in this country and abroad, and meanwhile he had interested himself in administrative problems of education and had shown executive ability of distinctive sort. The announcement of his election was immediately made in the papers of June 9, and the news of the action of the trustees received cordial indorsement from the Dartmouth constituency and from the educational world at large.

It was agreed by the trustees and Dr. Nichols, after election had been made, that the President-elect should take up the active duties of the presidency immediately at the time which President Tucker had designated for his withdrawal from office,—July 15, the close of the fiscal year. It was further the opinion of the trustees that arrangements should be made for the formal induction into office of President-elect Nichols as early as should be practicable in the fall. To this end a committee was appointed to arrange for and have charge of the exercises of the inauguration, consisting of Frank S. Streeter, Esq., Chairman, Charles F. Mathewson, Esq., Mr. Henry H. Hilton, and the Reverend President Francis Brown. The Secretary of the College was made secretary of the committee.

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## INTRODUCTION

The committee proceeded at once to take the matter in charge and to formulate plans. Formal meetings were held on Commencement Day, June 30, in Hanover, and at Concord, July 10. At all times, by informal meetings and by correspondence, the members of the committee were in close touch with each other.

It was decided to hold the inaugural on October 14. An earlier date probably would have been chosen but for the desire not to anticipate Harvard's like event, already announced for the week before. It was determined not to have the exercises extend beyond the limits of one day, and it was voted to invite the chairman of the alumni committee on funds for the new gymnasium, Mr. Edward K. Hall, '92, to arrange for the laying of the corner stone of the new building as an event of the exercises of inaugural day. After careful discussion the committee planned for the program of the day as it finally appeared.

The committee requested that Professor Craven Laycock consent to act as marshal of the day, and he was authorized to choose such assistants as might be needed by him. The music necessary to the proceedings was put under the charge of the Musical Director of the College, Professor Charles H. Morse. Professor Homer E. Keyes was asked to take charge of the printing necessary for the occasion. It was voted that the Secretary of the College be *ex officio* a member of all committees which should be appointed.

The local arrangements were put into the hands of three associate committees, chosen from the faculty, and their cordial and efficient co-operation in all things was one of the most vital factors in making the details complete. Their organization was as follows:

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.

PROFESSOR CHARLES F. EMERSON, Chairman.  
PROFESSOR HARRY E. BURTON. PROFESSOR JOHN H. GEROULD.

## DINNER COMMITTEE.

PROFESSOR FRANK H. DIXON, Chairman.  
PROFESSOR FRANK A. UPDYKE. PROFESSOR HOMER E. KEYES.

## RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM PATTEN, Chairman.  
PROFESSOR GEORGE D. LORD. PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BOLSER.

Invitations to be represented at the inauguration were sent to each of the New England institutions of higher learning, to each of those on the approved list of the Carnegie Foundation, to the State universities, to the principal denominational colleges and universities, to the best known theological seminaries, to several of the leading preparatory schools, and to a few other educational institutions. Invitations were also sent to the alumni associations and clubs of the College in the various cities and states, to the senior class in the College, and to delegations from the other classes and the Associated Schools. A general invitation also was sent to the alumni and a large representation of these planned attendance, making arrangements to come and go on special sleeping cars in order to leave all the room in Hanover available for the entertainment of guests.

In arranging to extend courtesies the community was most kind, and everywhere the houses were opened and guests were received to the maximum capacity. The Inn likewise was crowded to its limit, as were Massachusetts and Richardson Halls, available through the courtesy of the students. The genuineness of the spirit of hospitality among the members of the faculty and the friends in the village made entertainment easy and the graciousness of the guests made all things delightful.

The morning of the inaugural was one of Hanover's perfect mornings. A clear sky, a bright sun, and a crisp air made the ideal fall day which had been so much desired. At an early hour the arrival of alumni and delegates from the trains in which they had slept and the stir of visitors about the streets gave the village an unwonted appearance, suggesting the events to come. At half past nine the peal of bells began to ring the call to Morning Prayers, which was the first of the exercises of the day. Professor John K. Lord presided, and the service was simple and dignified. The seating was so arranged that upon the emptying of the seats into the aisles, under the direction of the marshal and his assistants, the order was that desired for the various sections of the academic procession. There was therefore little delay in taking up the march to Webster Hall. The procession was led by the College band. Behind came the student representatives of the college and the Associated Schools, dressed in cap and gown, and acting as an escort for the line which followed,—the trustees with the speak-

ers and the recipients of honorary degrees, the delegates and guests, the faculty, the alumni. All except the alumni were in academic costume. The line of march was from the Chapel to the southwest corner of the Green, then sharp to the left to the corner opposite Bissell Hall, then to the left again, straight along the east side of the Green, into Webster Hall. Upon reaching this building the student escort stood in split ranks, and the procession entered marching between these.

Within, the College choir and orchestra were seated upon the platform in the apse; on the lower platform the trustees, speakers, and recipients of honorary degrees were seated upon the east side, and the President-elect and the faculty were upon the west side; in the middle of this platform rested a small one, upon which was the chair which became the President's place after his formal induction into office. The delegates were seated along the center aisle of the floor, and on each side of the delegates and behind them sat the seniors and student delegates. Beneath the galleries the alumni had their places, and in the galleries ladies of the college community and some of the guests had seats. The auditorium presented a brilliant and impressive spectacle with the display of colors, shown in the costumes of college officers and delegates, in the midst of the dignified black of the student garb. The exercises proceeded according to the order arranged, but especial mention should be made of the excellence of the music, prepared under the direction of Professor Morse and rendered by the College choir and orchestra.

The informal lunch in College Hall was attractively served, and afforded pleasant opportunity for an intermingling of guests and hosts. From the luncheon many went to visit the various buildings which it was their desire to see.

The exercises at the laying of the corner stone of the new gymnasium were as distinctive in their way as were those of the morning. The affair had been carefully arranged by the chairman of the committee on funds, Mr. Hall, and his painstaking oversight was evident at every point. Moreover the definite promise to Dartmouth men of the early realization of the vision, long held by a few, gave spontaneous enthusiasm which permeated all the proceedings, and while in songs and cheers the undergraduates expressed appreciation of that which was to be, the alumni joined with consciousness of the blessing which comes to those who give.