

**HOME AND COLLEGE: A PUBLIC
ADDRESS DELIVERED IN THE HALL
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES, MARCH 8,
1860**

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Home and College: A Public Address Delivered in the Hall of the Massachusetts House of representatives, March 8, 1860 by F. D. Huntington

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F. D. HUNTINGTON

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A

PUBLIC ADDRESS

DELIVERED IN THE HALL OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

March 8, 1860.

BY F. D. HUNTINGTON,

PREACHER TO THE UNIVERSITY, AND PLUMMER PROFESSOR OF  
CHRISTIAN MORALS IN HARVARD COLLEGE.

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## HOME AND COLLEGE.

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THE subject that I have been requested to bring before you, my friends and fellow-citizens, has been already announced in the notice that has called us together. It falls into place in a series of earnest inquiries as to the proper powers and methods of early education, and belongs especially to that department of this great theme which pertains to the Family. The precise question before us is this: What connection has the discipline of the child in his first years with his

safety, success, and character in the public seminary, where he is sent to enter on the higher branches of scholarship? Such seminaries are of different grades, names, and objects. The College may be taken as the representative of them all.

The statement of the question supposes that such an institution has a distinctive and easily recognized constitution; that the life lived in it is a peculiar kind of life, with its own forces and perils; and that certain conditions of honor, happiness, and usefulness are found there which justify a special consideration.

Of the College this is unquestionably true. More than most other forms of social living, it is a world within itself.



It has a local government ; a characteristic public sentiment ; a body of traditional notions, maxims, and usages, purely conventional, handed down from class to class, and exerting an almost inevitable influence on every member. To a great extent, unless favored by accidental associations in the neighborhood, the students are removed from general society, and for a large part of the year they are with hardly anybody but each other. They will have their own humors, fashions, politics, and prejudices. The compactness of the population, the pride of the place, and the quickness of youthful sensibility, render them very sympathetic, and sensitive to any impression affecting their repute, passions, or interests ; while

the moods produced are apt to be changeable in proportion to their intensity. Of course, in such a spot, besides the stimulus and the obstacles, the temptation and the support, common to humanity everywhere, there will be some singular conditions of comfort, of enjoyment, and of moral security and progress.

The other scene of culture that our topic presents to us is the Family. This is the primitive and simplest type of social life. It is permanent and divine, — an institution fraught with greater blessings to man than any other beneath the heavens, except the Church, — a nursery of the Church itself, and the chosen symbol of the whole spiritual creation of the Father. It was clearly the design

of the Maker of our manifold and marvelous organization that man should live in a Home. His faculties cannot unfold symmetrically and healthily save in its genial air, and amidst its varied and delicate system of dependencies, affections, amenities, and authorities. Something will always be wanting to the completeness of a character reared without this nurture,—some strength, or refinement, or other element of maturity. As civilization rises, the home grows sacred, becoming not only man's castle, but his conservatory, gallery, library, music-room, and oratory. With the school-house, the shop, and the sanctuary, it takes its place as one of the four representative structures of a cultivated and Christian state.