

**THREE PHI BETA KAPPA
ADDRESSES; A COLLEGE FETICH,
1883; "SHALL CROMWELL HAVE A
STATUE?", 1902; SOME MODERN
COLLEGE TENDENCIES, 1906**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649048519

Three Phi Beta Kappa Addresses; A College Fetich, 1883; "Shall Cromwell Have a Statue?", 1902; Some Modern College Tendencies, 1906 by Charles Francis Adams

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CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS

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HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY

BOSTON AND NEW YORK

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HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY
The Riverside Press, Cambridge
1907

124004
5-19/12

2011 112

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Published April 1907

PREFACE

THE reason of this republication at the present time is sufficiently explained in the beginning of the third of the addresses (pp. 101-3). It is in the nature of a record. Fifty years after graduation from Harvard, I am closing a term of service on its Board of Overseers extending over half that period. The first of the three Phi Beta Kappa addresses, — A College Fetich, — when delivered at Cambridge nearly a quarter of a century ago, excited active discussion; and, when the third address, that entitled Some Modern College Tendencies, was delivered in New York in June last, it appeared that the earlier effort had not yet been altogether forgotten. Long out of print, the recollection of it was decidedly vague; and, both in the comments of the press and in private, it was assumed that between the two addresses there was a wide divergence of view, — the opinions entertained in 1883 were referred to as distinctly at variance with those expressed in 1906.

Had I during those intervening years seen any reason for a change of view, I should not for a moment have hesitated in giving utterance to the later and more matured beliefs; for consistency in these matters is apt to be indicative of little else than either an inability or an unwillingness to observe and to learn. In those three and twenty years, also, a great many things happened. It so chances, however, that in this particular case there was no inconsistency between the two utterances, no change or modification of view. The ad-

dress of 1906 was merely a development, both natural and logical, of the ideas and conclusions set forth in the address of 1883. That this is so, is best shown by printing the two together. Hence this publication.

In reproducing these papers, parts of paragraphs here and there, notably on pages twenty-one and forty-three, have been recast, and a few verbal changes have elsewhere been made; but in no case has the sense of the original utterance been altered, or in the least modified. The work of revision has been confined strictly to modes of expression.

Two of the three Phi Beta Kappa addresses relate to educational topics; the second (pp. 49-97) was devoted to another subject. It is here included simply because it was delivered before a chapter of the Fraternity, and, at the time, attracted attention. I have since seen no occasion to modify the views expressed in it. The three remaining speeches and papers are included because, relating to Harvard University, they round out a record, now nearing its end, of personal and official connection with it.

C. F. A.

LINCOLN, MASS., *January 14, 1907.*

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