

**A MEMORIAL ADDRESS, DELIVERED
IN LIBRARY HALL, JANUARY 11TH,
1875, "FOUNDER'S DAY.": IN
COMMEMORATION OF THE LIFE AND
CHARACTER OF EZRA CORNELL**

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A Memorial Address, Delivered in Library Hall, January 11th, 1875, "Founder's Day.": In commemoration of the life and character of Ezra Cornell by Rufus P. Stebbins

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RUFUS P. STEBBINS

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MEMORIAL ADDRESS,

DELIVERED IN LIBRARY HALL,

January 11th, 1875,

“FOUNDER’S DAY.”

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

Ezra Cornell,

Founder of the Cornell University.

Phineas
BY RUFUS P. STEBBINS,

Pastor of the First Unitarian Church.

ITHACA:
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.
1875.

18 Oct., 1898.

Gift of

Rev. John D. Wells (57)

ORDER OF SERVICES ON FOUNDER'S DAY,

JANUARY 11th, 1875.

Prayer,

REV. THEO. F. WHITE, D. D.

Memorial Address,

REV. RUFUS P. STEBBINS, D. D.

Founder's Hymn.

FRANK M. FINCH, ESQ., sung by the audience, a double quartette
leading.

Dismission.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ITHACA, Dec. 19, 1874.

REV. RUFUS P. STEBBINS, D. D.,

Dear Sir:—The undersigned, Trustees of Cornell University, respectfully ask you to deliver an address in Library Hall, on the evening of Founder's Day, on the life and character of our lamented Founder, Ezra Cornell.

JOHN MCGRAW,
J. B. WILLIAMS,
GEO. W. SCHUYLER,
J. H. SELKREG,
F. M. FINCH,
S. D. HALLIDAY.

ITHACA, Dec. 21, 1874.

MESSRS. JOHN MCGRAW, J. B. WILLIAMS, GEO. W. SCHUYLER, S. D. HALLIDAY, J. H. SELKREG and F. M. FINCH, *Trustees of Cornell University*:—

Your letter of the 19th inst. is before me, inviting me: "to deliver an address in Library Hall, on the evening of Founder's Day, on the Life and Character of our lamented Founder, Ezra Cornell."

Some of you, if not all of you, are aware that it has been my most ardent desire that the President of the University should speak this word on that day; and nothing could induce me to accept his and your invitation to do so but the knowledge that previous engagements rendered it impossible for him to do it, and that he would avail himself of another and more distant occasion to honor the memory of the departed.

Gentlemen, I accept your invitation in the humble hope that I may be able to speak a word not entirely unworthy of the subject and the day.

Very respectfully yours,

RUFUS P. STEBBINS.

THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY, PRESIDENT'S ROOMS,
Ithaca, N. Y., June 29, 1875.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR:—

In behalf of the Trustees of the Cornell University, I have the honor to request of you for publication a copy of your address upon the life, character and services of the late Ezra Cornell, delivered on Founder's Day of the present year.

I remain, very respectfully and truly yours,

ANDREW D. WHITE, President, &c.

REV. RUFUS P. STEBBINS, D. D., Ithaca, N. Y.

CLINTON HOUSE, ITHACA, N. Y., July 1, 1875.

HON. ANDREW D. WHITE,

PRESIDENT OF THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY:—

My Dear Sir:—I place at your disposal the MS. of my address upon the life and character of the late Ezra Cornell, founder and lover of our University, in the hope that it may not be wholly unworthy of his memory and that it may inspire other ardent souls to do likewise.

Most truly yours,

RUFUS P. STEBBINS.

HON. PRESIDENT WHITE.

ADDRESS.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees and Professors of the Cornell University, Members of the Corporation and Board of Trustees of Cornell Library Association, Students and Fellow Citizens :—

The drapery at the entrance of this Hall and about it, this vacant chair, wreathed with both crape and flowers, to symbolize not only the grief but the pleasant memories it awakens, and our own subdued feeling,—all announce the Day and the cause of our assembling. The day is "Founder's Day," which ceaseth from this time henceforth to be a day of salutation and becometh a day of Memorial. The cause of our assembling is to commemorate him. For the time has come in which we may freely speak our words of honor and gratitude. The flood of the first great grief which overwhelmed us all at the death of our honored Founder and citizen has had time to subside. In the midst of its first overflow, no one felt either able or disposed to speak many words of our loss, or of his life and character. Tears, silence and hand-clasps were the tributes which were rendered on that great day of mourning. However much many of our citizens might have desired to hear just words of commemoration spoken, no tongue could be loosed on that day, the lips of all were silent.

The sorrows, and griefs, and desolations of the bereaved household, also, demanded from us the opportunity to shed their tears in retirement, and to unite with a few chosen friends in the solemnities of that sad hour, in the privacy of their own home. Their choice was as impera-