

**ADDRESSES AT THE CELEBRATION
OF THE COMPLETION OF THE
TWENTY-FIFTH ACADEMIC YEAR
OF VASSAR COLLEGE, JUNE,
1890**

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Addresses at the Celebration of the Completion of the Twenty-Fifth Academic Year of Vassar
College, June, 1890 by Various

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VARIOUS

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It seemed fitting to the Board of Trustees of Vassar College to celebrate its twenty-fifth year of academic life, not merely as a recognition of its own work and history, but as recalling an event marking an epoch in the education of woman. A plan was arranged designed to embody both these aims. In addition to the usual exercises of Commencement week, a day was set apart for the anniversary exercises, the programme of which follows on another page. It provided beside for an address on Commencement Day by the President of the College, for a reception to the guests by the Trustees and Faculty, for a reunion of Alumnae and former students, and for a dinner to the Alumnae. The festivities continued from Monday till Thursday night. There were present delegates from many universities and colleges, large numbers of former students, and hundreds of other guests.

The week will be long remembered by all who were present, and the Trustees issue the addresses herewith printed as a memorial of it.

Exercises in the tent, Thursday, June 12, 1890.

PROGRAMME.

Overture—Magic Flute, *Mozart.*

PRAYER.

Address of Welcome, *The President.*

Historical Address, *Benson J. Lossing, LL. D.*

Solo and Chorus—From Hymn of Praise, *Mendelssohn.*

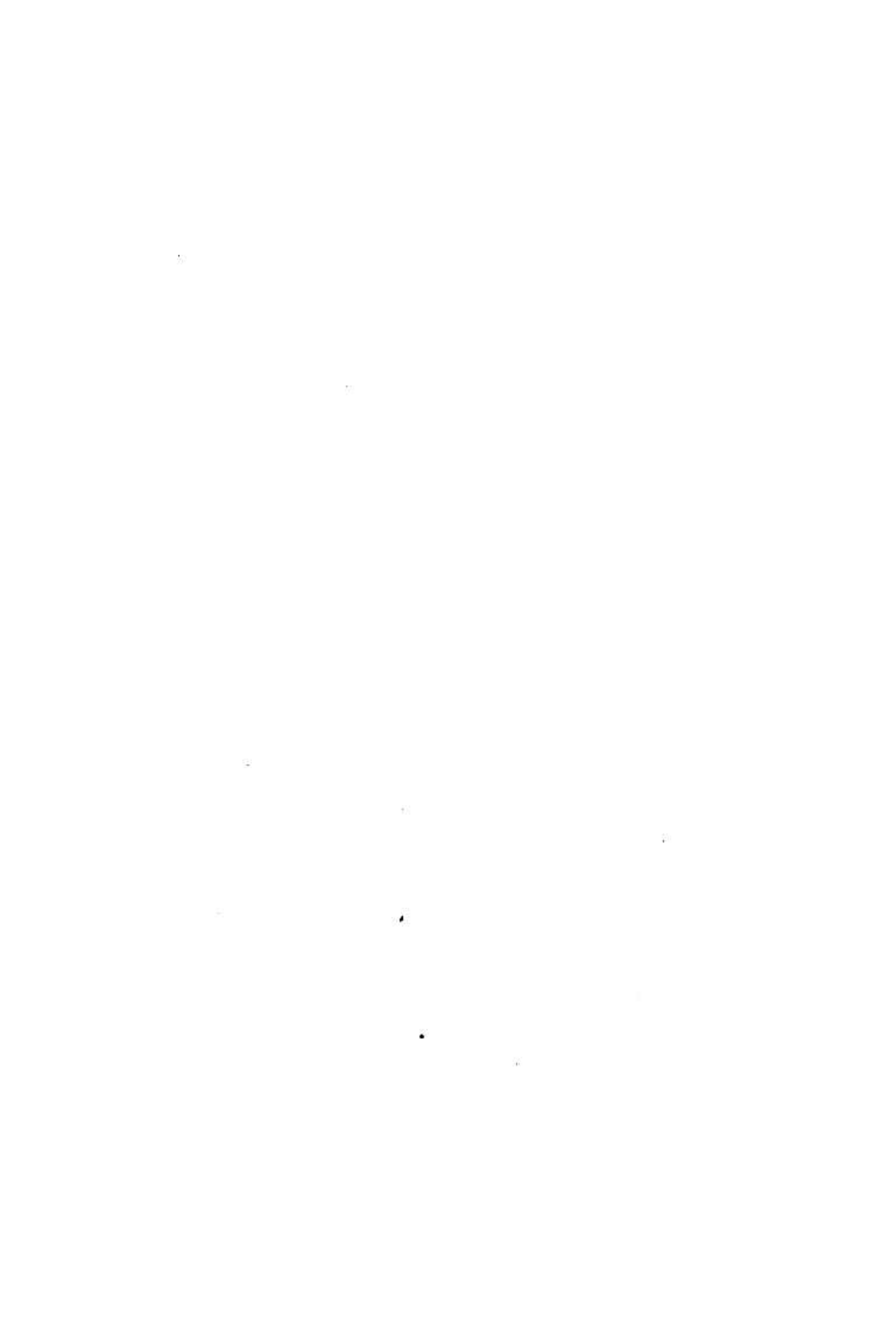
Address,
Chancellor George William Curtis, LL.D., L.H.D.

Cantata (composed for the occasion)
"I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart."—*Psalm IX.*
. *Frederic Louis Ritter, Mus. Doc.*

BENEDICTION.

March—From Athalie, *Mendelssohn.*

The music was furnished by the orchestra of the German Opera Company, of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York. The singing was by a chorus of eighty students, under Dr. Ritter's direction.



ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

*Mr. President, Representatives of Universities
and Colleges, Alumna of Vassar College,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

It is my proud privilege to welcome you to-day in the name of Vassar College, to participate in the exercises which mark the completion of twenty-five years of academic life. That, in itself, would have been small reason for asking you to leave your homes and work to come and rejoice with us. Twenty-five years in the life of an institution is but infancy; but this twenty-five years in the great movement of woman's education marks an era in all educational history. That which many of our mothers and fathers had longed to see, and never saw; that which good men and women had tried to realize in the face of unbelief and an unprepared world, was at last made possible by a woman's word and Matthew Vassar's splendid gift.

A great movement never springs full-armed from the brain of time. Sporadic efforts gather

at last into a great endeavor; streams of tendency unite in an irresistible flood: then we have an epoch. We gather to-day to celebrate that epoch, the beginnings of the higher education of woman as a distinct force in the world, as a movement designed to influence educational theory and practice in all time to come. Not to a college celebration, save as the inception of that college marks the epoch, but to the commemoration of twenty-five years of a history full of significance and hope for the world—your history as well as ours—we have called you together.

We rejoice together in the triumph of our cause; we gain fresh courage for the morrow as we remember what has been done in a single generation.

Welcome, then, from east and west, from south and north, welcome to this hour which is also yours. Welcome to this registering of a great victory over prejudice and traditional wrong. Welcome to the commemoration of this great progress in which we are all sharers,

and whose fruitage is of eternal import. In the name of the College I bid you welcome, —aye, in his name who would rejoice in this great day could he have foreseen the growth of a cause to which he gave his treasure and himself.