

**ADDRESSES AT THE
INAUGURATION OF JARED
SPARKS, AS PRESIDENT OF
HARVARD COLLEGE, WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 20, 1849, PP. 1-58**

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Addresses at the Inauguration of Jared Sparks, as president of Harvard College, Wednesday,
June 20, 1849, pp. 1-58 by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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Harvard university.
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ADDRESSES

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2175
1849

AT THE

INAUGURATION

166

OF

JARED SPARKS, LL. D.,

AS



PRESIDENT OF HARVARD COLLEGE,

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1849.

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NOTICE.

THE close connection of Harvard College with the intellectual culture of this community, from the first settlement of the country, has made the institution an object of interest, pride, and hope to the friends of education, science, and letters. Coeval with the State, the College has grown with its growth and strengthened with its strength. The munificence of enlightened citizens has enlarged its means of usefulness from time to time, expanding the school our fathers founded into a University, which embraces a comprehensive range of instruction and research in almost every branch of literature, science, and professional studies.

The office of President becomes, under these circumstances, one of ever-increasing importance, requiring weight of character, great experience, various learning, comprehensive views, and a clear insight into the literary and scientific progress and wants of the times. The scope of liberal education enlarges with the enlarging spirit of intellectual culture, which marks the character of an age of unexampled intellectual activity. Wisely to conduct an institution for public education in such a period, so as, on the one hand, not to yield too much to plausible innovations, and, on the other hand, not to stand too rigidly by the condition of things in the past, is a task requiring firmness, moderation, persuasive powers, and a conciliating spirit.

The choice of a President must therefore be a matter of great responsibility to the appointing power. It has been the good fortune of Harvard College, for many years past, that

BURTON HIST. COLLECTION

DETROIT

EXCISE & SUGGATE

when a vacancy in the presidency occurred, the man to fill it was so clearly designated by the consenting voices of the public and the friends of the College, as to secure a rare degree of unanimity in making the choice. After the long and able administration of Mr. Quincy, there could be no doubt in any quarter who should be selected to take his place. And when Mr. Everett, admonished by failing health of the necessity of retiring from the arduous labors of the presidency, sent in his resignation, after three years of unsurpassed devotion to the highest good of the institution, the eminent position of Mr. Sparks in the literature of the country, and his connection with the College in an important department of instruction, distinctly pointed him out as the successor. The appointment, having been made by the Corporation, was confirmed at the earliest practicable moment by the Overseers, and Wednesday, the 20th day of June, was fixed upon for the ceremony of inauguration.

* A joint committee of arrangements was appointed, consisting of the Hon. S. A. Eliot and J. A. Lowell, Esq., on the part of the Corporation, and of Professor Felton, Professor Lovering, Tutor Hartwell, of the immediate government, Dr. Webster of the Medical School, and W. G. Stearns, Esq., the College Steward. Heretofore the inauguration has been held in the forenoon, and the Alumni and invited guests have dined together in one of the public halls. But the immense throng that attended the last inauguration made it impossible to include the undergraduates in the arrangement for the dinner. After much consideration, the committee came to the decision to adopt a plan by which so important an omission might be avoided, justly thinking that none could be more interested in the events of the day than the undergraduates themselves. It was therefore decided to change the time of the ceremonies to the afternoon, and to substitute for the dinner a collation and reception in Harvard Hall, in the evening, after the literary exercises were concluded. In this way the committee were enabled to extend the invitations to the undergraduates and

to the members of the professional and scientific schools, as well as to the Alumni and other guests.

The Cambridge committee were charged with the preparation of Harvard Hall for the festivities of the occasion. This was done under the skilful direction of Professor Webster. Ladies and citizens of Cambridge, and many of the undergraduates, occupied themselves willingly for more than a week in ornamenting the hall. The numerous iron columns, which support the floors of the upper rooms, were wreathed with evergreens; arches of hemlock branches were sprung from pillar to pillar, so as to produce the effect of a Gothic nave and aisles; and festoons of evergreen were hung between the pictures. Portraits and busts of distinguished sons of Harvard were ranged along the walls. The noble picture of the late President Kirkland, "whose countenance was a benediction," having been placed at the disposal of the committee by the kind permission of Mrs. Kirkland, formed one of the most interesting objects in the hall. Pictures were also lent by Mrs. William H. Eliot, Mr. Edmund Dwight, Mr. Dowse, Mr. Batchelder, and others. Among the portraits were those of the President elect, and Ex-Presidents Quincy and Everett, whose names were displayed in letters of variously colored light. Vases of flowers, generously contributed by Mr. Cushing, Colonel Perkins, Mr. John A. Lowell, and other gentlemen of Cambridge and the vicinity, stood in all the windows and covered the tables.

Notwithstanding the intense heat of the day, the city was crowded at an early hour by visitors and Alumni. They assembled, according to the notice in the newspapers, at Gore Hall, where the procession was formed at a little after half past three o'clock, P. M., under the direction of William Dehon, Esq., the chief marshal, supported by assistant marshals from Boston, and by marshals appointed by the several classes of undergraduates and the professional schools. The following is a copy of the Order of Procession, and of the Exercises in the Church:—

"ORDER OF PROCESSION FROM GORE HALL.

- Undergraduates in the order of Classes.
 Resident Graduates and Members of the Scientific and Professional Schools.
 Music.
 Librarian with the College Seal and Charter.
 Steward with the College Keys.
 Members of the Corporation.
 Professors and all other Officers of Instruction and Government of the College and the Professional Schools.
 Ex-President Quincy and Ex-President Everett.
 Ex-members of the Corporation.
 Ex-Professors and Instructors.
 Sheriffs of Suffolk and Middlesex.
 His Excellency the Governor, and the President elect.
 Governor's Aids.
 His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Adjutant-General.
 Secretary and Treasurer of the Commonwealth.
 The Honorable and Reverend Overseers.
 Trustees of the Charity of Edward Hopkins.
 Committee of the Boylston Medical Prizes.
 Committees of the Bowdoin Prize Dissertations.
 Committees of Examination appointed by the Overseers for the present year.
 Members of Congress and other guests specially invited.
 Presidents of other Colleges in New England.
 Judges of the State and United States Courts.
 Other Officers of those Courts.
 Mayor, Aldermen, Clerk, and Treasurer of the City of Cambridge.
 Alumni of the College."

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"ORDER OF EXERCISES IN THE CHURCH.

I. VOLUNTARY ON THE ORGAN,

BY MR. WEBB.

II. GLORIA.

III. PRAYER,

BY THE REV. DR. WALKER.

IV. ADDRESS AND INDUCTION INTO OFFICE,

BY HIS EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR BRIGGS.

V. REPLY,

BY PRESIDENT SPARKS.

VI. BENEDICTUS.

VII. ORATION IN LATIN,

BY CHARLES FRANCIS CHOATE, OF THE SENIOR CLASS.

VIII. LATIN HYMN,

BY FREDRICK ATHEARN LANE, OF THE SENIOR CLASS.

Quantos honores ferre nos
Debemus, O Deus,
Salutis et vitæ Dator,
Qui duxeris bene
Nostros patres in hæc loca,
Eos et anxia
Cura diu defenderis,
Magno a periculo.

Deditque lenitas tua
Hæc multa commoda,
Quibus diu fructi sumus.
Ignosce crimina.