

**THE PAST AND THE PRESENT:
SEMI-CENTENNIAL ADDRESS TO
THE ALUMNI OF YALE COLLEGE,
AND GRADUATES OF 1814, PP. 4-
43**

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SAMUEL B. RUGGLES

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43**

Jas. Savage

*From Dr. S. A. Green,
Aug. 15, 1885.*

THE PAST AND THE PRESENT.

MR. S. B. RUGGLES'
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BY

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THE PAST AND THE PRESENT.

SEMI-CENTENNIAL ADDRESS

TO THE

ALUMNI OF YALE COLLEGE,

AND

GRADUATES OF 1814,

AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING,

JULY 27, 1864.

BY SAMUEL B. RUGGLES, LL. D.

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ADDRESS.

BRETHREN OF THE ALUMNI OF YALE, AND FELLOW STUDENTS
OF THE CLASS OF 1814:

Among the numerous works of art which we owe to the taste and the feeling of our modern painters, is one which many, if not most of us, have seen and enjoyed. It is the picture of the aged grandfather, with silver locks and feeble limbs, bending under the weight of many years, but gazing with tender interest and rekindling eye upon a portrait of himself, when a fair-haired boy in the early morning of life. The canvas faithfully exhibits that peculiarity of man's intellectual decay, which obscuring or obliterating the busy scenes of active manhood and even of advancing age, preserves, in imperishable freshness, the sharply sculptured memories of his youthful hours.

I cannot but feel that a kindred emotion animates the time-worn Class of 1814, that has to-day come home to these academic shades, to evoke, from the sleep of half a century, its own youthful image, to retrace and recover its early lineaments, to catch once more its lights and shadows, and fondly to reproduce and cluster around it some at least of the external accessories, which gave to that young life its form and features.

The stream of time, embraced within this interval, is surely long enough to have become historical. It includes more than a fortieth part of the nineteen centuries of the Christian era ;