

**THE NAVAL INSTITUTIONS OF A
REPUBLIC: AN ADDRESS WRITTEN
FOR THE IRVING LITERARY
INSTITUTE, OF THE CITY OF ERIE,
PA**

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The Naval Institutions of a Republic: An Address Written for the Irving Literary Institute, of the City of Erie, Pa by Wm. Maxwell Wood

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WM. MAXWELL WOOD

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THE IRVING LITERARY INSTITUTE, OF THE CITY OF ERIE, PA

BY WM. MAXWELL WOOD, M. D.

SURGEON U. S. NAVY

Author of "The True Sources of Subordination," "Wandering Sketches in South America
Polynasia, &c.," "Hints to the People on the Profession of Medicine"

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SECOND EDITION.

AUBURN: DERBY & MILLER,
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1853.

NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

New York Tribune.

"The whole address is earnest and patriotic, and well deserves the attention of the public."

Philadelphia United States Gazette.

"His present address is a well-written and energetic argument in favor of general reform in the Navy, and such reform as would assimilate it in form, as far as possible, with the republican institutions of the country."

Norfolk Argus.

"We would invite the scrutiny of Congress to our Navy. It is anti-republican in its every feature. The people of this Republic are interested, deeply interested in such a scrutiny by the Legislature as shall render the service compatible with the democratic genius of our government."

"We have just read a most able and conscientious exposition of our Naval Service, styled 'The Naval Institutions of a Republic,' by Wm. MAXWELL WOOD, Surgeon U. S. N."

"This is not a work of demolition as attacks upon inefficient institutions usually are; but it is one altogether of a restorative character, and concludes with full confidence and solid reasoning, the appropriate remedies required in the premises."

Cleveland True Democrat.

"The character of this able pamphlet is such, that, were a copy of it placed in the hands of every voter in the country, or in those of even a majority of its voters, we believe our present Naval system would not be suffered to exist another twelvemonth. In our opinion, that is just as certain as it is that those voters are not destitute of heart and brains. Yet, the author is, himself, obviously a dear lover of the Navy, and seeks only to place that arm of the National defense on a Republican foundation."

Erie Observer.

"Let every citizen read this pamphlet and ask himself, what duty requires of him on this subject? and the answer will come from every corner of this broad land 'Reform! Reform!' and the cry will echo and re-echo until its accomplishment will triumph, and the deep roots of ancient tyrannical usages will be eradicated."

"We confess that we were never more surprised in our life, than at the absurdities and monstrosities of every kind in our naval organization, which are made apparent in this clear, candid and truthful little production. We wish we could induce our legislators to look into this work and undertake the reform proposed."

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DR. WM. M. WOOD, U. S. NAVY,

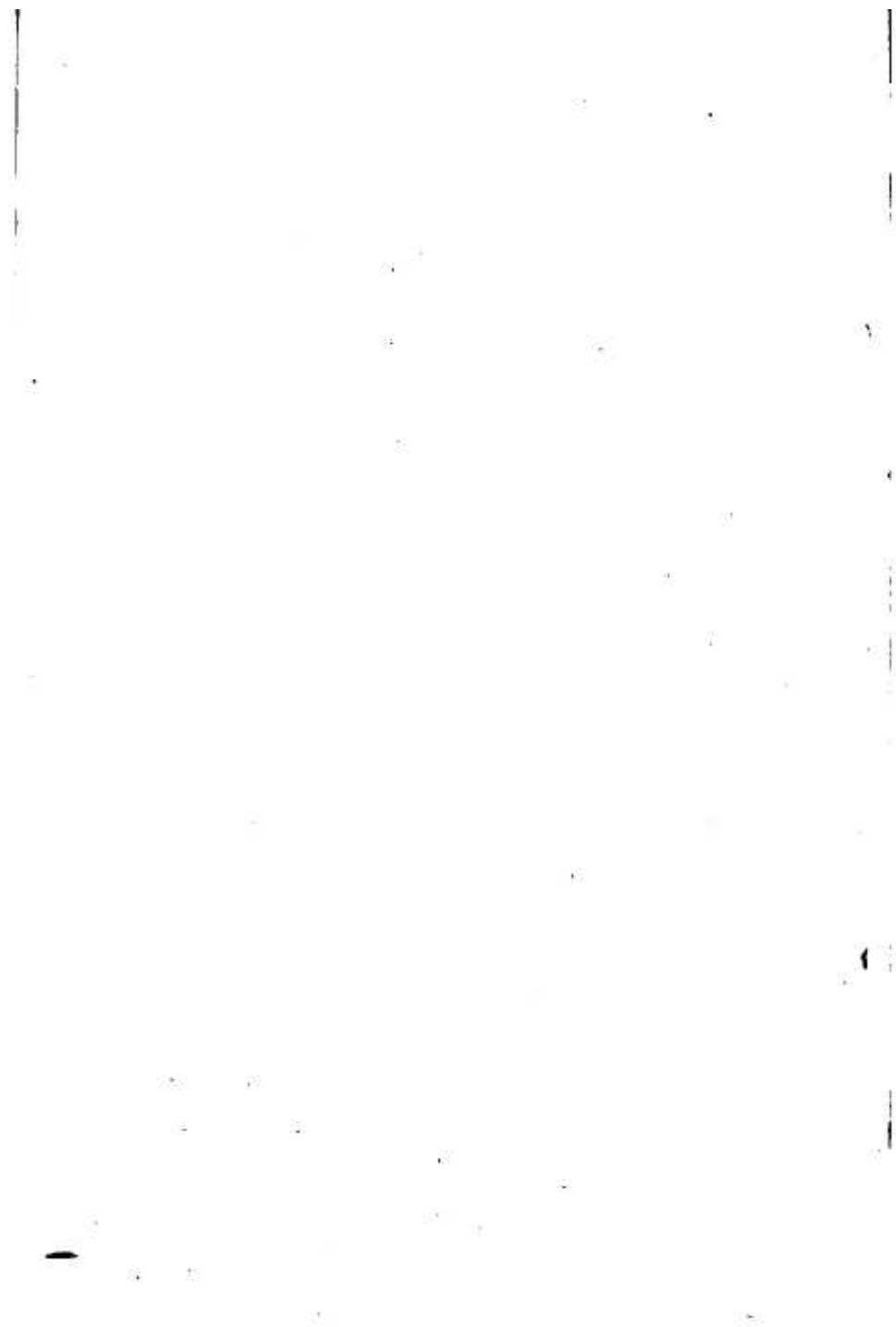
DEAR SIR:—The undersigned, citizens of Erie, believing that your Address, delivered before the Irving Literary Institute, both from its character and sentiments, is eminently calculated to promote the public good, would most respectfully request of you a copy for publication.

With sentiments of high regard we remain

Yours, &c.

Signed

GEO. A. ELLIOTT,
E. BABBITT,
E. B. VINCENT.
W. POYNTEL JOHNSTON,
I. B. GARA,
B. F. SLOAN.



PREFACE.

REFORM; naval reform is the general cry. Every rank and grade of the navy calls for it.

Those who hold the position of command, say; there is no efficient discipline, and we have more trouble with officers than with men. Put two gentlemen of the highest grade in the navy on board ship.— one to command the ship, and the other to command the squadron to which she belongs — and even though they both be men of good sense, and good feeling, the ill-defined position of each soon leads to discord and dissension; and, if the government is not burdened, and the service disgraced by a court martial, one is compelled to abandon the duty which has been assigned him, and to return to his home.