

**OPENING OF WALKER
HALL, AMHERST COLLEGE,
AMHERST, MASS., OCT. 20,
1870; ADDRESS, PP. 5-75**

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Opening of Walker Hall, Amherst College, Amherst, Mass., Oct. 20, 1870; Address, pp. 5-75 by
W. A. Stearns

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W. A. STEARNS

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WALKER HALL,

Amherst College, Amherst, Mass., Oct. 20, 1870.

ADDRESS
BY W. A. STEARNS, PRESIDENT.
WITH OTHER EXERCISES.



BOSTON:
PRINTED BY RAND, AVERY, & FRYE, 3 CORNHILL.
1871.

To Rev. William A. Stearns, President of Amherst College.

DEAR SIR :

At a meeting of the Trustees of Amherst College, held in Amherst, Oct. 20, 1870, the following vote was unanimously passed :—

" *Resolved*, That the thanks of the Trustees be tendered to President STEARNS for his sound and able Address, pronounced to-day, on the occasion of the opening of Walker Hall; and that he be requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication."

Attest: E. S. DWIGHT, SECRETARY OF THE BOARD.

To the Reverend and Honorable the Trustees of Amherst College.

GENTLEMEN :

Herewith I forward a manuscript of the Address. I am gratified that the views it expresses seem to have been so heartily approved by you; and all the more, as, in my judgment, if Amherst College should adopt a policy of education essentially different from them, the demand for its existence would cease, and its mission be ended.

Respectfully and truly,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM A. STEARNS.

AMHERST COLLEGE, Oct. 25, 1870.

OPENING OF WALKER HALL.

THE day selected for the opening of Walker Hall proved, in experience, a day of mark for the season. It was not characterized by the usual October beauties of our second summer, but by a first-class earthquake in the morning, and the clouds of a grand downpouring in the afternoon. The Springfield band endeavored to perform its duty ; but the great rain prevented the time-honored procession, and left the audience, which was larger than would have been expected under the circumstances, to collect together in the best way it could. The Address was delivered in College Hall ; after which, under more favorable skies, the assembly passed over to Walker Hall for the inspection of the building, the opening prayer, and for statements and brief speeches. The concluding part of the programme was cut short by darkening clouds and premature evening. But the appropriate and beautiful remarks of Prof. Roswell D. Hitchcock of the Union Theological Seminary were sufficient ; and further speech-making seemed unnecessary.

The order of exercises was as follows :—

*Opening of Walker Hall.**IN COLLEGE HALL.*

1. MUSIC BY THE ORCHESTRA.
2. INTRODUCTORY PRAYER BY REV. MR. DWIGET OF HADLEY.
3. ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT STEARNS.
4. COMMENCEMENT HYMN:—

Let children hear the mighty deeds
Which God performed of old ;
Which in our younger years we saw,
And which our fathers told.

He bids us make his glories known,
His works of power and grace ;
And we'll convey his wonders down
Through every rising race.

Our lips shall tell them to our sons ;
And they, again, to theirs ;
That generations yet unborn
May teach them to their heirs.

Thus they shall learn in God alone
Their hope securely stands ;
That they may ne'er forget his works,
But practise his commands.

*IN WALKER HALL.*

1. MUSIC BY THE BAND.
2. STATEMENT BY W. A. DICKINSON, ESQ.
3. PRAYER OF THE OPENING, BY REV. DR. PAINE OF HOLMEN.
4. STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR SNELL.
5. SPEECHES BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND BY GENTLEMEN FROM ABROAD.
6. OLD HUNDRED, BY THE AUDIENCE:—

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise ;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
In every land, by every tongue.

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord ;
Eternal truth attends thy word ;
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
TIL suns shall rise and set no more.

PRESIDENT STEARNS'S ADDRESS.

WE have assembled for a public opening of our new temple of science, — Walker Hall. I had no intention, till quite recently, of presenting any remarks on this occasion; but having failed in all hopes of an address from other quarters, and thinking it not quite becoming that so great an event in our college-life as the completion and first occupation of such an edifice should be passed over without attention, I have concluded to occupy a few moments on some of the subjects connected with collegiate education, which are now agitating the minds of all liberally-educated and most other intelligent men. They are subjects on which I have long reflected, but for the complete presentation of which I have now but too little time. A few preliminary statements would seem to be required by the circumstances under which we meet. The origin of our building, the munificent spirit in which its funds were contributed, the uses and special kinds of learning for which it was constructed, the division of its apartments, the order and methods of its architecture, with notices commemorative of the principal donor, and of the noble gentlemen by whom he was generously seconded, — all have been sufficiently set forth in a pamphlet entitled "Exercises at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of Walker Hall, June 10, 1868."

The principal design of Dr. Walker, in his contributions to Amherst College, was to promote the education of young men, particularly in the departments of pure and applied math-