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ORATION  
AND  
VALEDTORY ADDRESS

By

John Lyon of Carlisle

## ORATION

### Inequalities of Human Condition

Man is the creature of circumstances. The fortuitous incidents of birth may determine the tenor and issue of his life. Whether the immortal mind shall mount above the mean level of Rationality; or be chained down forever to the dull task-work of the body. The disparities thus produced in civil society; though momentous to the individual, seldom strike at a distance, or receive the attention of the Philosophical historian or utopianical Caviller. Either the scale is too small; or the process of equalization too apparent. But there are certainly bold lines of distinction which separate and enclose continuous sections of the human family, and are the basis of a general classification. The "Nateya", the "Silver" and the "Iron" age - the "swage", the "barbarous" and the "civilized" are terms which derive their significance solely from the diversities which they designate. These diversities are also distinctly marked, involving the bestowment, or denial of substantial realities, which seem to constitute the "Comforts of Life". Under this view, men execrate the theory of an overruling Providence, who, they say, manifests his care by partial and invidious distribution. But as happiness is the chief aim of all, the tendency to produce that end must test the wisdom and beneficence of any particular arrangement. Now there is Providence illustrated, That which is the very condition and boast of our being - the possession of a sensitive nature and free will, connecting with the natural consequences of actions would, at the beginning, produce such diversities - the mental and physical constitution wonderfully adapted to the exigencies which occur.

The constitution of man, and his consequent classification is mainly affected by Time, Location, and Form of Government - Time is the most universal landmark, and leaves the deepest furrows. It effectuates not simple diversities but absolute Metamorphoses of condition. It is the broad zone which girdles

never an existence and separates extreme contraries. The lapse of a few years transformed man from the likeness of his God, and placed perpetual desolation as a barrier between the first and second of the Generations of Men. It ushered in the unsparring flood which swept away in its bosom the enviable longevity of the Antedeluvians - It separates light from darkness, barbarism from civilization, order from chaos. The naked savage of the Ultima Thule is converted into the furnished champion of enlightening mind by the scattered ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> striation, oblong of the <sup>prophetic</sup> ~~earthquake~~ which walketh at noon day, the ill-boding Eclipses, is transformed into the fearless Philosopher, who can meet with the tempest and be at home among the stars. Men are wondrously changed, yet who would have it otherwise? Would we have all light to break forth suddenly and finally? Remove the materials of curiosity, and existence would pall and deaden in our grasp - for the hope of improvement is the life of the soul. Would we have the <sup>whole</sup> ~~even~~ of science heaved upon the bewildered vision of <sup>the</sup> infant world? A giddy tampering with the fearful luminary, cursed with eternal darkness a portion of the fair children of Eve; and the blackened cinders of the damn marked the unclouded manifestation of celestial splendors. The mind, like the plant has its periods of Germination, growth and maturity - If oppressed by excessive effort in its nascent state, it will be, like the delicate flower of the tropical, sickly, withered, blasted. But maturity fears no excess. The tall Palm tree seems to court ~~scarcely~~ <sup>the</sup> descending <sup>beams</sup>, but unscathed it rears aloft its towering tuft ever green and flourishing. Perhaps amid the delightful fruition of modern refinements, we shudder while contemplating the black association which encompassed our worthy progenitors. But their barrenness resolves itself into a simple negation of our complicated wants - what is the breath of our nostrils" was to them a dead letter. The desert is a garden to the Arab, wild dates &

Canal milk are the catalogue of his wants, and does the simple meal afford a life  
rare ~~also~~ and exquisite gratification, than the elaborate ragouts of the Parisian Epicure.  
He at least is ignorant of his own destitution and "when ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to  
be wise" - As the fount of scum gushed forth from its recesses, it sufficed for the  
simple wants of our primitive fathers. The cooling waters slaked their thirst, and  
the flying channel would float their slight canoes; but they dreamed not of the  
wondrous fabrics - the Levathons of the wave, which could ride upon its spur-  
ing waters - And just as commerce has introduced fictitious luxuries, now become ne-  
cessities, so the general progress of science has excited inward cravings, which its contin-  
ued extension only can allay - Time <sup>when</sup> was the most fruitful element of knowledge,  
had not yet burst forth from confinement & as they developed to a wandering world:  
they struck with all the vivid freshness of originality, and called up the un-  
stable pleasures of startled admiration. It is also wisely provided that the  
wide field of unattainable knowledge is not exposed to ruin. The unbounded prospect  
would dampen hope and oppress curiosity. Just a sufficiency is presented to stimulate & encourage -  
while the eye is not appalled by the measureless expanse beyond. Regular stages are fixed  
the proximate is placed in view as the immediate goal. Each strives very near to  
gain the nearest point; nor copies the one more distant until the first is attained.  
Whatever, then may be the visible changes produced by Time great happiness is not materially  
affected - The diversities induced by "Geographical Location" are generally  
identical with those of time and admit of a similar disposal. If some are separated by  
Physical barriers from contact with Religious truth; the awful responsibilities of en-  
lightened Christendom counterbalance the misfortune. If the very shock of Shambhalla  
shut up their stunted realm from contact with civilization - He reels in his own grossness - and  
in all cases we find the sensibilities and physical nature adapted to the peculiarities of the cli-  
mate. The impassioned soul of the Italian would wither under the Northern frosts, and the  
entirety of the Southern clime would shun the iron frame and stirring spirit of the



We are now habiting where once the wild Indian had his habit-  
age, & the hymn of praise now ascends where formerly the seeking sacrifice was offered  
to the vengeful maw of the battle field. Whose destiny is the preferable -  
that of the chieftain in his pride or of the conqueror in his might - the final issues  
of Life and the mystic records beyond the veil, can alone certainly determine. But  
Reason would affirm that if our present happiness be not greater in amount, it may  
at least be more elevated in its character. There is now a light and buoyancy pervading  
existence; a gleaming of thought, a glimmering of things hoped for yet unachieved  
for which were at a loss to designate an equivalent in the life of the Savage. While the phys-  
ical elements of destruction, divested of their imaginary terrors as the Retributive  
judgments of an offended God; no longer bring desolation to the heart nor palsy upon  
the spirit - Nor do the grim horrors of the exorcist appall the quivering victim into  
terrified submission - And to what is this happy deliverance attributable - Chris-  
tianity with Knowledge united has effected all. The gross superstitions of the  
classic and middle ages ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~fully~~ <sup>fully</sup> ~~since~~ <sup>since</sup> that though one without the other is but  
a blind and stumbling guide. To both then as well deserving pay due regard.  
The former is the chosen theme of this consecrated place. For the latter, your fathers  
saw rising in their midst a temple dedicated to its purest worship. But not the  
eyes of their posterity took down upon its ruin. The hand of the political oppressor  
the malice of the Infidel and the treachery of false friends have conspired, ~~grossly~~ <sup>grossly</sup> ~~against~~  
its security and its fame. But upheld by ~~upheld~~ <sup>upheld</sup> by the steady fidelity of its friends, it  
not only stands; but enlarged and enriched - the eager crowds which daily throng the  
court, the vestibule & the shrine proclaim the extent and fullness of its prosperity.  
That time-honored Institution is still among you. You share its benefits - Be not  
callous to its interest. When defamed lend it your influence voice, when threatened  
defend it. It is a pleasure and a comfort; let it also be a pride. As the best evidence  
of your loyalty look fixedly on its inmates. For years we have domiciled together

The rains and snow and winds have beaten upon us in common - The same suns have warmed and cheered us into joyance. Amid the bright gales of the festival or the nocturnal horrors of the Congregation - we have been by your side ready to give impulse to the spirits, or to stay the march of devastation - We have met each other in the streets and smiled and been happy - And if there were no other bond than cheerfull look and contented hearts, still it would be a strong one. For it is our nature to project the internal emotion upon the visible object and fix it there with a tenacity which no reasoning can subdue. Men love those whom they often see when happy. There is then a kindly bond of sympathy and interest linking us together. Whether the vernal bloom and summers rose, and the "see yellow leaf" have been greeted by our common gaze. But when next the autumn frosts shall clothe your blue mountains in <sup>the</sup> gay iridescence of the rain-bow. These beauties can be pictured to some only in the mind's eye & sad memories faithful chain will <sup>be all</sup> that connects <sup>them with</sup> the pure air & sunny hills of our lovely valley - What cherished personal associations may be thus disturbed - What ties of Platonic regard and ardent friendships of fond admiration or of that other emotion which more soft and tender knocks yet harder at the heart; may suffer severance I know not - The more general relations of interest and friendship induced by common fortunes - both of joy and grief and mutual aids & friendly intercourse give ready assurance, that this separation will not be without a sadness & gloom. The departing well carry many regrets away may they not hope to leave some behind - A few still remain we are of - as well as <sup>among</sup> you - need I bespeak for them a gracious welcome - Despair not our experience - We will profit by your example - We prize not our youth - years come but too swiftly on us all. And when they shall bear some what heavily upon your falling energies, We will stand up in your stead, & as God gives us strength, will uphold the mass of affairs upon our own shoulders - Gaze not chidingly on us then Admire for the present and a remembrance for the absent - For one & all I send you hearty greetings for those who remain I bid you fare well -

Gentlemen of the Faculty  
And Board of Trustees — Oppressed by a weight of obligation I would  
gladly leave to the intuitive apprehension of the minds what words can but inadequately  
express. To you, we are indebted for the possession of that ~~invaluable~~ <sup>invaluable</sup> treasure for clarity  
we do prize more than aught else that thought can borrow or experience suggest  
— which if properly developed will "enrich the man above himself" and illuminate  
the impress of the Divine upon the frail tenement of humanity — From that  
inevitable act which started from his frame the summing genius of learning —  
Your efforts have been nobly directed to the rapid and extensive imparting of diffusion  
of this invaluable treasure — With what success — the early and active usefulness of  
some who have but just perused us is most grateful evidence — And when we  
reflect upon the immensity of the gift and still more, the manner of its bestowal —  
I thank not that the shadowy praise of authority can check the deep flow of grati-  
tude and affection in our bosoms (The grave dignity of your character rather  
enhances the value of the favor; that such should be interested and have a care for us  
Toward Gentlemen is not of that visible kind <sup>mis take</sup> of fascination & attractions which  
we but too often to conceal the worm prying in the bond, until the depression of separa-  
tion of ~~shall~~ <sup>shall</sup> appear the victims of his double kiss — And you picture forth scenes  
too pleasant ever to be forgotten Among which the soul would love, we to dispute and  
which fond memory <sup>right</sup> spreading wide her ten doors which presents itself to the eye  
of sense but with all the realness reality it possesses many of that attribute of spirit —  
Rapid and Capacious of thought it is instant upon the perception of the benefit  
<sup>and when it is felt.</sup>  
As visible as memory & lasting as Consciousness — So long as the one shall ap-  
pear us what we are and the other what we have been Gratitude nature will  
respond to her indebtedness by the internal sentiment or outward expression of a  
living, breathing gratitude. In the name and as the representation of those who  
have been the objects of so many sollicitudes — so many kind regards I thank you

- Postponing a more profuse expression until coming years and opportunities shall  
afford the facilities of sanctioning the profession by the deed.

Gentlemen Fellows Classmates - As the circle of address is nar-  
rowed down and I approach the throne of being cherished intimates and associates - knowing  
and being known; I feel that any declarations of personal regard and attach-  
ment would be alike unreasonable and superfluous. But there is a topic to  
which we may recur with a perennial interest which but increases with every  
fresh draft upon its sources - Our past intercourse & Future Prospects -  
Truly Gentlemen, our lot has been cast upon a pleasant spot - A little Goshu  
has here been allotted out for us: Cheerful as the buoyant happiness of youth,  
and refreshing as the green pastures of the Egyptian vale. His fertile bro and  
well watered - In Streams of Knowledge gush forth from every eminence  
causing the tender flower and the green tree to expand and to blossom. It is re-  
tired also: the Clashing of worldly interest seldom find entrance. People  
visit this spot with spot with the ardent & generous spirit of youth, whose  
free Communions and joyous gaiety & brilliant hopes present an array of fascinations  
and attractions are but too apt to conceal the worm, poisoning in the bond until the  
depression of Separation shall apprise the victim of his double loss - And your pic-  
ture first seems too pleasant to be forgotten among which the soul would sore covet to dwell  
and which fond memory spreading wide her tendrils will fix upon as the green spots which  
his desert Wishes - And from thence a shady retreat from the heat and heart burning of  
contention & disappointment.

Such has the past been with us - / But the Future Gentleman the  
Future with its bright prospects is before you. The Promise is now most fair. The care  
of our friends had already secured us the elements of prosperity and success. Let not  
us only be false to ourselves. When tempted call to mind the sage monitions of the  
heavy crucifixor. Be wise & be saved - If we fall it must be our own working.

<sup>we</sup>  
But <sup>it</sup> will hope brighter things and the yearning wishes of your fellow can avail may  
honor and distinction. your country's tribute attend upon your efforts. May the future  
be made to each of you the joyous fulfillment of your highest expectations;  
And if the orient has been for you all bright and glowing, may the rise of the west  
find you no less prosperous, no less happy.

And now we must part. Twelve months  
ago we parted thus and henceforth thought only for a season. But then was on here then  
who is not amongst us now, nor yet among the living. In the period of <sup>our</sup> annual returns  
Our noble fellow had fallen a victim to the pestilential vapors of the south - But  
Wallson sleeps in an honored grave, for he was brave, generous, and true. Yet it is  
a solemn omen: What will be the issue of this our final parting? It may not be  
that we shall all meet again.

As a token then of long tried friendship and  
close affinity And as a sad emblem too of that result, which the soul shud-  
ders to suggest Adieu to you with the affectionate farewell of the Latin Mourner  
over the kindred and departed dead. - VALETE - VALETE -

Commencement Oration of John Lyon, Class of 1839  
Transcribed by Sarah-Hazel Jennings, May 2008  
Edited by Tristan Deveney, June 2008

### Inequalities of Human Condition

Man is a creature of circumstances. The fortuitous incidents of birth may determine the tenor and issue of his life. Whether the immortal mind shall mount above the meanline of rationality; or be chained down forever to the dull task work of the body. The disparities thus produced in civil society, though momentous to the individual, seldom strike at a distance, or receive the attention of the Philosophical historian or the [atheistical caviller?]. Either the scale is too small; or the process of equalization too apparent. But there are certainly bold lines of distinction which separate and enclose continuous sections of the human family, and on the basis of general classification. The “Halcyon,” the “silver” and the “Iron” age- the “savage” the “barbarous” and the “civilized” are terms which derive their significance solely from the diversities which they designate. These diversities are also distinctly marked, involving the bestowment, or denial of substantial realities, which seem to constitute the “Comforts of Life.” Under this view, men sneer at theory of an overruling Providence, who they say, manifests his care by partial and invidious distribution. But as happiness is the chief aim of all, the tendency to produce that end must test the wisdom and beneficence of any particular arrangement. Here there is Providence illustrated. That while the very condition and boast of our being—the possession of a sensitive nature and free will, connecting with the natural consequences of actions would, at the beginning, produce such diversities—the mental and physical constitution wonderfully adapted to the exigencies which occur.

The condition of men, and his consequent classification is mainly affected by Time, Location, and Forms of Government, -- Time is the most universal landmark and leaves the deepest furrows. It effectuates not simple diversities, but absolute metamorphosis of condition. It is the broad zone which girdles

human existence and separates extreme contrarieties. The lapse of a few years transformed man from the likeness of his God, and placed a perpetual desolation as a barrier between the first and second of the Generations of Men. It ushered in the unsparing flood which swept away, in its bosom the enviable longevity of the Antediluvians. It separates light from darkness, barbarism from civilization, order from chaos. The naked savage of the [ultima thale?] is converted into the burnished champion of enlightened mind & the slatted awe stricken observing of “The ~~darkness~~ pestilence which walketh at noon day,” the ill boding eclipse, is transformed into the fearless philosophy, which “can move with the tempest and be at home among the stars.” Here are wondrous changes, yet who would have it otherwise- Would we have all right to break forth suddenly and finally? Remove the materials of curiosity, and existence would fall and deaden in our grasp- for the hopes of improvement is the life of the soul. Would we have the whole sun of science heaved upon the bewildered version of the infant world? A giddy tampering with the fearful luminary cursed with eternal darkness a portion of the [one word illegible – fair?] children of Eve; and the blackened cinders of

the [one word illegible – dance?] marked the unclouded manifestation of celestial splendors. The mind like the plant has its periods of germination, growth and maturity. If oppressed by the excessive effort in its nascent state, it will be like the delicate flowers of the tropical, sickly, withered, blasted. But the maturity fears no excess- the tall palm tree seems to court ~~seems to court~~ the descending beam but unscathed it rears aloft its towering tuft even green and flourishing. Perhaps amid the delightful [one word illegible – fruition?] of modern refinements, we shudder while contemplating the bleak desolation which encompassed our worthy progenitors. But their barrenness resolves itself into a simple negation of our complicated events- what is “the breath of our nostrils” was to them a dead letter. The desert is a garden to the Arab, wild dates &

camel’s milk are the catalogue of his wants, and does this simple meat afford a life rare a ~~less rare~~ and exquisite gratification, than the elaborate ragouts of the Parisian Epicure? He, at least is ignorant of his own destitution and “where ignorance is bliss” tis folly to be wise” As to the fount of [one word illegible – science?] gushed forth from its recesses, it sufficed for the simple wants of our primeval fathers. Its cooling waters slacked their thirst, and its relying channel would float their slight canoes; but they dreamed not of those wondrous fabrics- the Leviathans of the wave, which would ride upon its spreading waters. And just as common has introduced factitious luxuries, now become necessities. So the general progress of science has excited inward cravings, which its continued extension early can allay. Time was when the most familiar element of knowledge, had not yet burst ~~forth~~ from confinement. & as they developed to a wandering world: they struck with all the vivid freshness of originality and called up the wild agitated pleasures of startled admiration. It is also wisely provided that the wise field of unattained knowledge is not exposed to view. The unbounded prospect would dampen hope and oppress curiosity last a sufficiency is presented to stimulate & encourage- while the eye is not appalled by the measureless expanse beyond. Regular stages are [one word illegible – fixed?] the proximate is placed in view as the immediate goal. Each strains every nerve to gain the nearing point; nor copies the one more distant until the first is attained. Whatever then may be the visible changes produced by Time general happiness is not materially affected. The diversities induced by “Geographical Location” are generally identical with those of time and admit of a similar disposal. If some are separated by physical barriers from contact with religious truth; the awful responsibilities of enlightened Christendom counterbalance the misfortune. If the [one word illegible] shack us of [one word illegible – Kamschatka?] shut up their stunted victim from contact with civilization he needs in his own grossness and in all cases we find the sensitive and physical nature adapted to the peculiarities of the climate. The impassioned soul of the Italian would wither under the northern frost, and the [one word illegible] of the southern clime would relax the iron frame and stirring spirits of the

sons of the North, and while the enraptured country man of Dante & Petrarch is chanting ~~their~~ his polished lays amid fragrant bowers and thanks his stars or the Virgin the Italy is his glorious heritage. The wild enthusiastic notes of the “Ranz de Vaches” are echoing through the rocks and dolls of Switzerland; bursting from hearts surcharged with honest

joy & pain. To the Switzer those bleated barren hill are “more lovely than other lands fertility.”

But in nothing is the beneficence of Providence more strikingly exhibited than the attuning of the national disposition to suit the form of Government. The Turk feels not the grinding slaver of the Ottoman. Enveloped in the mists of fatalism and reckless of all save simple existence, he bows a willing slave to the vice gerent of the Prophet. The epithet which would goad to madness the denizen of freedom passes by him as an idle song name. Who can recognize in that [spiritless?] form the impetuous chieftain of the [one word illegible] hoard who once disdained even the wholesome restraints of the law? The imperious Frank too, him of the free heart and hand is converted into the modern Frenchman. Born to a legal slavery he is made the packhorse of every mad scheme of conquest or oppression – Yet--

“Easy de bonnan and brisk  
Give him his lass his fiddle and his frisk  
He’s happy reign whoever may  
And laughs all sense of misery away”

There is no nation which does not esteem itself peculiarly fortunate above all others. The Protestant Englishmen scorns the wretched servitude of the Spaniard; and the priest ridden Castilian dooms the incorrigible heretic to the ready tortures of the damned.

Happiness, then, is not exclusive. It cheered the existence of our first parent. It animates the bounding spirit of the savage, it illumines the midnights labors of the enlightened sage. In all ages, in all countries, under all governments, we find that Providence

“Bids equity throughout his work’s prevail  
And weights the nations in an equal scale”

We are not habiting where once the wild Indian had his heritage, the hymn of praise now ascends from whence formally the reeking sea [one word illegible] was offered to the vindictive Moloch of the battlefield. Whose destiny is the preferable that of the chieftain in his pride or the conqueror in his might the final issues of Life and the mystic records “beyond the vale” can alone certainly determine. But reason would affirm that if our present happiness be not greater in amount, it may at least be more elevated in its character. There is now a light and buoyancy pervading existence; a [one word illegible] of thought a glimmering of things hoped for yet undefined for which we are at a loss to designate an equivalent in the life of the savage. While the physical elements of destruction, divested of their imaginary terrors at the Retributive judgments of an offended God; no longer bring desolation to the heart nor palsy upon the spirit- Nor do the grim horrors of the exorcist appall the quailing victims into terrified submission. And to what is this happy deliverance attributable Christianity with knowledge united has effected all. The gross superstitions of the classic and middle ages respectfully evince that though one without the other is but a blind and stumbling guide. In both then as well deserving pay due regard. The former is the chosen theme of this consecrated place. For the latter, your fathers saw rearing in their midst a temple dedicated to its purest worship. Let not the eyes of their posterity took down upon its ruin. The hand of the political oppressor the malice of the infidel and the treachery of false friends have conspired

grievously against its security and its fame. But upheld ~~by upheld~~ by the steady fidelity of its friends, it not only stands; but enlarged and enriched the eager crowds which daily throng the court, the vestibule & the shrine proclaim the extent and fullness of its prosperity. That time-honored Institution is still among you. Your share its benefits. Be not callous to its interest. When defamed lend it your ~~influence~~ voice when threatened defend it. It is a pleasure and a comfort; let it also be a pride. As the best evidence of your sincerity look kindly on its inmates. For years we have domiciled together.

The rains and snows and winds have beaten upon us in common. The same suns have warmed and cheered us into joyance. Amid the bright gaities of the festival on the nocturnal horrors of the conflagration - we have been by your side ready to give impulse to the spirits, or to stay the march of devastation. We have met each other in the streets and smiled and been happy. And if there were no other bond than cheerfull look and contented hearts, still it would be a strong one. For it is our nature to project the internal emotion upon the visible object and fix it there with a tenacity which no reasoning can subdue. Men love those whom they often see when happy. There is then a kindly bond of sympathy and interest linking us together. Hitherto the vernal bloom and summers rose, and the "seer & yellow bear" have been greeted by one common gaze. But, when next the autumn frosts shall clothe yon blue mountains in the gay iridescence of the rainbow. These beauties can be pictured to some only on the "minds eye" sad memories faithful chain will be all that connects them with the pure air & sunny hills of our lovely valley. What cherished personal associations may be this disturbed. What ties of Platonic regard and ardent friendships of fond admiration or of that other emotion which more soft and tender knocks yet harder at the heart; may suffer severance I know not the more general relation of interest and friendship indeed by common fortunes both of joy and grief and mutual aids & friendly intercourse give ready assurance, that this separation will not be without a sadness & gloom. The departing will carry many regrets away may they not hope to leave some behind. A few still remain we are as well as among you need I be speak for them a gracious welcome. Despise not our inexperience. We will profit by your example- misplace not our youth- years come but too swiftly on us all. And when they shall bear somewhat heavily upon your failing energies we will stand up in your stead, & as God gives us strength will upheave the mass of affairs upon our own shoulders. Gaze not chillingly on us then. A smile for the present and a remembrance for the absent. For one & all I send you hearty greeting for those who leave I bid you kind Farewell--

Gentleman of the Faculty—

And Board of Trustees— Oppressed by a weight of obligation I would gladly leave to the [one word illegible] apprehension of the mind what words can but inadequately express. To you, we are indebted for the possession of that which save [one word illegible] for [integrity?]. We do prize more than aught else that thought can council or experience suggest which if properly developed will [earnest?] the man above himself "and renovate the impress of the divine upon the frail tenement of humanity from that incipient act which started from [one world illegible] France the slumbering genius of learning.

Your efforts have been nobly directed to the rapid and extensive ~~imparting of~~ diffusion of this invaluable treasure. With what success? The early and active usefulness of some who have been just preceded us is most grateful evidence. And when we reflect upon the immensity of the gift and still more, the manner of its bestowal think not that the shadowy prows of authority can check the deep flow of gratitude and appreciation in our bosoms. The grave dignity of your character rather enhances the value of the favor: that such should be interested and have a care for us. Your learned gentleman is not of that visible kind (~~of fascination & attraction which are but too able to conceal the worm~~ ~~preying in the bond, until the depression of separation if shall appease the victim of his double miss—and you picture forth seems too pleasant ever to be forgotten. Among~~ ~~which the soul would love ever to despise and which fond memory spreading wide her~~ ~~ten [one word illegible]~~ ) which presents itself to the eye of sense but with all the [one word illegible] reality it possesses many of the attributes of spirit Rapid and Capacious as thought it is instant upon the perception of the benefit and whenever it is felt. Durable as memory & lasting as consciousness—so long as the one shall apprise us what we are and the other what we have been gratified- nature will respond to her indebtedness by the internal sentiment or outward expression of a living, healthy, gratitude. In the name and as the representative of those who have been the object of so many solitudes so many kindnesses I thank you.

Postpoing a more prolific expression until coming years and opportunities ~~will~~ shall afford the facilities of sanctioning the profession by the deeds.

~~Gentlemen~~ Fellow Classmates— As the circle of address is narrowed down and I approach the throng of living cherished intimates and associates knowing and being known; I feel that any declaration of personal regard and attachment would be alike unreasonable and superfluous. But there is a topic to which we may near with a perennial interest which but increases with every fresh draft upon its [one word illegible]—Our past intercourse & future prospects—Truly gentlemen our lot has been cast upon a pleasant spot—a little Goshen has here been cantoned out for us: Cheerful as the buoyant happiness of youth, and refreshing as the green pastures of the Egyptian Vale, It is fertile [one word illegible] and well watered- for streams of knowledge gush forth from every eminence causing the tender flower and the green tree to expand and to blossom. It is returned also the clashing of worldly interest seldom find entrance. People this spot with spot with the ardent & generous spirit of youth, whose free communion and joyous gait & brilliant hopes present an array of fascination and attraction are but too apt to conceal the worm, paying in the bond until the delusion of separation shall apprise the realm of his doubleness—And you pie-line forth sanes too pleasant ever to be forgotten among which the soul would love ever to [disport?] and which fond memory spreading wide her tendrils will fix upon as the green spots which his desert [one word illegible] And from thence a shady retreat from the heats and heart burning of contention & disappointment

Such has the past been with us. But the Future gentlemen the Future with its bright prospects is before you. The promises is now most fair. The care of our friends has already seemed in the elements of prosperity and success. Let not us only be false to ourselves. When tempted call to mind the sage monitors of the hoary counselor. Be wise & be [one word illegible]. If we fall it must be our own working.

But we will hope brighter things and if the yearning wishes of your fellow can avail nay honor and distinction your countries tribute attend upon your efforts may the future be made to each of you the joyous fulfillment of your highest expectation; and if the orient has been for you all bright and glowing may the rise of the [one word illegible – vesper?] find you no less prosperous, no less happy.

And now we must part. Twelve moons ago we parted thus and here; we thought only for a season. But there was one here then who is not amongst us now, nor yet among the living. Ere the period of our annual return Our noble fellow has fallen a victim to the [one word illegible – pestillented?] vapors of the south-- But Wallson sleeps in an honored grave for he was brave, generous, and true. Yet it is a solemn omen. What will be the issue of this final parting? It may not be that we shall all meet again.

As a token then of a long tried friendship and close affinity and as a sad [one word illegible – emblem?] of that result, which the soul [shielded us?] to suggest. I say to you the affectionate farewell of Latin Mourning over the Kindred and departed dead\_ *Valete-- Valete---*