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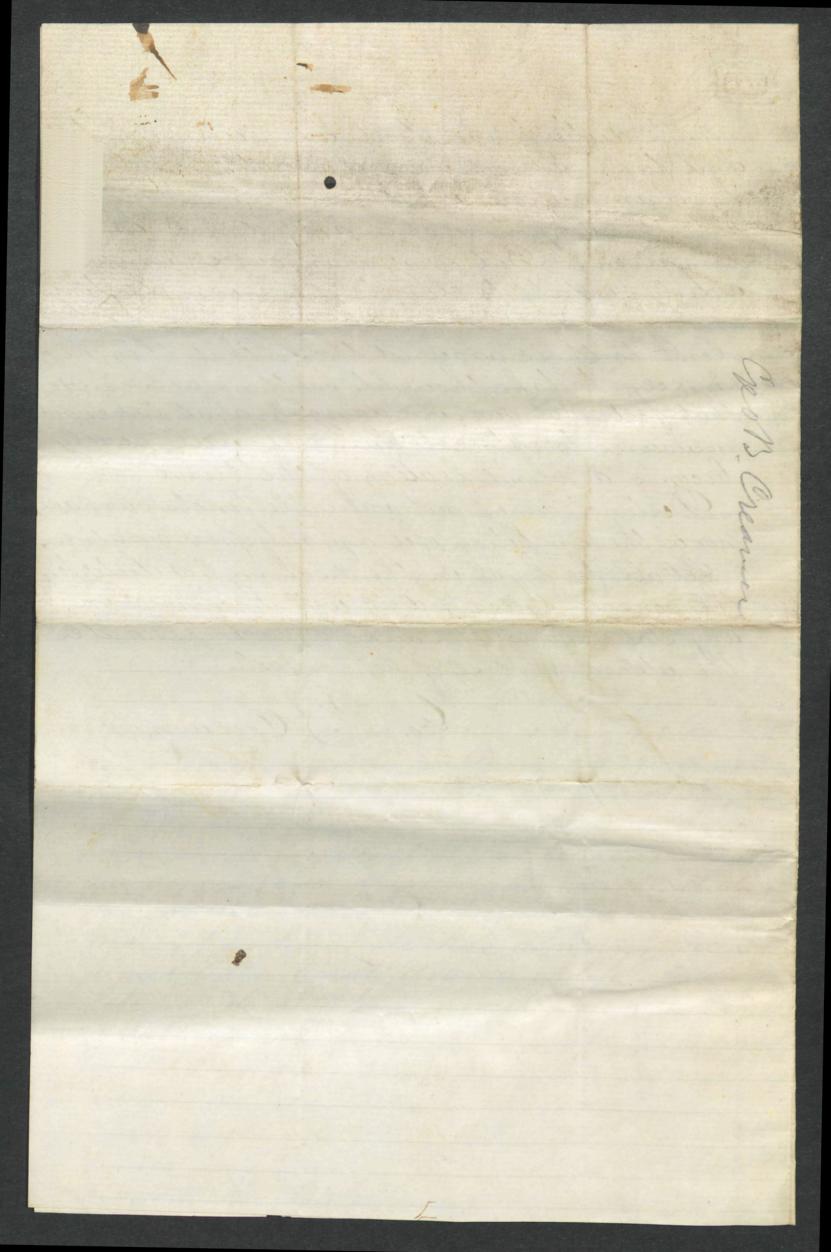
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George B. Creamer Class of 1860 The Duty and Dignity Aman. This world has been apply compared to a stage whon which all men are merely playere. Cach one has his own Life - Drama to enact; each one his own peculias duly to perform in the great tragedy of life. The live, perform our allotted duly as best we can and then pass away; and the reward the reward is to him who best performs that duly Therefore it becomes every one to comport him all with a many dignity, a resolve that his maxim shall be everything subservient to duty. With some life is but a strife for gain and advancement, a longing after comothing, we know not what; that can be of no practical benefit cethes here or hereafted. Buth others Lefe is real. Life is carned: And the grave is not the goal. The greatness to which we should aspere, is to fell our own station well, honorably and perfectly. The lofty mountain summent, lowering up in its cold rugged sublimely, does not equal in beauty or actility the verdant-hell pede or the lowly techning valley; get its stern granete features overschadowe both. Soil a less conspicuous position does notemply enachvery or sloth; for the plas that appears dimmest to our vesions may be entreneccally and in the eye of God the brightest. Pactical whility howeved small is preferable to impracticable greatness however large and in what ever where it may make deelf evident to us.

Dignety in respect to his intellectual nation schould be striven after by man. For the intellect is as native gold one homed in clay. That the mind is not only seperate from the body, but exercises an al most unbounded influence over its is demonstrated by every days experience. The human counternance speaks intelligence. The soul stamps expression upon the face, and leaves its sign manual there, the little page of els own autobiogra-But intellect constitutes not alone the whole of man's dignety. It clevates, enobels, distinguishes him above the brule; but there are also moral qualities, and capacilies, underlying the others, which constitute in him the religious cloment. fran is still a moral agent, capable of moral judgment; and phoral action, and when he stands up inthe dig orified position of agood many phy sically, intellectually, and morally is a glordous being. Jonan's duly must be inconson ancewith his dignely and therefore no small duty is his ob ligations of no brefling carachtes rest upon fum. He has a many past to play in the great drama of life. Human life is no play thing, nor is time a fool ball; The golden particles of our probation are inestimable as to theis values Sime is the capital whon which we brade for eleventy; and every hours is associated with our future destiny.

man's dulies to his God are superiors to and take precedence fall others. God has claims, upon are, which we may not dis pute, based upon creation providence andredemplion. But every man ower himself aduly- a duly to clevale his own decling among ment. But some men are so beneve olent to those around thom that they nov-ES seem to take thought for themselves. He that feels not his own danges, and takes no medeures to extricate himself well surely become a blind leades of the blina Destinction is not valuable for its oungake nor is the ambition of it aquality of real greatness Let all be loy al en the discharge of dulys for the consciousness of duly well discharged in any station, panetifies alike and compensates the utmost reverse of hope or fortune Go. Danamos



Commencement Oration of George B. Creamer, Class of 1860 Transcribed by Sarah Skalak, June 2008 Edited by Tristan Deveney, July 2008

The Duty and Dignity of Man

This world has been aptly compared to a stage upon which all men are merely players. Each one has his own Life – Drama to enact; each one his own peculiar duty to perform in the great tragedy of life. We live, perform our allotted duty as best we can, and, then pass away; and the reward the reward is to him who best performs that duty. Therefore is becomes every one to comport himself with a manly dignity, a resolve that his maxim shall be, every thing subservient to duty. With some life is but a strife for gain and advancement, a longing after something, we know not what, that can be of no practical benefit – either here or hereafter. With others

Life is real. Life is earnest.

And the grave is not the goal.

The greatness to which we should aspire, is to fill our own station well, honorably and perfectly. The lofty mountain summit, towering up in its cold rugged sublimity, does not equal in beauty or utility the verdant hill side or the lowly teeming valley; yet is stern granite features overshadows both. But a less conspicuous position does not imply inactivity or sloth; for the stars that a appear diminish to our visions may be intrinsically and in the eye of God the brightest.

Practical utility however small is preferable to impracticable greatness however large and in whatever sphere it may make itself evident to us.

Dignity in respect to his intellectual nature should be striven after by man. For the intellect is as native gold enshrined in clay. That the mind is not only separate from the body, but exercises an al most unbounded influence over it; is demonstrated by every day's experience. The human countenance speaks intelligence. The soul stamps expression upon the face, and leaves its sign manual there, the title page of its own autobiography.

But intellect constitutes not alone the whole of man's dignity. It elevates, enobels, distinguishes him above the brute; but there are also moral qualities and capacities underlying the others, which constitute in him the religious element. Man is still a moral agent, capable of moral judgment and moral action, and when he stands up in the dignified position of a good man, physically, intellectually, and morally, is a glorious being.

Man's duty must be in consonance with his dignity; and therefore no small duty is his, obligations of no trifling charachters rest upon him. He has a manly part to play in the great drama of life. Human life is no play thing, nor is "time a football", yet there are many who make them such.

The golden particles of our own probation are inestimable as to their value. Time is the capital upon which we trade for eternity; and every hour is associated with our future destiny.

Man's duties to his God are superior to and take precedence of all others. God has claims, upon us, which we may not dispute, based upon creation providence and redemption. But every man owes himself a duty – a duty to elevate his own destiny among men. But some men are so benevolent to those around them that they never seem to take thought for themselves. He that feels not his own dangers, and takes no measures to extricate himself will surely become a blind leader of the blind.

Distinction is not valuable for its own sake, nor is the ambition of it a quality of real greatness. Let all be loyal in the discharge of dutys for the consciousness of duty well discharged in any station, sanctifies alike and compensates the utmost reverse of hope or fortune.

Geo. B. Creamer