

Final Exercises, 1911.

Invocation

final
The exercises of the 86th session were begun with prayer by Dr.
Ernest M. Stires, of New York City.

Dr. Alderman's introductory remarks were:

I welcome to this annual festival the alumni who have journeyed back to their old academic home. I welcome the parents and friends of the young men about to graduate here to-day. I welcome our guests from the community, state and nation. It is our privilege and pleasure to have as our speaker and counsel, ^{for} of the day to the men of 1911, the Solicitor General of the United States, and I may fairly describe him as a good citizen and a ~~great~~ ^{great} lawyer who has won his place in the direction of large affairs by the exercise of ability and high ideals. I have the honor and pleasure, gentlemen, of the class of 1911 and ladies and gentlemen to introduce to you the Solicitor General of the United States, the Hon. Frederick W. Lehmann, of St. Louis.

Solicitor General Lehmann speaks.

Dr. Alderman's farewell address.

Gentlemen of the class of 1911, during its entire history the University of Virginia has given training in some degree to 17,750 men and has given degrees ~~to~~ ^{to} 4,464. To those who join the ranks of that notable company to-day, I have the impulse, and it is my duty, to say to you, on behalf of your Alma Mater, of your teachers, and of myself, the simplest and sincerest word of farewell of faith, of pride and good will.

The volume of human appeal and hope massed in you, nearly one hundred trained men, is so solemn a thing that it gives unfailing charm and dignity as well as keenest public interest to such occasions as these. It almost hallows in a new and patriotic sense these rare days in June. Sincere feeling and intellectual good taste revolt at platitudes and it is difficult in such a situation not to be trite, but the heart of us all will not permit you to go out from this life that you have lived for four years and more in formal silence. As long as life lasts this place should be dear to you, should be like home to you and you shall be counted a citizen of its life. The University of Virginia is trying to send out into the current of American life a morally well bred man, trained, sympathetic, courageous-- a man whose eyes and whose mind are open to do the day's work as it comes to his hands, and who does not fear to put upon his shoulders the burden of the world's work. You shall not be able to deceive him or frighten him or make him afraid, because his brain holds love and his hands have cunning. You shall not be able to cajole or bribe him, because it is our fondest and most solemn hope that he holds honor dearer than life and loyalty finer than gold. He will defy life, we pray and hope, to shrivel and fossilize him, for his mind will be open to all the winds of human affairs and his faith in his fellows and his fear of God will grow with the years and find increasing strength in the service of men. You are children of the twentieth century, and it is difficult for me to realize that you have gone far enough past its first decade to be the children of the twentieth century, and you will be called upon, as you have been shown so forcefully and eloquently here this morning by our distinguished speaker and counsellor, to make over the world in which you live, to help do it in economic machinery, in spiritual motives. Now, one drinks in at this place, as was suggested, the ideas of the rights of man, the individual right to think and the freedom to utter without fear the things that you think, and it is a

blessed inheritance, and I am glad that it is *inherent* in the life of this place. But may I suggest that you will need some other qualities too in this twentieth century. As a morally well bred man you will need first of all justice. The thing that men hate in this world is injustice. The thing that people are most sensitive about in this world is injustice. ~~The-thing~~ What a man hates most is the unjust man, or perhaps even more, the man that thrives upon organized injustice. And you will need sympathy. I mean democratic sympathy. Sympathy is the master word of democracy. Kings and despots know fear and mercy, but sympathy is utterly beyond their reach, and the best part of a human's education is to compel a man to recognize and honor the good in the man that sits beside him, whether he be high or low in this democratic world; and then as a morally well bred man you will need a little bit of humility. We want the sufficient man, but not the self sufficient man. ~~There-have-been~~ ~~cois-in-this-world-who-were~~ There have been brave soldiers in this world who were vain, but somehow we love to dwell upon the modesty of Lee. ~~There~~ have been rare ^{scholars} ~~soldiers~~ in this world, but somehow one gets down on one's knees before the quiet humility of Charles Darwin. There have been great rulers in the world, but somehow the kingly unconsciouness of Washington appeals to our hearts, and so we send you out into the world, men of 1911. Old Thomas Carlyle, on being installed as Rector of the University of Edinburg, in 1866, had for his text and theme: "What a man is born to in all epochs" Old Carlyle does not mean to you men of 1911 what he did to me and my generation. He was like a Hebrew prophet, and as he spoke to those young Scotchmen on that theme "What ~~is~~ a man is born to in all epochs", this was his conclusion! "He is born to expend every particle of strength that Almighty God has given him for doing the work he finds he is fit for, to stand up to it to the last breath of life that is in him, and to do his best." That is what a man is born to in all epochs, and I

Pray to God that you men of 1911, every one of whom we shall look at and look after and think about with sympathy, shall so live as to be among the company of those who ~~have~~ in the past have sweetened and dignified and illuminated the life of the University of Virginia.