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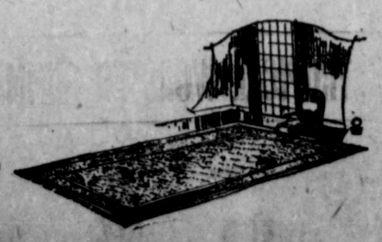


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SPEECH OF DR. J. K. WARREN

PRESENTING BUST OF PLATO TO WASHINGTON COLLEGE

President Titsworth, members of the Faculty, students and Friends of Washington College, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you on this particular occasion; more especially so indeed, because I am to present to Washington College the bust of the greatest genius the human race has produced—Plato.

Plato was proud of four things in his life. First, that he was born a Greek and not a barbarian; second, that he was a freeman and not a slave; third, that he was a man and not a woman; and fourth, that he was the contemporary of the wisest man of antiquity, Socrates.

I am also proud of four things this day. First, that I am living in this land of the free and the home of the brave, where every boy and girl, every man and woman have the opportunity to develop themselves physically, intellectually and spiritually; — in a land which is the hope of the world today; a nation which is exerting a tremendous influence upon civilization. Secondly, that I am connected with Washington College, one of the oldest colleges in the country, the only college bearing the name of the Father of the country by his express consent. It is a historic spot. We tread where George Washington trod, and gaze upon the same scenes he gazed. Thirdly, I am proud of the Freshman class of Washington College, and of the spirit which the Freshmen have manifested in presenting a bust to Washington College. This is an event which augurs well for the future progress of this institution of learning. It is prophetic of what Washington College will be, and is bound to be in the future. And fourthly, I am proud of the fact that I am contemporary with the bust of Plato! A bust which I shall have the honor of presenting to the President of the College for the History classroom.

Since I became a man I fell in love with four ladies, I was going to say Graces, but Ladies will do.

1. Poetry. The first Lady I fell in love with is Poetry. Oh, who can forget his first love! How can I forget the thrill and the joy I used to feel in passing with Lady Poetry arm in arm through the blood-stained battlefields of Homer, the flowery vales of Pinday, the tears-watered meadows of Sophocles, Aeschylus, and Euripides, the glorious plains of Virgil,—in crossing the melancholy and awe-inspiring streams of Dante, the Paradisical mountain peaks of Milton, the odoriferous valleys of Shakespeare; Burns, Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats, and Tennyson, and those sublime heights of Browning's thought! How glorious it was for such a splendid love to last! With joy I met Lady Poetry and with tears I parted. Only the impression of what has been and of what might have been is left.

2. Theology. The second Lady I fell in love with is Lady Theology. She and I could not get along together, so we were divorced. She wanted to bind me to herself with hoops of steel. I refused. I broke the hoops with my Herculean strength and now I am as free as the newcomer Freshman to the Campus of Washington College, until he finds that he is not allowed to enter the main entrance of William Smith Hall or walk on the Campus without the Freshman Cap! Do not marry a tyrant. If you must fall in love, choose another Lady!

3. History. The third Lady I fell in love with is Lady History. I am still chained to History. We had hard time in falling in love at first, because she wanted me to keep too many dates! Finally we made a compromise. I am to keep the most important dates and let the less important go. Clio and I seem to be badly in economic-love. I had better not say much more about Clio because she is here present and if I say something she does not like she will give me a scolding when I get home. If I praise her, she will think I flatter her; if I say something against her she will think I do not love her.

4. Philosophy. The fourth Lady I fell in love with is Lady Philosophy, or the Nobility of Plato's brain. This is the most charming Lady I ever fell in love with. Her illumined eyes keep me entralled. Neither Poetry, nor Theology, nor History, can keep me so love-bound and so spell-bound as the Nobility, the grandeur, the splender, and the magnificence of Plato's intellect!

What does Plato Teach Me?

1. That I must have high and lofty ideals. Plato challenges me to aim high. He cries to me with all his might: "Aim high! Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream so shall you become! Be not earth-bound but heaven-bound! Rise up above the low, the base, and the degrading things of life, into the atmosphere of what is noble and beautiful. You are a child of God; be worthy of your divine descent! Be not content to be simply an animal; you are more than an animal; an undeveloped god swells in you! Strive for the impossible and the unattainable and so manifest the god-like qualities in you. Not failure, but no aim is crime!

2. That my mind is my greatest possession. Plato teaches me that my mind is my most important possession, infinite in capabilities and possibilities, and that I must leave no stone unturned until I have developed it in its fullest capacity. What distinguishes man from the lower animals is his trained mind. It is the trained mind that makes man master of the material universe. A man with an undeveloped mind is only half a man.

3. That I must develop myself both physically and mentally. He said once that whosoever is developed in mind and not in body, he is a cripple. Plato stands for the symmetrical development of man. Until I stand upon the Rostrum of Space and proclaim with all my might to the length and breadth, to the height and depth of the Universe like Emerson:

"I am the owner of the sphere,
Of the seven stars, and the solar year,

(Continued On Page Seven)

ARE YOU RHEUMATIC?

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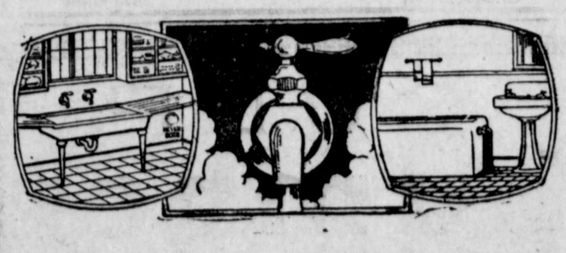
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