Thomas (R. P.)

# VALEDICTORY CHARGE

TO

# THE GRADUATES

OF THE

# PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY,

Delivered March 19, 1857.

BY

ROBERT P. THOMAS, M.D.

WITH A LIST OF THE GRADUATES.

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# PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

## FACULTY.

ROBERT BRIDGES, M. D., *Professor of Chemistry.*
WM. PROCTER, JR., *Professor of Pharmacy.*
ROBERT P. THOMAS, M. D., *Professor of Materia Medica.*

## Graduates for 1857.

| NAME. | STATE. | SUBJECT OF THESIS. |
|---|---|---|
| BAKER, JAMES R. | Penna. | Radix Zedoariæ. |
| BRINGHURST, FERRIS, | Delaware. | Lapis Calaminaris. |
| BROWER, NOAH B. | Penna. | Tinctures. |
| BUNN, JONATHAN H. | New Jersey. | Arnica Montana. |
| CALDWELL, JAMES M. | Penna. | Strychnos Ignatia. |
| CAMPBELL, SAMUEL, | Penna. | Lycopus Virginicus. |
| DANCY, FRANK B. | Mississippi. | Malambo, or Matias Bark. |
| DE CHOUDENS, JOSEPH F. | France. | Liquor Tartari Boraxati. |
| FLEMING, WILLIAM S. | Penna. | Strychnos Ignatia. |
| HANCOCK, CHARLES W. | Penna. | The true position of the Druggist. |
| HUGHES, C. COLLIN, | Penna. | Colchici Semen. |
| KAUFMAN, JOHN F. | Penna. | Essential Oils. |
| MCCONAUGHY, ALBERT D. | Penna. | Juglans Cinerea. |
| MCMULLEN, JACOB B. | Penna. | Cytisus Scoparius. |
| MASSENBURG, T. L. | Virginia. | Rubus Villosus. |
| MERCEIN, JAMES R. | Penna. | Cornus Sericea. |
| MERCER, JOHN T. | Ohio. | Asclepias Tuberosa. |
| NEAL, LEANDER, | Penna. | Comptonia Asplenifolia. |
| RICHARDSON, JOSEPH G. | Penna. | Veratrum Viride. |
| ROHRBACHER, FREDERICK, | Penna. | Pulvis Sennæ Compositus. |
| SCHURK, PETER, JR. | Iowa. | Matico. |
| SEURET, J. PEDRO, | Cuba. | Adiantum Pedatum. |
| STEEN, JAMES H. | Penna. | Spigelia Marilandica. |
| TAYLOR, HORACE B. | Penna. | Capsicum. |
| WETHERILL, J. BLOOMFIELD, | Penna. | Barosma Crenata. |
| YOUNG, JOSEPH, | Penna. | Rhus Toxicodendron. |
| ZIEBER, JACOB B. | Penna. | Stillingia Sylvatica. |

# CORRESPONDENCE.

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PHILADELPHIA, March 19, 1857.

PROF. ROBT. P. THOMAS:—

DEAR SIR: It is with unfeigned pleasure that we, a committee appointed by the Graduating Class, fulfil our instructions by expressing the high sense of gratification afforded them by your very excellent Valedictory Address delivered this evening, and on their behalf respectfully solicit a copy of the same for publication.

Yours, with much respect,

THOMAS L. MASSENBURG, Va.
JONATHAN H. BUNN, N. J.
FRANK B. DANCY, Miss.
FERRIS BRINGHURST, Del.
PETER SCHURK, Jr., Iowa.
J. PEDRO SEURET, Cuba.
JAMES H. STEEN, Pa.
*Committee.*

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PHILADELPHIA, March 20, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

Agreeably to your request, I transmit herewith a copy of the Valedictory Address delivered last evening. Permit me to acknowledge my sense of the kindness manifested by the Graduating Class, not only upon this, but on all previous occasions. Be pleased to accept for yourselves and transmit to your associates, my most affectionate regards.

Very respectfully,

ROBERT P. THOMAS.

To Messrs. THOMAS L. MASSENBURG,
JONATHAN H. BUNN,
FRANK B. DANCY,
FERRIS BRINGHURST,
PETER SCHURK, Jr.,
J. PEDRO SEURET,
JAMES H. STEEN,
*Committee.*

# VALEDICTORY CHARGE.

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRADUATING CLASS.

HAVING fairly earned, and having duly received the diploma of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, a diploma which connects you by an indissoluble tie with our venerable Institution, it remains for me on the present occasion as one of its accredited officers, to present such brief remarks and reflections, as so joyous and yet so solemn a reunion naturally calls forth.

So joyous? Yes, how can it be otherwise to those, who, for three or more long years, have toiled by day, have faithfully attended lectures during the evening, and have studied by night, to prepare themselves for that trying examination from which gray-headed members of the profession might well shrink. It is, indeed, a proud and happy moment for any man to have the fact of his success thus publicly proclaimed in the presence of assembled hundreds.

And yet so solemn! When the mind ranges from the present to the dim, distant future, and realizes in anticipation the responsibilities of the profession of your choice, the comfort and happiness of the sick who shall be relieved by the skilful application of its principles; or the misery, the danger, perhaps the death of a fellow-being, from the carelessness or recklessness of a Pharmaceutist, in whom his neighbors may have placed an additional degree of confidence, from the very fact that he holds a diploma from the oldest college of the kind in the country. This consideration, I repeat, gives a degree of solemnity to this, and all similar occasions. It creates a feeling of responsibility for the faithful discharge of the trust confided to your recent preceptors by the law itself.

They must answer to their own consciences; to the Institution

they represent; and, in spirit, if not in fact, to the communities in which you are about to locate, for the proper fulfilment of the duty committed to their charge.

That trust has been discharged, that duty has been complied with, and we now welcome you, Gentlemen Graduates, into the ranks of the Pharmaceutists of the United States. As an evidence thereof we furnish you with a diploma, which is not only acknowledged throughout the length and breadth of the land, but is also received as *prima facie* evidence of entire fitness to follow the business of a Pharmaceutist in nearly one-half of all the civilized countries on the face of the globe.

See to it, I pray you, that this diploma which gave honor to, and in return was honored by a long line of able men, loses none of its value in the hands to which we now commit it.

As the ties that have hitherto connected us are about being dissolved, and as you are about to enter manfully upon the great battle of life, I have thought that a few reflections on THE CLAIMS OF THE AGE UPON YOUNG MEN would not be inappropriate to the occasion; more especially if those reflections should have a particular reference to that occupation in life chosen for your future pursuit.

But what is the character of the age, that we should study its bearings upon the destinies of young men and ascertain its claims upon them?

Every mind suggests a response, and every tongue is ready to give it utterance.

This is thought and said to be the age in which the human intellect has reached its greatest development. It claims to be the one in which freedom is better understood and practised than in any other epoch of the world's history. Great discoveries in the sciences and the arts are constantly being announced.

By the introduction of steam both by land and sea, space is, in a great measure, annihilated. Even the forked lightnings, whose mazy dance along the vaults of the sky afforded to our forefathers the visible manifestations of Omnipotent Power, and his means of punishment, even these minister under a new form to man's happiness. And the Telegraph, by its constantly widening arms, bids fair to encircle the world, and to annihilate time. So that the boastful promise of the fairy Puck, in Shakspeare's

Midsummer Night's Dream, to "put a girdle round about the earth in forty minutes," may yet be realized.

But is it true, that this age is so far in advance of its predecessors? That matter, mind, and man exhibit newer properties and greater development than ever before? In the main it is true, and yet we are far from having arrived at such a superiority over our forefathers, as people generally seem to suppose.

A review of the history of the past would afford the strongest evidences that, at different times, a high order of attainments has existed.

Babylon and Nineveh, in Asia, Thebes, in Upper Egypt, the pyramids in the African Desert, and Palenque, in Central America, tell in language stronger than the tongue can utter, that a race or races mighty in conception and in deed, in intellect and in power, walked upon the face of the earth long anterior to the Christian era.

Again, in the first centuries of this era, the fine arts and literature were highly cultivated; sculpture had nearly attained perfection; architecture achieved its greatest triumphs, classic temples, immense amphitheatres, and beautiful palaces adorned the great cities of Greece and Italy; and all those arts which characterize refined and luxurious nations were assiduously cultivated.

These evidences of culture were lost, however, in that gloomy period ranging from the fourth to the sixteenth century, which was emphatically the dark age of the world—the night of worse than Egyptian darkness to the human race. But as in the material world, the night precedes the day, and its blackest moments are just before the dawn, so was it then. The mind awakened from its long sleep, burst the bars of its prison-house, called forth its own inherent energies, and endeavored to regain once more, if it should not excel, its former freedom and power.

As the evening sun sheds his mellow rays from the western sky, diffusing joy and peace and light over the earth, before he sinks beneath the horizon, leaving in his train the calm twilight, that lovely hour of the early eve, which is soon merged in the darkness of impending night; so did the refined intellects, the cultivated tastes, the learning, the arts, the eloquence of ancient Greece and Rome shed around them a halo of glory, whose radiance lighted up, in a degree, the succeeding centuries, and

then, all sank together into one common abyss of gloom—the middle ages.

But as the same sun comes forth in the morning, adorned in his bright rays, as a bride out of her chamber, and mounts the eastern vault of heaven; at first, like a great orb on which the eye delights to dwell, then increasing in brilliancy and splendor as he courses along towards the zenith—so did the human mind, by the morning light of the Reformation, rise from the obscurity of its thraldom, and, expanding its energies by means of the printing press, having a new field opened for its display in the discovery and settlement of the Western hemisphere—so did it go on steadily increasing in knowledge, in influence, in freedom, in invention, until, by effort upon effort, by discovery upon discovery, it has given to the race in the latter half of the nineteenth century a degree of attainments in the arts and sciences, in freedom of speech and thought, that has never been witnessed in any previous period in the history of the world.

This review of the past, brief as it is, points to the fact, that although the present age is, in many respects, in advance of all others; yet at various periods from the creation down, of which the record is furnished, our race has not been deficient in individuals who have attained eminence for their deeds and acquirements.

Many and forcible illustrations of this truth might be adduced. The paths of literature afford bright examples. Were we to ask an educated man, what epoch has furnished the best poem? His mind would range over German, French, and Italian masterpieces; it would dwell with delight upon the noble *Paradise Lost* of the blind Milton; it would draw deep draughts of pleasure from the polished lines and chaste diction of Virgil's *Æneid*, produced in the first Christian century; but it would, at last, revert involuntarily to Virgil's great master and prototype, who more than a thousand years previously had put forth his *Odyssey* and *Iliad*, which, down to the very trump of time, will, in educated circles, render the name of Homer "as familiar as household words."

The historical writers of the present day might challenge competition for felicity of style, but who among them has surpassed in simple, truthful, faithful narration the history written

by Moses of the wanderings of the Jews? or in force and fulness that of the wars of the same people by Josephus? or Xenophon's retreat of the ten thousand? or Cesar's description of his Gallic wars? All written centuries ago.

If a modern sculptor wishes to acquire eminence, does he not spend years in the study of the great models preserved in Southern Europe from the wreck of ages that are past?

Has the architect to plan a mansion, a college, or a church? He turns immediately to the Egyptian, the Corinthian, the Ionic, the Doric, the Tuscan, or the Gothic orders. Knowing full well that one or another of these will furnish him with a basis, on which time itself has not, as yet, improved.

But it is unnecessary to multiply illustrations of the past. A sufficient number has been adduced to aid us in forming a more correct judgment of the present; and to afford a confirmation of the truth, that the human mind, with certain limitations, is the same in all ages.

The great difference, however, between this and past times, is to be found in the more general diffusion of knowledge among all classes, instead of having it confined to a very few.

This fact furnishes the key to the true character of the present age—the point which next claims our attention as being the one in which we are more directly interested.

Turn where we may, improvement and progress are the order of the day.

Let us cast a first glance at Agriculture. There we shall witness an entire revolution, not only in the mode of conducting it, but also in the instruments the farmer employs. He is no longer willing to content himself with the slow and laborious methods resorted to in his youth.

Journals devoted especially to the subject inform him what manures are best adapted to the particular character of his soil; what crops will prove most profitable; what labor-saving machines and instruments have been successfully introduced; and how the fruits of the earth are modified by the nature of the seasons.

Farming is now a science, and although the agriculturist still feels the decision "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," yet the principles guiding his labor are entirely changed.

Transferring the scene from the peaceful walks of country life to the rude and murderous trade of war, we shall there find equally great revolutions in progress. Science, art, invention, have all been called into requisition to furnish the warrior with additional means of destroying his enemy. And most fearfully have they succeeded.

But engines of destruction are not the only ones in which improvements have been effected. On the contrary, manufactures of every description the mind can conceive, exhibit the most astonishing ingenuity; and the machinery by which they are produced is so perfected as to leave, apparently, but little room for further advance. Nevertheless, every day's experience shows that each step is but the prelude to another and more important one, thus affording grounds for the supposition that in the next half century, our present modes will be superannuated.

If we turn from these more practical points, in which the defence or the prosperity of the nation is concerned, to the halls of science, we shall there find discovery and progress still more surprising.

The student of astronomy is there seen adjusting his telescope for the examination of the worlds beyond and above us. Devoted to his occupation while the rest of mankind are sunk in sleep, he too is enabled to contribute to the general advancement of our own age. Star after star, asteroid upon asteroid, are added to the previously swollen lists. And even now has he advanced so far in his discoveries as to render the supposition by no means an improbable one, that the great milky way over head, which has been a mystery and a marvel to all his predecessors—that it is a vast ring or belt of light encircling the earth, similar to those which have long been known to exist around other planets of the solar system.

Equally forcible illustrations of the elevated scientific character of the nineteenth century would be afforded us, were we to turn from the telescope to the microscope. From the consideration of God's grandest works to that of his minutest.

The study of the structure of the earth itself, affords to the Geologist his proudest triumphs. He penetrates into its very bowels and observes how layer is there piled upon layer; he examines the surface and reads its signs; he studies the old

red sandstone and acquires valuable thoughts; he ascends the highest mountains to learn the arrangement of their rocks. From all these sources he derives the materials which enable him to direct his less educated brethren to those localities whence they may expect to obtain coal, iron, copper, and other precious metals. With surprising precision he often describes the nature of the layers beneath, by a careful inspection of the surface only.

Even the sea has been compelled to yield its hidden secrets; a few shells drawn here and there from its bottom have been deemed sufficient evidence of the stability of the tracts in which they were found, to warrant great nations in the outlay necessary to the planting of submarine telegraphs.

Botany and its votaries have also been making rapid strides. Chaos and confusion no longer exist in the vegetable kingdom. Thousands of capable observers in the different quarters of the globe have been making contributions to the common stock, until natural classes and orders are fully established. These are now so well ascertained, that if a competent Botanist had accompanied the expeditions of Lieutenants Page and Herndon, in South America, of Dr. Livingston in Southern Africa, or of the lamented Kane to the north, and had picked up an unknown plant in either of these regions, he could at once have placed it in its natural order and have furnished such a description that the tyro in the science could at any time afterwards have recognized it, though met with in an entirely different quarter.

These remarks might be extended to all the occupations of life, and examples might be found in each of them, showing the progressive character of the times. But as you have chosen a scientific profession for your future business career, I have designedly referred to subjects of a scientific nature.

Enough, I think, has now been adduced to give us a clear view of the true character of the age. While making every allowance for the attainments in art, for the prowess, for the refinement and culture of some of the nations of antiquity, we are clearly justified in asserting and claiming for the present century a most surprising advance over them, in nearly every department in which the energies of man can be manifested.

And yet a reflecting mind might here suggest the inquiry, Does mere advance in art, in science, in education, in freedom,

alone characterize an age? Or may there not be other circumstances exerting their influences upon young men, either for weal or for woe?

Look at that little valley near yonder mountain top, surrounded by high hills, and observe a slender rivulet wending its way from its peaceful and secluded origin; increasing in rapidity as it descends the steep slopes; constantly augmenting in volume, by junction with other rivulets; anon it receives larger branches, as it descends towards the plain; then larger, and yet larger, until a river is formed which bears away on its broad and peaceful bosom to the distant ocean, the products of the mines and soil along its shores.

Look again! the mountain snows are suddenly dissolved; the fierce tempest rages; the rain descends in torrents; the rivulet is swollen into a stream; the stream into a flood, which pours down into the plains below, rushing and roaring along its channel, breaking down its natural barriers, and causing desolation in its train.

As in the physical world, so do we find it in the mental and the moral worlds. Those circumstances and conditions, which, when properly regulated, are, like the placid stream, the sources of so much comfort and enjoyment, of prosperity, peace and progress to our race, may and do, if not subjected to proper influences, become, like the swollen flood, the bane and the destroyer of human happiness.

The impulse given to mental development and activity, and the freedom of thought and action we enjoy, are producing their ordinary, if not their legitimate fruits.

All of the learned professions, usually so called, are subjected to the most searching investigations. New theories, new principles, new practices are constantly being announced. And at times, every man is compelled to give a reason for the faith that is in him.

Even religion itself has to undergo a severer ordeal in the nineteenth century than it had in the first. Atheism, Deism, Pantheism, Mormonism, and infidelity are in open or concealed enmity with the word of God. To say nothing of that withering blight which is secretly doing its work in raising doubts in un-

stable minds, in destroying the peace of families, and in filling the insane asylums, and the grave with its victims.

Against the word of God! That word which is to survive when heaven and earth shall pass away!

In the beautiful thought of Mr. Choate, employed in reference to a different subject, and on another occasion: Like those wonderful rocking stones erected by the Druids of old, which the faintest breath of heaven would rock to their very centres, but which the most powerful army could not overturn; so that Word, chained by an invisible link to the throne of God, though it may be blown by every breath of suspicion, be explained away by every new theorist who wants followers, be decried and despised by every open enemy; still shall it survive the wreck of time, and be the dying comfort and consolation of the last Christian man.

Such, then, Gentlemen, is the opinion we form of the mental character of the present age. Great advance everywhere, and in all of the occupations of life. While the very fact of the education of the people generally, and the freedom of thought and action, have given an impulse to the mind which has caused it in many instances to overleap its usual bounds, and to run riot from the excess of its own liberty.

If the mirror now held up give a correct delineation of past and passing events, the question comes home to our hearts and minds, "What are the peculiar claims which such an age has upon young men?" Upon those who are about to enter the race, and to strive for the mastery?

The answer to this question presents a broad field for investigation if we should consider all its bearings upon young men generally. As this consideration is altogether foreign to the occasion, I shall not attempt it; but rather restrict my remarks to your own position as graduates in pharmacy.

I can well realize the feelings that will occupy the bosom of each of you in a few days, or weeks, or months, when he first determines to lay aside his previous engagement, and commence for himself. Having selected a location, or being still in doubt where to find the best one, his thoughts naturally turn towards those who, by a long and close attention to their business, have acquired the confidence of the community around. Their posi-

tion seems impregnable; they appear to have attained such an elevation, as to check, if not forbid, the rising aspiration in his mind to occupy at some future day an equal or a higher rank.

Faint-hearted and depressed, he permits despondent feelings to gain the ascendant. No opportunity is afforded to him. No way is open for him. No prize is within his grasp.

Cherish these feelings, and be assured they will prove precursors of the dread truth: cast them aside and dismiss them as unworthy of an educated, thoughtful, resolute man, and you will soon rise superior to them, and in due time success will crown your efforts.

Your profession is filled with polished, able, and highly educated gentlemen. They evince a determination to place Pharmacy in the front rank of the sciences, and to keep it there, side by side with its sisters, Medicine, and Chemistry.

In the ordinary course of nature, in a few years they must yield to you and your compeers; and it behooves you to think well of the coming responsibility.

In this age, when every department (Pharmacy included) is distinguished by invention, by discovery, by improvement, no man can reasonably expect to succeed unless he devotes himself solely and entirely to *one* occupation. Let not, I beseech you, the syren voices of pleasure, of politics, of worldly ambition, or of those other unhallowed influences before alluded to, lead you astray. No profession offers a wider field of proper, laudable ambition than your own.

But if success and distinction can only be obtained by a sedulous devotion to one profession, it is equally true that this profession must be a subject of constant study.

Do not make the mistake, which I fear is too often committed, that the reception of the diploma closes the books. It merely shuts up the text-books, so as to open those of science at large.

We proclaim to-night, and do so in good faith, that you are graduates in Pharmacy, and as such, entitled to full confidence. But if any man among you supposes his education is completed, that man is laying a flattering unction to his own soul. So far as the building-up of his individual reputation is concerned, it has scarcely commenced. The world offers thousands of illustrations. History is filled with them.

Think you that the rash boy who led the charge on the bridge of Lodi, and who afterwards sacrificed his brave followers in the sands of Asia in his worse than foolish expedition to, and retreat from Acre; think you that he was then fitted for the production of those masterly movements which so peculiarly distinguished his subsequent great battle-fields, and which only ended at Waterloo?

By no means. Stretched upon the floor of his tent, or upon a sofa in his palace, he prepared his mind for its greatest efforts by profound study.

Or, think you that the British troops which ran, as it were, from their own shadows in Spain, could then have conquered at the same Waterloo? The thought is absurd. Nothing but the long-continued and patient training both of their bodies and stubborn wills to the absolute command of one man, could have produced that stern resolve, which enabled them to face for five and a half long, long hours the belching mouths of more than three hundred cannon, and as each front rank fell, to replace it by another at the stern and oft-repeated command, "file up."

Again, who among the group of listeners at the debating society in Lexington in 1798 to that stammering young man, who attempted to address them, and the witnesses of his mortifying failure as a speaker, could have supposed that that very failure would be the means of calling into existence a spirit of study, an energy, and a determination, which in the course of years developed those wonderful powers of oratory that enchained the American people for nearly half a century; and which, associated with his abilities as a statesman, and his accomplishments as a gentleman, enshrined him in their hearts. Even now, when his life's fitful fever is o'er, there are few objects more sacred in our memories or more cherished in our feelings than the name of Kentucky's gifted, noble son.

I might carry you, in imagination, from the idle amusements of the young advocate, in Boston, to the proud title of "Expounder of the Constitution" he afterwards won by hard labor. I might depict before you the daily toil at the anvil, and the mental discipline by the midnight lamp, which have produced a learned blacksmith. I might refer to the early history, and the later struggles, of many of the present members of Congress. They

would all confirm the one great truth, that the higher training of men's minds can only be accomplished by themselves.

We have laid the foundation. Whatever of rank, of distinction, of fame, of success, you hereafter attain, will be directly dependent on the superstructure you erect upon this foundation. The age claims the effort at your hands.

Nor is the claim which every community has upon its individual members to be overlooked. It has an especial right to require of those who assume the responsible duty of dispensing medicines, an extraordinary degree of attention and care.

Life and health are too important to be rashly endangered. No amount of skill and experience can compensate for negligence and inattention.

The sad warnings that are given, from time to time, call loudly upon the proprietors of pharmacies to exercise a double vigilance; and may I trust these calls will not be lost upon you, when you become the responsible heads of such establishments?

Before concluding, permit me to lay before you another, and a very important claim for consideration.

It is the sacred duty of every member of a liberal profession to rise, at times, above his mere personal and pecuniary interests, and to contribute somewhat of his time, his influence, and his abilities, to the common benefit of his profession. This remark applies with as much force and truthfulness to the science of pharmacy as to any other branch.

It is a rising science. More laurels have been won in it by chemists during the present century than anywhere else. An impetus has been given to the investigation of the true properties of medicines. Surprising results have been attained. More is yet to be accomplished. Each discovery is the prelude to another. The field is open before you. It is world-wide, inviting, and remunerative. If liberally cultivated, it will yield a large harvest of renown to the planter, and will benefit his common profession.

Experience, however, has proven that individual results and observations are apt to be lost; and therefore societies are established, to which, as a common centre, isolated contributions may flow, there to be examined, revised, and published.

The annual meetings of the representatives of the great pharmaceutic body in the United States, afford to the humblest and most diffident, opportunities of bringing directly before the scientific world any investigations he may have made, thereby promoting his own interest and the public good. What might we not expect if the whole body of American pharmaceutists were actuated by the zeal which has so nobly characterized a few? What valuable results would soon be attained.

Finally, gentlemen, a profession does not belong merely to one generation. But, by a regular series of successors, it is continued from age to age, so that, while considering the present, we must not overlook the future. As the keystone to success and honor lies in a good education, so does it behoove every profession to provide opportunities, in this respect, for its junior members and its future fellows.

The more influence you use in the establishment of local pharmaceutical societies, and for the support of colleges of pharmacy, the more benefit will be conferred upon the profession, both now and hereafter, and the more honorable, useful, and respectable, will be your own position.

Thus, gentlemen graduates, have I endeavored to lay before you, in simple terms, the claims of the age upon you as members of the great scholar class of the world; as active and responsible members of the community; and as graduates in, and fellows of, a liberal profession.

Associating the duties imposed by this threefold claim, and looking onward to the recompense of reward, there opens before you a future of honorable distinction. The prize is not so distant that it cannot be reached, nor the race so long that the goal cannot be won. Steady devotion to one profession, and intelligent labor, are the cardinal virtues of temporal success.

> "What by duty's voice is bidden, there where duty's star may guide,
> Thither follow, that accomplish, whatsoever else betide."

The age is one of intense activity; and although much of its knowledge is superficial, and there is a tendency to form hasty and incorrect conclusions, yet is there also a profundity of thought producing remarkable results.

No member of a profession can maintain a respectable rank without effort; and would he rise to eminence, and become distinguished among his equals, that effort must be life-long.

Were I to concentrate in one word your duty to God, to man, to your profession, to yourselves, that word would be EARNESTNESS. It belongs equally to success here, to happiness hereafter. Earnestness! Heaven above you is in earnest. The powers beneath are in earnest. The world around you is in earnest.

Sons of Pharmacy! Can you be so derelict to yourselves and your profession, when all around is in progress, as not to make a determined effort to raise that profession to its true rank as a science—a boon to humanity, a solace to the afflicted, a twin-sister to medicine? I cannot, I will not believe it.

Be earnest! Be earnest!

And now, gentlemen, there only remains for me to perform the most unpleasant duty connected with the professorial chair. It is to take a formal, and, with many, I fear, a final leave. The pleasant bonds of collegiate intercourse have ripened into personal friendships. The former are now broken; the latter, I trust, will never be.

I know full well that the long looked for period has now arrived, and your hearts, bursting with impatience to revisit the scenes of early childhood, are already there in anticipation.

Go, then, revisit those distant spots upon which fond memory lingers, and whispers the hallowed name of home. There, loving arms and warm hearts will greet you. Perhaps a father awaits the return of his son with more desire and interest than he would be willing to confess. Perhaps a mother, in the yearning love for her child, can scarce repress the maternal solicitude that burns in her bosom. Perhaps a sister is ready to pour out her young, warm affections upon her long-absent brother.

Home! thrice hallowed name! how fondly do we cling to thy remembrances when far away!

Return again to the homes of your childhood, and whether they, or more distant places, be the scenes of your future professional labor; whether at the North or the South; in Pennsylvania or Virginia; in Iowa or Mississippi; in Cuba or in France; wherever you may locate, remember, I pray you, the character of the

profession you are about to practice—its duties, its responsibilities, its advancement—the reputation of the *Alma Mater* that has nourished you, and the pride she will always cherish for her faithful children.

Commending you individually to the guidance of that Power without whose blessing our efforts are in vain, I sincerely hope that your future life may be as honorable and successful—its close as happy and peaceful—as its morning has been zealous and dutiful.