# The Lancaster Intelligencer.

"THAT COUNTRY IS THE MOST PROSPEROUS WHERE LABOR COMMANDS THE GREATEST REWARD."—BUCHANAN.

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## Franklin and Marshall College.

*Addresses delivered on the occasion of the dedication of the new College Building.*

### INTRODUCTORY DISCOURSE.

BY REV. E. V. GERHART, PRESIDENT.

The consolidation of Franklin College and Marshall College constitutes a new era in the history of those two Institutions. No other event occurring since they were established, is equally deserving of such distinction; for it introduced a new order of things, giving a new phase and new power to all their educational operations. It was the point of confluence for two homogeneous streams, at which they begin to mingle their waters and pour them down through the valley of time in one deeper, broader, more majestic channel.

Nearly three years have now elapsed since the formal opening of the Institution at Lancaster was publicly celebrated. During this period its course has been steadily progressive. Unpropitious circumstances, indeed, have not been found wanting. The removal of Marshall College, and its union with Franklin College, may be aptly compared to the transplanting of a young tree. It is put into a new soil. It occupies a new position. Some of the roots have been bruised and broken. The nutritive earth has not settled nicely around all the fibres. The north-west wind seems to blow upon it from a different point of the compass. Some of the destructive insects that buzz around it, or fasten on its leaves, or sting its trunk, may be of larger size or infuse a more poisonous venom. A little time is necessary, therefore, to recover from the first effects of a sudden transition, and appropriate, by a vigorous process of assimilation, the superior elements of life from the new, rich soil in which it stands.

Like this has been the experience of the new Institution. The old home was given up; the new home was indeed the ancient abode of education, but still new to her. Old currents of influence and support, were interrupted; new and stronger ones had to be started. Old ties were broken, and the charm of old associations had vanished; new ties were therefore to be formed, and she had to wait on old Time to wave his hand and throw the charm of other associations around her new halls and new grounds. There, were warm friends, indeed, in her adopted home, but they were such rather from principle and resolution; she had to be seen, and heard, and handled, that their hearts might become warmer still from affection and interest.—Confidence, affection and earnest zeal for her progress on the part of her new guardians, friends and patrons, could not spring up at will or in a moment. Nothing was more natural, therefore, than that the Institution should feel sensibly the effects of the great change. Yet the tree grew. Some of the limbs may have appeared less thrifty, and some of the leaves may have gotten yellow; but it did not die; it lived on—it budded, blossomed and bore fruit in its season, and though the crop may not have been as large as on some former years, still the fruit was ripe and good. Long may the tree stand and thrive, spreading its branches wider, lifting its top higher, and with each returning summer enriching the State and the land with a golden harvest. May coming generations sit in its shadow and rejoice in its strength; and may the nations of the earth rise up and call it blessed.

To-day we have assembled to inaugurate the first epoch in the history of Franklin and Marshall College. The liberal contributions of Lancaster city and county have purchased these broad, beautiful acres that spread at our feet on either side, and erected this chaste and and substantial structure to serve the wants of the Institution. It is becoming to distinguish the day with appropriate ceremonies—to suspend the daily routine of study, recitation and lecture—to turn aside from the ordinary affairs of business—to come together within these walls, to invoke the benediction of the triune God, to reflect seriously upon the great interests of Literature and Science, and to contemplate the intimate relation of Education to the weal or woe of society. It is becoming to set this new edifice apart, solemnly and formally, to the glorious and sacred cause for which it has been erected. For the work to which it is devoted forms the bone and sinew of the State, and gives color to the life-blood of the Church.

Here scores and hundreds of youth will congregate from year to year. They will come from the north and the south, from east and west, from the city and the country, from the valleys and the mountains, each one with habits and opinions of his own, modified by the place of his birth and the character of his early companions. They will come from the families of the intelligent and ignorant, of the rich and the poor; some from the proud and ambitious, others from the humble, each one with plans and views of life varying with the atmosphere of the parental fireside. They will come, some with strong and others with feeble minds, some with industrious, simple and moral habits, others with indolent, luxurious and immoral habits; some with noble hearts, calm, bright hopes and a firm will, and others there may be who lack all the better and purer susceptibilities of our nature. To this spot they will come as to a common centre, acting and reacting on each other, mind striking against mind, will winning or resisting will, and heart repelling or attracting heart, each one giving an impulse to and exerting some peculiar influences upon the life of the community. Some old habits will be laid aside, some old friendships dissolved, some old ties broken: here new habits will be contracted, here new, warm and lasting friendships will spring up, here soul will be bound to soul by ties that neither age nor death can break.

Above, before and in all these apparently confused forces, must be the internal vivifying spirit and the all-embracing atmosphere of the College itself—a strong general spirit that, working gently, silently but potently, assimilates to its own nature the various minds and repugnant tendencies that are here brought into contact—a spirit that gives due harmonious direction to the collection of contradictory aspirations and aimless pursuits, and breathes unity and order into the numerous conflicting capacities, faculties and talents of the whole mass of mind—an atmosphere that each student inhales, imparting the life-sustaining oxygen to the blood flowing through the arteries of his inmaterial being—an atmosphere that refracts equally all the rays of intellectual light that emanates from the innumerable stars and moons and suns shining upon us, whether dimly or brilliantly, in the sublime, resplendent firmament of Literature and Science. The spirit and atmosphere of the Institution will mould every susceptible mind into some degree of likeness to itself. Each mind will receive a, mark, if ardent and impressible, a broad mark, which no friction from the action of will nor the wear and tear of ruthless time, can ever utterly efface or destroy. From year to year, young men will go forth from these halls, with habits of thought and feeling, with principles of action, whose influence will be traceable through the whole course of their future life, whether they move the plane, or follow the plough, or minister at the bedside, or plead at the bar, or officiate at the altar.

With what intense interest will not, therefore, every reflecting, conscientious father, and every tender, affectionate mother, turn their eyes to this spot, and follow in imagination the daily movements and progress of a beloved son. The chords struck here do not only resound in our ears, but they extend their vibrations even to thousands of warm responsive hearts scattered over our land. The name, and honor, and joy of the distant family, is wrapped up with the work of the College—with the influences concentrated in this edifice. Every family is directly affected by the intellectual process going forward here. Nor is it unknown nor unfelt. Hither many anxious thoughts wander, in the morning as soon as the eye opens upon the light of day, or at evening, when a book, a vacant chair, or a daguerreotype, reminds the fond parental heart of an absent son, or during the quiet solemn hours of midnight when a painful dream has driven sleep far, far away. O how many earnest prayers mingled with tears, go up, to the Throne of God, for special protection, guidance and blessing, upon those who are and will be collected in this building.

With what deep concern should not also the community in general, look upon this centre of moral influences. Men will go forth from these classic shades to enter and labor in all the vocations of life. The State will receive some of her Legislators, Judges and various other office-holders from these halls. Public sentiment, than which no human agency is more powerful in its bearing upon the welfare of society, will be measurably determined by the nature and spirit of the instructions imparted in this College. The Church too, will be vitally affected. Many of her Ministers, office-bearers and laymen, are and will be trained here.—She will feel the power of her literary institutions in the general spirit pervading her ministry in the exposition of the sacred Scriptures, in the tone of thought and feeling regulating the action of the various members of her mystical body. Neither Church nor State can be indifferent to the kind of power put forth by such an Institution—can be indifferent to the use to which this costly structure shall be devoted for years and scores of years to come.

How many vital interests cluster around this new edifice! How solemn the work to be performed here from one decade of years to another! How far reaching and inflexible its influence!

In the name of the Board of Trustees and the Faculty, in the name of every family whose happiness is linked with the transactions of to-day, in the name of the community and the State, in the name of the Church of Jesus Christ, we do therefore dedicate this building, solemnly and forever, to sound Learning, to profound, liberal, comprehensive and true Science, to the spirit of refinement and of general social culture, to the fair genius of private, and public virtue, to the sacred cause of honor, truth and religion, and to the highest interests of the community and the State, the nation, the Church and the world. Let it stand, the object of sincere affection and unchangeable regard, to elevate, dignify and purify man in all the relations of life, and to bring glory to God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, throughout countless generations yet unborn.

## Address of Emlen Franklin, Esq.

The condition of the general intelligence around us has so obvious and powerful an effect upon our own individual comfort and happiness, that any great movement in its behalf produces in us a spontaneous interest and regard. We all feel, that if every man and every woman in the community could be induced to seize, with an abiding zeal, upon all the means of knowledge within their reach, if they would diligently appropriate all the materials for mental improvement which surrounding circumstances have placed in their daily pathway, the pleasures of social intercourse would be vastly enhanced, many unfortunate distinctions would be obliterated, and the general aspect of society would be greatly improved. If, in addition to this, each individual would, with honest heart and pure intentions, conscientiously endeavor to make such mental acquisitions conducive to the welfare of his friends, his family, and his race, according to the measure of his abilities and the influence of his position, how many miseries would be abolished, how much the area of general happiness would be enlarged, and the dignity of existence exalted!

Many a philanthropic heart has throbbed with the desire—many a fond schemer has labored with the hope of assisting in the accomplishment of such a result. But the attainment of a state of universal mental and moral excellence, realizing this ideal standard, is practically impossible. We are glad to believe that the *wish to know* is innate to every mind. But the desire of eminent mental culture is not *generally* so strong a feeling of our nature as to successfully resist and overcome the force of adverse circumstances. It lives a spark in every human breast, which constant food and care will cherish to a bright and steady flame, but which the frail existence is endangered by the presence of many enemies, banded together for its destruction. Indolence chills it with its cold and noisome breath; unpropitious fate smothers it beneath a weight of cares; and despair finally extinguishes the sacred fire. The difficulties in the way of the attainment of knowledge are obvious, palpable; while its rewards are slow, distant and indistinct; consequently, the lower men are in the scale of intelligence, the less is the value they assign to it; and it is precisely those to whom it is the greatest need, whom it is most difficult to convince of their necessitous condition. Thus a great portion of mankind remains careless, or becomes desponding: and are content to bury their *one* talent in the earth, because it is but one, instead of being stimulated by the smallness of their possession to that exertion which is necessary to increase their store.

Moreover, moral improvement does not *always* keep pace with the development of mind, nor is the possession of eminent mental attainments, *always* accompanied by the determination to dedicate them to the welfare and benefit of mankind. Each one of us within the limits of his own observation, may recall instances in which he has seen noble talents and acquirements prostituted to the basest and most ignoble ends, and beyond and above our own limited experiences, history has recorded many melancholy lessons to the same effect. It is an unnecessary, as it would be an unpleasant task, to linger long over examples of historical characters, blessed with every attribute of genius and learning, who not only refused to employ their splendid faculties for the advancement of the general welfare, but who seemed actuated by an insane desire to detract from the happiness and deepen the degradation of human nature. Yet, perhaps, it is fit to pause for a moment over the character of one, whose existence discloses to our view, a more vivid picture of mental excellence, combined with moral depravity, than the imagination could have conceived. To know that men have lived, who from evil passions, culpable ambition, or other unworthy motives; have carried fire and sword, misery and desolation, over smiling countries and happy nations, is melancholy indeed. But the heart trembles with a deeper and more instinctive horror, in approaching one who, in the calm retirement of a private station, amid the placid influences of a literary life, could meditate an attack on public virtue and happiness, plan a vast conspiracy against the well being of mankind, and devote the energies of a long life, and a Herculean mind, to the monstrous enterprise. Yet such was Voltaire.—Endowed with the most consummate natural abilities, with remarkable powers of wit and sarcasm, and with these natural advantages adorned by an assiduous mental culture, and extensive stores of learning, Voltaire was fitted to exert a vast and durable influence over the minds of men. He *might* have secured a proud position in the temple of fame. He *might* have won a name illustrious as the benefactor of his race. But instead of a *blessing* he preferred to be a *curse*. Evil seemed to be his good, and good his evil. He scorned and despised human nature; he hated his fellow men with a malignant hatred; and the sole purpose of his life appeared to be, to wage an unceasing war against the best interests of mankind. He labored to prove that private or public virtue had no existence. He undertook to destroy Christianity; and he endeavored to root out from the regard and respect of mankind all that is endearing and lovely in human nature, everything that could make life desirable, or the thought of death endurable.—Himself the fittest exemplar of the doctrines he inculcated, he struggled to pull down the world to the level of his own depravity, and he wielded his powers with such terrible energy as to partially produce that effect. To him, and the band of conspirators of which he was the creator and acknowledged chief, are in a great measure to be attributed the iniquities which preceded, and the crimes and miseries which attended the progress of the French Revolution; and the seeds of evil then sown broadcast over the world will, perhaps, continue to germinate and fructify for ages yet to come. With unflagging zeal Voltaire continued to prosecute his fell purpose during a career of more than ordinary duration, to its final close. But in the dread hour of his own dissolution, that distorted reason which was his boast and pride, deserted him in the crisis of his need, flying before the stronger powers of an outraged conscience; and the story of the terrors of that bed of death, long concealed and suppressed, but at length given to the world, furnishes the most complete and eloquent vindication of the eternal truths which he vainly labored to destroy.

In addition to other individual examples of similar character, history furnishes us a singular instance of a *system* of mental culture, whose effects upon human happiness were, if not unfavorable, at least positively barren. I refer to what is popularly known as the scholastic philosophy of the middle ages. It would be going entirely beyond the limits of the present occasion to enter upon an examination of the fundamental principles of this system, and an exposure of its radical defects. Its results to the cause of true wisdom, its influence upon civilization and general progress, are the only objects which demand our present attention. For many centuries it held undisputed sway over the literary world, and was the single channel through which flowed the genius, wit, and learning of the age. It was an era characterized by great mental activity, and illustrated by some eminent names in the records of literature. But such were the baneful and confining influences of the system, that in all that long period, hardly one valuable truth, scarcely one permanent law of animate or inanimate nature, owed its discovery and application to the purposes of mankind, to the founders or the followers of this scholastic philosophy. It was a tree prodigal of foliage, but barren of fruit. Immured within the secluded walls of the cloister, its disciples there enjoyed a monopoly of the knowledge then possessed by the world, and long successfully endeavored to prevent its rays from spreading beyond the same narrow limits. And being thus separated in a measure from communion with their fellow creatures, they felt no sympathy with their wants and necessities, and esteemed it beneath the dignity of learning to cause it to minister to the physical or political good of man. Busied from first to last, with subjects which had not the remotest connection with the discovery of useful truth, or the advancement of the general welfare, they exhausted great erudition and the most admirable dialectical skill in their investigations, and have left as the monument of their labors, a vast pile of discussion and angry controversy, which has subserved no other useful purpose, but to exhibit at the same time, the greatness and the littleness of the human intellect. If, instead of spending lives of toil, and filling ponderous tomes with disquisitions on topics without substance or profit, these representatives of the learning of the age, had given but a portion of that labor to the investigation of the social and political evils which then oppressed the nations, and the extension of the dominion of man over the forces of nature, the greatest reproach that has ever fallen upon the cause of learning would have been avoided, and the world would have been much further advanced in its onward march of civilization and happiness.

In their hands knowledge appeared as a beauteous princess, suffering under the spell of a cruel necromancy. Snatched away from the enjoyment of the homage and devotion of her loyal subjects, and locked in an enchanted castle, whose gates, barred by a magic charm, remained impassable to human steps, and only opened at the waving of the magician's wand; with her fair form changed to some monstrous shape, and her very nature altered by the power of the charm, helpless and powerless, her only resource was to bewail her captivity, and pray for the coming of the gallant knight whose prowess was fated to deliver her from her hated thrall. Long and dreary were the years of her oppression. But at length the destined champion appeared, armed with a more potent spell. With a blast of his charmed trumpet he summoned the oppressor to the combat, and at the sound the castle tottered to its foundations, and the spell bound gates flew open. With sword and battle axe he felled the dread magician to the earth, and led forth the ransomed captive, amid the acclamations of her joyous people, and arrayed in all her pristine loveliness, to her proper throne.

To Francis Bacon, more than any other name, is the world indebted for its complete escape from the trammels of this dreary philosophy. His genius first detected and demonstrated its utter worthlessness for the discovery of new truth. He showed it to be merely a repository of old knowledge, not a nursery of new: and he condemned it as turning to a stagnant water, what should always remain a living spring. He proclaimed that the only test of the purity of the motive for acquiring knowledge, and of the value of knowledge when acquired, was the production of works for the benefit and use of man; and that as the old philosophy had proved itself inapplicable to such purposes, it was necessary to build up a new system of knowledge, laid on other foundations and raised with different materials. In our day it requires no argument to enforce such plain principles. The mere statement of the proposition carries conviction with it. But in that era of comparative darkness and prejudice, it required a long and arduous struggle with its adherents, to accomplish the destruction of the old fabric, and the institution of a new philosophy, adapted to inquiries into the hidden truths and universal laws of nature—But Bacon's final victory was complete; and under the stimulus of his doctrines and new methods of investigation, human inquiry was at length directed into an entirely new channel. Old subjects of dispute and discussion were dropped as unworthy of attention: and "with a strong persuasion that the whole world was full of secrets, of high moment to the happiness of man," the disciples of the new philosophy applied themselves zealously to the task of their discovery. From that moment only can science be said to have had a true existence; and the long array of blessings which has followed in her train, is the legitimate result of the revolution in philosophy accomplished by Lord Bacon. Others who preceded him may have assisted in the good work by crippling its defences and weakening its foundations: but to him we owe the complete demolition of the edifice, where knowledge drooped, a pining captive in a gloomy prison, and the construction of the new and majestic temple, where she now sits, a crowned queen, upon a glorious throne.

The contemplation of this beneficial revolution in the history of learning, naturally inclines us to hasten to the brighter aspects of the picture, upon whose darker colors we have thus bestowed a glance. These require no close examination for their detection, no studied explanation for their appreciation.—The beauties of the scene lie patent to the eye, and steal spontaneously to the heart of the most careless observer. In truth we have been but watching the shadows, which ever and anon, flit across the surface of the landscape, while beneath our eyes extends a succession of gorgeous woodlands, flowing streams and waving fields of grain, clad in all the splendors of a fertile beauty, and smiling in the radiance of a summer sun.

No man at this day ventures to discourage efforts for the wider diffusion of the higher branches of knowledge, because universal education is impracticable. All human attempts and aspirations are mere approximations to ideal standards of excellence. In no department of exertion is absolute perfection attainable. In every direction, man is constantly approaching but never reaches the perfect standard; but to cease all efforts thereto, for this reason, would be to put a stop to human progress in every quarter. It is our destiny to struggle upward, upward, on an endless and limitless ascent, but from the high places of the mountains, as well as in the lowly valleys at their base, resounds the same incessant cry, which is the natural utterance of aspiring humanity—"Excelsior."

To the pioneers and early advocates of the cause of general education, the prospect might well appear discouraging, and the difficulties insuperable. Even partial success must have appeared chimerical to all but the most enthusiastic minds. But to us, who witness what has already been effected, who have seen the giant strides which society has made in this respect since the first faint impulses were communicated, no project seems too extensive or visionary for accomplishment, no limits too distant or comprehensive to be reached.—Every year adds to the number of the means and instruments for the more general development of mind. Every succeeding generation increases the proportion of those, for whom fortune and favorable circumstances have placed those means within easy reach: and each generation multiplies the number of those resolute souls, whose fortitude no difficulties can conquer, whose ardor no despondency can abate, but who successfully struggle upward against the pressure of an untoward fate, to the highest eminences of the realm of mind; not only realizing their own highest aspirations, but illuminating by the brightness of their example, the darkened footsteps of others following in the same paths. From the operation of these happy influences, and their triple reaction upon each other, the obstacles in the way of the acquirement of knowledge have been rendered so much less formidable, and the determination to overcome them so much more prevalent, that the ranks of intelligent and educated men now embrace a very large proportion of the members of every civilized community. When we reflect that but two centuries ago, the masses of mankind were shut out from even the first rudiments of knowledge, and when we consider that now, in our own favored land at least, a fair degree of education and intelligence is the general rule, and entire ignorance the rare exception, what golden visions may we not indulge in for the immediate future: how can we resist or refuse an interest in that spirit of progress, which, pressing forward far beyond these limits, now directs its efforts to the establishment of institutions, which will convey opportunities for the highest mental culture within the reach of all. In no field of philanthropic enterprise, does labor offer so rich or so certain prospects of reward as in this. In many of the forms in which the progressive spirit of the present age manifests itself, the pleasure of the work is alloyed by the uncertainty of success or the ambiguity of its results, whether for good or evil. But in cherishing *this* interest: in fostering and encouraging progress in *this* direction, we may enjoy the assurance, which is a source of the highest gratification to a benevolent mind, that any measure of influence exerted or labor expended in this behalf, however small or great, will inevitably yield a proportionate return of benefits and advantages to humanity.

That the interests of learning are identical with the best interests of mankind, is no longer a subject of dispute. We cannot look around us in our daily walk—we cannot open the records of time, without being impressed with the evidence of these truths: that "the world is a vast theatre constituted for exertion: in which enjoyment is the natural consequence of industry, morality and intelligence: and suffering, that of ignorance and sloth;" and that in its history the gradual enlargement and *diffusion* of the map of knowledge, has been steadily followed with an increase and expansion of human happiness. The ages of general ignorance have been the ages of general depravity, misery and oppression; while the age of general intelligence and education, is also the age of public virtue, security and felicity. Indeed, until within a comparatively recent period, the history of modern nations presents as nothing but a picture of human folly, wretchedness and crime: an almost unbroken record of war, rapine, disorder and desolation, from the contemplation of which we turn with a disgust hardly mitigated by the splendid careers of the heroes, statesmen and patriots, with which its pages are emblazoned. But the era of the revival of learning was like the dawning of a new day upon the world. The dark cloud which overhung the whole aspect of human affairs, fled before the brightness of that morning sun. With every ray that pierced the misty veil, some common evil was dissipated, some common blessing was unfolded; and from the time that, mounting towards the zenith, the full splendor of its beams shone forth, history becomes the chronicle of a different order of events. Inspired with new emotions of pleasure and delight, we trace upon its glowing pages the development of the idea of the common brotherhood of humanity, and consequent perception of the blessings of peace and commercial intercourse: the birth and growth of liberty; the first emergence, the struggles and the establishment of the doctrine of natural rights: and the subjection of the laws of matter to the dominion and control of man. Yoking them one by one to his triumphal car, as the servants of his pleasure and the ministers to his prosperity; until he fitally appears as a new being, clothed with higher attributes of power, and increased capacities of happiness.

All the sons of men within the limits of the civilized world are, in some measure, participants in these beneficent results. And this universality of the blessing is attributable, in a great degree, to the two-fold influence which mental culture exerts upon individual character. It not only adds a charm to the existence of its recipient, by enlarging his command over physical comforts, and opening new sources of enjoyment in intellectual pleasures, but it reflects these advantages upon the world at large, by impressing him with the *will*, as well as the power, to advance the welfare of his fellowmen. Mental excellence is generally illustrated and ennobled by a philanthropic spirit. That spirit stimulates the labors of the votary of science in his laboratory, the artist in his studio, the man of letters in his closet. And although the annals of learning supply us with many instances to the contrary, some of which have engaged our momentary attention; yet on the other hand, the long and brilliant array of names, illustrious in all the departments of science, art and literature, who have sought the highest reward of a life of benevolent labor, in the legacy of benefits which they have bequeathed to posterity, evinces the almost universal application of the principle, that benevolence and the desire of an honorable fame are the natural consequences of the development of mind. In the great and perpetual conflict between good and evil, of which the world is the battle ground, the forces of knowledge are irrevocably enlisted in behalf of the general welfare. Some of her disciples have viewed the contest with indifference; others have deserted the good cause and endeavored to betray it into the hands of its enemies; but the great body of her followers compose a vast army, which has constantly borne forward its standard, and marched from victory to victory over the enemies of the rights, the liberties and the happiness of mankind.

I have thus endeavored to represent the *popularization*, if I may so term it, of intelligence, as the great lever of material progress and social improvement. To give prominence to the idea that it is not the mere possession of a greater amount of scientific truth, but it is the application of that truth to practical purposes and the number of minds to which it has penetrated; it is, in fine, the dissolution of the old exclusive priesthood of learning, and the diffusion of its essence through the whole current of common life and every day affairs, which marks the superiority of the present age, and gives life in the nineteenth century a dignity and glory which it never before attained. It is not the simple passage of the Nile across the plains of Egypt, as it carries its turbid stream along its proper channel to the unfathomable sea, which constitutes it the praise and blessing of the land. But when, swollen with its annual flood, it rolls along its vast volume of waters, laden with the seeds of life and sources of fertility, and bursting from its narrow banks, pours its rich tide over the parched and burning soil; then it is that its genial influences are manifested in the conversion of those desert sands into a glad succession of smiling meadows and cultivated fields. So the flood of knowledge, breaking forth from its channel, and spreading over the whole surface of the mental world, has changed the blank desert of human existence into a fair garden, blooming in its beauty and plentiful in its fruitfulness.

I am confident that this attempt, however humble and imperfect in its character, will not be deemed inappropriate to the present occasion, upon which we have assembled to celebrate the final installation in our midst of a new institution of learning. My theme points, with unerring certainty, to an increase of the opportunities of *thorough* collegiate instruction, as the end to which a truly philanthropic spirit of progress should direct its efforts. As an instrument, therefore, which promises to exert a powerful influence for the further diffusion of intelligence through the mind of the rising generation, and for the transmission of its blessings with increased lustre to posterity, I congratulate the community on the final establishment of Franklin and Marshall College. It is not as an addition of one more to the numerous colleges of the State that the opening of these spacious halls deserves our countenance and regard. The multiplication of colleges is a very different thing from that increase of the opportunities of thorough collegiate instruction which the wants and requirements of the times demand. The building up of so many petty colleges throughout the limits of Pennsylvania has been a positive drawback to the development of its intellectual resources in their highest character. Without adequate means for the employment of a competent body of accomplished teachers, or for the acquisition of the apparatus necessary for a thorough instruction, they drag out at best a languishing existence, filling rather, under the dignified name of colleges, the office of academies, for the tuition of the youth of the immediate communities in which they are located. By their very number they have prevented any one of them from acquiring that wide spread respect and confidence which are essential to the support of a great institution of learning, thus dissipating resources, which, if concentrated, would have sufficed for the permanent establishment of one institution, which could make a decided impression upon the age, and give a distinctive character to the mental culture of Pennsylvania. It is because Franklin and Marshall College affords a fair prospect of accomplishing this centralization, of concentrating in some degree upon itself these resources, now scattered and isolated, and of attracting the support and affection of the great body of the citizens of the Commonwealth, that this occasion claims our special interest and favor. Apart from its present energetic and efficient administration of its affairs, the fundamental idea upon which the whole structure rests, united with the advantages of its location, give promise of the realization of this high destiny. If ever the general mind of Pennsylvania is to acquire a healthy, vigorous and complete development, *it must be* by a mode of culture peculiar to itself, and corresponding with the origin and special characteristics of our population. In the colleges of New England, we see an order of education which harmonizes with, and reflects in every respect, the origin, the habits of thought, and the constitutional characteristics of the people of New England. And for this reason they have gained a support, and consequent influence and celebrity, superior to any others in this country. But, though the effects of their order of education upon the general intelligence of those states, is such as upon comparison with ourselves, to call a blush upon the cheek of a Pennsylvanian: yet it is not by a slavish imitation of their methods that our marked inferiority can be overcome.—That mode of culture, exactly followed here, as it has generally been, will never succeed in developing to their highest point the intellectual resources of Pennsylvania. Any institution which aspires to the high place of being the leader and exponent of that development, must exhibit in its own organization, the constitutional differences which distinguish our population from that of other states of the Union. Our Commonwealth, is pre-eminently a German State. It is stamped in every part with the impress of the German character of its people. So great a proportion of its citizens is of German descent, so large a part of its fertile territory and personal wealth is in German hands, that their national characteristics and habits of thought have exercised a preponderating influence on its public and social character and conduct. Any order of education, therefore, which takes no account of this peculiarity in our condition, which ignores the existence of this element, is not the proper order for Pennsylvania. The stubborn prejudices of our German citizens against the cause of education, have been notorious, and the fact that to their mental lethargy has been justly attributed the failure of Pennsylvania to keep up with her sister states in the race of intelligence, not only exhibits the extent of their influence upon her position and character, but proves the necessity of appealing to their peculiar interests and affections, in order to achieve eminent success in any movement in the cause of mental culture which is intended to effect the whole state. It is well ascertained that those prejudices are fast disappearing, and that the German mind in our midst is becoming every day more and more awakened to the necessity and advantages of Knowledge; and the great desideratum now is, the establishment of some noble institution of learning, in whose halls that element may feel perfectly at home; which acknowledging a congenial sympathy, and harmonizing its mode of culture, with their characteristics and habits of thought, may attract their general confidence and affection, and which, at the same time, by the munificence of its endowment, and the greatness of its capacity for instruction, will be equal to the duty of dispensing the highest mental culture to the numbers, which that general regard and confidence will gather to its bosom. It requires nothing but the proper tribute from the overflowing wealth of Lancaster City and County, nothing but the exercise of an encouraging liberality on the part of our citizens, to enable Franklin and Marshall College to reach this high position, and fulfil this noble duty. It is formed by the union of two corporations, which have always maintained an intimate connection and relation with this German element. By the terms of the charter of Franklin college, its funds were expressly devoted to serving the cause of learning among the German part of our population. Marshall college, in the twenty years of its existence, had already gained a strong foothold in their affections and confidence; by adapting its instruction to their peculiar genius, and faithfully devoting its energies to the awakening of their slumbering mental power. Ushered into existence therefore with such antecedents, the new College appeals to the same element for support, and stands pledged to pursue the same ends and devote its energies to the same purposes. By the constitution and complexion of its faculty, by its public promise "to maintain a lively communication with the literature and science, "the philosophy and religion of Germany," and by the reigning spirit of its culture, it redeems those pledges, and now presents itself to the State as the representative and exponent of an order of education which is the only one calculated to develope its capabilities in their best form. The local advantages of its situation are also eminent. Easy of access from all quarters by great highways of travel, healthy in its climate, with all the conveniences of life largely and cheaply supplied, and possessing a rare combination of the benefits of city life with the delights of rural senery in its most beautiful and fertile forms, the mere geographical position of the College is superior to that of any other in the State. But it is with reference to the peculiar character of the Institution that those advantages are most conspicuous. Situated in the heart of a pre-eminently German county, the industry and enterprise of whose population, their stern integrity of life and homely virtues, combined with their prosperity and abundant wealth, have made it the chief seat and centre of the German influence of the State, the college is thus placed on an eminence which cannot fail to attract the gaze and fasten the attention of the whole German population of America.

These are some of the elements of success which make the dedication of these Halls, in which Franklin and Marshall College will henceforth pursue the purposes of its mission, an occasion *full* of high hope and promise. A distinguished friend of and laborer in the cause of education, Bishop Potter, has expressed the opinion, that if we could blend the deep and comprehensive thought, the speculative research and liberal enthusiasm of Germany, with the active practical energy and the indomitable enterprise of the American character, we might inaugurate a form of culture nobler and more beneficent than the world has yet seen. This is the special object and purpose of the new College, and this peculiarity of its mission, therefore, far from impairing its general usefulness, only ennobles the form of culture which it is prepared to confer upon all classes of our fellow citizens. And if it achieves complete success in this high mission, we may expect to witness such effects upon both individual and State character, as will draw to it the eyes of the whole nation, and render it one of the greatest and most influential institutions in the land.

With such magnificent results within the boundaries of our vision, every feeling of philanthropy, every impulse of State and County pride forbid us to permit the experiment to languish or fail for want of material encouragement and support. Its success will redound largely to the honor and credit of our City and County, to the diffusion of a taste for learning in our midst, to the exaltation of the tone of our society, and the advancement of its material prosperity. To what benevolent object then, can the superabundance of its wealth be applied, which in the pleasing perception of its beneficial operation, will render a larger or more gratifying return? What nobler or more enduring fame, can any one desire than that of being a chief instrument in the accomplishment of such a destiny as is here promised? No one can hope to enshrine his name in a more splendid monument, than this living one, which by continuing to confer blessings upon humanity, will perpetuate the memory of its builders, in the grateful recollections of coming generations. Private endowments and bequests to colleges are said to be things unknown in our State. But may we not with justice suppose, that this is owing to the fact that we have had no institution which from its wide sphere of influence and prospects of extended usefulness, seemed to be a worthy recipient of an enlarged and liberal bounty? And may we not expect that now, when a fitting opportunity presents itself, our wealthy citizens will come to the assistance of a college, which with such efficient aid, cannot fail to become one of the leading institutions of the country? With the earnest hope that such just expectations may be realized, and with these visions of future grandeur floating around us, and consecrating this occasion, I again congratulate the community on their new possession, and recommend it to the ardent support and good will of every one before me, who cherishes in his bosom one spark of patriotic State or County pride.


ESTATE OF HENRY REIST (now dec'd) and Ann his wife, in the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Lancaster. Whereas Jacob Erb and Joseph Bucher assignees of Henry Reist and wife did on the 25th day of April last file in the office of the Prothonotary of said Court, their account of said Estate.

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested in the said Estate, that the said Court have appointed the 2nd day of June, 1856, for the confirmation thereof, unless exceptions be filed. Attest J. BOWMAN, Prothy.

Prothy's Office, Lan apr 28 apr 29 4t 15

Cheap Books.—Great Bargains.—In consequence of the increased business at the new and Cheap Book Store, and the want of room for the transacting of the increased business, the design is to remove the Book Store to the second floor of the building on the corner of North Queen and Centre Square, adjoining the building in which the Book Store is at present. And as the subscribers have just returned from the Trade Sales with a very large STOCK of BOOKS at exceedingly low prices which causes their stock much larger than it ever has been.—They intend, and are compelled to reduce their stock for the present as much as possible, and to do so they are determined, as they bought their stock very low, to suit their customers in prices. We offer the reading public a great opportunity to buy many valuable literary Gems exceedingly low as our books are new and select. Those desirous of replenishing their Libraries would do well by calling and examining for themselves. You will find much that you will want, and at rates that will repay your visit.

Among the many, you will find Edgar A. Poe's Works, Prof. Wilson's Noctes Ambrosianæ, Cooper's Leather Stocking and Sea Tales, Hazlit's Works, Spirk's American Biography, Bayard Taylor's Travels, Lodge, the Pearl of Pearl River, Hildreths, &c., &c. The subscribers also have the General News Agency for one of the popular Magazines or Newspapers. Subscriptions are received at publishers rates, and will be promptly mailed to any part of the county. We call special attention to the New York Ledger. By sending us 22, any person can have it promptly for one year, on the regular day of publication. Remember the New and Cheap Book Store, Lancaster, Pa.

apr 22 tf 14 H. YOUNG & CO.

SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHING! The undersigned respects the attention of his friends and the public to his new and large assortment of SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHING, all of which is of his own manufacture, every article warranted to be well made, and will be sold as cheap as can be bought at any other store in this city. His large and complete stock of Clothing consists, in part, of—

Black and Brown Cloth Frock and Dress Coats
Blue, Green and Olive do do
Black and Fancy Cassimere Pantaloons
Black and Fancy Satin and Silk Vests.
Shirts, Collars, Stocks, Cravats and Ties—

Together with a complete assortment of all articles usually kept at establishments of this class.

Cloths, Cassimers and Vestings in the piece, always on hand, and will be made up to order at the lowest prices, in the best manner, and with punctuality.

Having purchased his goods for cash, he is prepared to sell at the very lowest prices.

☞ CUSTOMER WORK made to order at the shortest notice, and in the most satisfactory and workmanlike manner.—By strict attention to business, and a desire to please his customers by selling none but the best goods at fair prices, the undersigned hopes to secure a continuance of the liberal share of public patronage he has been favored.

GEO. SPURRIER, Merchant Tailor.

No. 12, North Queen Street, Lancaster.

Between the Stores of Zahm & Jackson and Henry Rothermel's. apr 22 3m 14

McAllister's Platina Points for Lightning Rods.—Our Points are made of a superior Copper body about six inches long, gilt with pure gold to prevent the action of the weather, and tipped with solid Platina. They have been in use for over twenty years, and have given general satisfaction. Prices $1.00 $1.25, $1.50, $2.00, $3.00, $5.00 per point, according to the quantity of Platina. Printed directions accompany each point. Manufactured by

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Institutors and Iron Stands for Lightning Rods, furnished at the lowest prices. apr 22 2m 14

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A large and select assortment of the above, warranted genuine, and embracing many hundred choice varieties, for sale wholesale and retail. Country Dealers supplied at a liberal discount. PASCHALL MORRIS & Co.,

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Jacob Kirchem, Manufacturer of Nock's Patent Locks and Ink-stands, S. E. Corner of 7th and Market Streets, 2d Story, Philadelphia.

These Locks are the most superior and safest kind ever made for iron doors, stores and dwellings.

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apr 22 6t 14

Wanted—AT THE CHESNUT HILL IRON ORE COMPANY'S WORKS, on Chesnut Hill, seven miles from Lancaster, and three from Columbia, Lancaster co., Pa., 100 good lab'ring hands. Wages $23 per month, and paid in cash every month. This is a healthy place, free from fevers and ague. H. R. KNOTWELL, Manager.

apr 22 3t* 14

Tremendous Excitement!—THE bargains I am now offering in CARPETS are worth the attention of every one. Brussels Carpet 87½, worth $1.12½. Chamber, do. 37½, worth 50 cts; Gold Window Shades $1.25; shades as low as 25 cents.

Merchants, House-keepers, Hotel Proprietors, owners of Vessels and Steam Boats, Committees, and in fact every class who want to furnish with good goods, a low prices, cannot find a