

# CORNELL UNIVERSITY

---

OPENING OF

## THE MEDICAL COLLEGE

ADDRESSES

BY

PRESIDENT J. G. SCHURMAN  
PROFESSOR L. A. STIMSON, M.D.  
GOVERNOR THEODORE ROOSEVELT  
PRESIDENT SETH LOW

---

ITHACA, NEW YORK  
PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY  
MAY, 1901  
BI-MONTHLY

## ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT

---

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

It is a matter of much pleasure to me to take part in the ceremonies by which we now celebrate the opening of this new Medical College, a monument and model of living patriotism and generous philanthropy. I shall not dwell upon the value and work of such institutions as this. Professor Stimson has fully and carefully gone over that ground. I shall more particularly ask your attention to the need of having men in the community who will do as Colonel Payne has done here.

One of the principal needs in any civilization is to keep always open to certain men an opportunity for doing non-remunerative work, work which, from the very nature of things, will be totally unpaid, or paid in a manner altogether out of proportion to its value when accomplished. I think it would hardly be too much to say that the lives of those men whose work has been of the greatest value to this and every country have been in a material sense absurdly, ridiculously underpaid. Since Milton received five pounds for one of the greatest epics ever written, the story has always been the same. The reward of the men who have left great names, whether as soldiers, statesmen, or in other walks, was almost always the work they did. The work which is on the whole best worth doing for any great people is work which from its very nature cannot pay for itself. The great mass of the body politic has got to understand this, or there will be a failure to provide opportunities for this non-remunerative work, the work which does not

and cannot bring quick and profitable pecuniary returns to the doer of it.

There are only a few, a very few, who can unite the power of wealth to the higher power of successful administration. The need of non-remunerative work is vital ; but do not forget that this work is conditioned upon some one else doing the work which does bring remuneration. The scientific man is dependent upon the man of wealth.

The very existence of buildings such as this, of our great colleges and universities, such as are presided over by you, Mr. Schurman, and by you, Mr. Low, are the best, surest, and amplest proof of the good which may flow from accumulated wealth. No doubt there is evil also. The man of means is about like everyone else, having good motives and bad ; only he is possessed of more opportunity to do good or to do evil. But there is nothing more harmful and dangerous than the teaching that the wealthy man is necessarily an enemy of the people. Colonel Payne's gift of this magnificent building emphasizes in a striking fashion the fact of the incalculable good done to the community by men of wealth who use their wealth aright. It also emphasizes the fact that wealth must be used properly to justify its existence. And we have the moral right to demand that great fortunes be so used as to tell on the whole for good and not for evil.

It is practically impossible to keep a great fortune so that it shall be neutral. Its possessor will use it either for good or for evil. The individual man of wealth must be either a benefit to the commonweal or the reverse. All honor to the man who is on the watch to take advantage of every opportunity to do good with his money. If he fails to take advantage of the chance when offered, a heavy weight of responsibility lies upon him. In some way or other every man can serve the civilization in which he lives, and not the

least of the opportunities open to every man of wealth is that of furnishing the tools and the field for the great non-remunerative work which marks so much of the world's real progress.

In this case, too, there is an example set in the quiet way the service is rendered. Moreover the magnificent gift and the means to make use of it are given with a broad generosity which refuses to imperil its usefulness by narrow conditions. No small praise is due to Mr. Payne for the manner of his giving of the gift, which ensures its being used with the greatest possible effectiveness.

I feel that we should congratulate ourselves, as citizens of this city, that by the establishment here of this department of Cornell something has been added to the forces which perpetually war for right; something which will enable us better to hold our own against those powerful forces which war for wrong and evil.