

**AN ADDRESS TO THE ALUMNI
OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE,
DELIVERED IN THE COLLEGE
CHAPEL, MARCH 16, 1844**

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An Address to the Alumni of Columbia College, Delivered in the College Chapel, March 16,
1844 by N. F. Moore

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N. F. MOORE

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BY

N. F. MOORE, LL. D.

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To
1. To Mr. Drake, Esq

COLUMBIA COLLEGE, March 16th, 1848.

SIR:—

THE Address which I now lay before you, in a printed form, was delivered four years ago in our College Chapel, before a small number, chiefly of my own family and friends, who were not to be deterred by bad weather from favoring me with their countenance on that occasion.

A very unpropitious evening, as also, I fear, the little interest taken in my subject, caused me to fail, in great measure, of the audience I had counted on, and wholly of the object which I had in view. But, thinking, as I do, that object—the improvement of our College Library—to be one of great importance, I have felt unwilling any longer to rest as in the belief that my fellow-alumni will do nothing in a case where they might so easily do much for the advantage, present and future, of our common Alma-Mater.

It were easy for me to point out, from among my former pupils here, alumni of the College, who, without painful sacrifice, could make its Library all that its warmest friends would wish to see it. But, not to speak just now of any such munificence, I confine myself, at present, to asking of you, Sir, and each alumnus of the

College, some small contribution to her Library; if it be of a single volume only, or a bundle of pamphlets; yet something, in token of kindly feeling towards a place where you, in youth, received a valuable portion of your mental training; and, further, that you will, at your convenience, pay the College a visit, and see in its present state that department of it, in which, especially, I would have you take an interest. You will find the Librarian or his assistant very happy to wait upon you; or, in their absence, myself.

Your obedient servant,

NATH'L F. MOORE.

P. S. If you, or any of your friends, should have books or pamphlets for the Library, and will obligingly intimate the fact to me through Boyd's Express Post, they shall be sent for.

N. F. M.

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN, MY FELLOW-ALUMNI:—

I have invited your attendance here this evening, with a view to lay before you, and to ask your aid in carrying out a plan which has been thought of for improving in an essential point the condition of our common Alma-Mater.

Although her library has, within the last few years, received valuable additions, and been rendered somewhat more accessible than formerly, yet is it still very far from being what she would desire to have it; or such as we may hope to see it become, if her alumni can be persuaded to take the interest in it, which, in that character, they ought to feel.

And do not, I entreat you, close your ears against me, here at the very outset, from apprehension that I am about to importune you with appeals to your liberality. I certainly

shall be glad, whenever the occasion arrives, to see that manifested in a manner worthy both of you and of its object; but all I ask at present is your kind attention for a while. I desire, in the first place, to convince you that not our college only but this great city, and our country at large are lamentably unprovided with those means of instruction and sources of rational enjoyment which, in their ample and well ordered libraries, almost every civilized people but ourselves can boast.

No one will make endeavors to supply a want of which he is unconscious; but, to be rendered sensible how very destitute we are of books, or, at least, of any collection that may merit to be called a library, we need only to compare the state, in this respect, of other civilized communities, whether ancient or modern, with our own.

What the printing press has now rendered comparatively easy, was in earlier ages so difficult that none but princes—a Rhamses, a Pisistratus, a Ptolemy, an Eumenes—or else such private individuals as, for power and wealth, might rival with princes, could found

and build up libraries; nevertheless we read of such in those ancient times, as far surpassed in their extent, even all that these United States are able to show, not to say any that this city owns. For I acknowledge with shame, that in our poorly furnished country, this our own city, great as its population its prosperity and its resources are, does not rank even second as regards its literary wealth.

The earliest library of which we find in history any mention, was that of Osymandyas, as he is styled by Diodorus Siculus, or, as recent historians have styled him, Rhamses the Great, who reigned in Thebes above three thousand years ago, and of whose palace the remains, though less stupendous than some other ruins within the vast circuit which his capital once occupied, are nevertheless still gazed upon with admiration, and sufficiently attest the greatness of this victorious monarch's power. We see remaining even to this day the entrance to that very library which the Greek historian describes, and we see it adorned with emblems so significant of its destination that we cannot hesitate as to what