sibility which you have this day formally invited me to share with you, I do so hopefully and with full confidence in you, in this community, and in the future. There is no greater work committed to men’s hands than that to which we are called. As I think of those who have preceded me in this place; when I call to mind their splendid services to the Institute, to the commonwealth, and to the country, I accept this work with a feeling of great humility, but with the earnest hope that through our common effort the institution may grow, not only in strength, but in usefulness; not only in facilities for work, but in the better understanding of what work means, and that it may ever seek to lead in all that concerns the rational and helpful teaching of applied science.

Gentlemen of the Instructing Staff: — For the cordial welcome to your number, I am most grateful. I come to you with no new message and as the herald of no new gospel. The same spirit of work and of devotion which has been the glory of your body in the past must be our source of strength for the future. In all that leads to the uplifting of technical education, in the development and extension of the work of the institution, in the suggestion of new means by which it can minister more directly to the work of education upon the one side, and to the promotion of scientific research upon the other, I ask your hearty cooperation and assistance. An institution, like an individual, must grow in its experience, in its appreciation of truth, in comprehension of the meaning of art and of science and of life if it is to minister to a growing civilization. The inspiration which shall stand back of this growth must rest, in large measure, upon your zeal and your effort.

Alumni of the Institute: — To each of you has been mailed an invitation to this gathering. These missives have gone to every country and to every climate. Some are at this moment being borne on the backs of men or in snow sledges to the interior of Alaska, to be read months hence amid the winter snows. Some will be read in the tropics, under the glare of a summer sun. Your Alma Mater would gladly have welcomed each one of you this day to her fireside, though the fare be frugal and the feast modest. Since this cannot be, let her invitation carry at least this suggestion.