President Pritchett's Address.

This splendid loving cup — the gift of a former student of the Institute who has shown his interest by many thoughtful acts — is one of the most interesting trophies which could be offered as a badge of victory in our class contests. I deliver it into the keeping of the class of 1905 with the hope that it may be valiantly defended and bravely held, and that when its fifty years of service have filled up the wreaths which are to hold the names of the victorious classes it may remain in the Walker Memorial Building, a memorial dear to you and your children and your children's children.

We have no great athletic victories over other colleges to celebrate to-night. We had hopes of a victory over Harvard in the cross country race, but the Harvard men were, unfortunately, too fast. And yet I am disposed to feel that we celebrate in one sense, to-night, a victory more important than any we are likely to achieve in the field of intercollegiate sport. This gathering is in honor of those who took part in our class contest of Nov. 19; and this class contest represented a great departure from former events. It meant the substitution of an orderly and fair contest between the two classes in the place of the cane rush of other days. It represented even more than this, namely, the conclusion that for students in professional study the prolonged football and baseball campaigns which mark the present college contests are not possible to those who are dealing with the serious problem of professional study, and that it is wiser to make our participation in such contests a class affair rather than an intercollegiate affair; and to take part only in such intercollegiate sports as track athletics and similar contests, where the individual work of a contestant would count. In taking this attitude I am sure you have made a distinct advance, and that your decision is one which will in the end bring you most credit and most enjoyment. I trust that the policy which you have this year inaugurated in athletics may be permanent, and it is scarcely necessary for me to say that I am here to help in any way I can to such solution of college questions.

Two matters have come to my attention in connection with athletic contests of the past season, concerning which I am going to say a word of a somewhat personal sort. The first circumstance is a newspaper account in which it is stated that a considerable body of Technology students organized to cheer Yale at the recent contest with Harvard. Very likely this was a mistake. I have found, myself, that newspapers do now and then make mistakes. However, it furnishes an occasion for me to say a few words concerning our relations in athletic contests to our neighbor, the great university across the Charles.

The relations of the Institute of Technology and of its students and teachers are equally friendly to all institutions of learning, but we have with Harvard ties which connect as with no other university. One of these is that of locality. We have the same home; and the world does not enjoy the sight of one neighbor’s pleasure at another neighbor’s defeat. There is another tie which you have perhaps not thought of; not only are many of our students from Harvard, but the men who sustain the Institute of Technology, who help in its advancement and who are concerned for its future are in many instances the same men who minister to Harvard. I am trying at this moment to raise $100,000 for the completion of the Walker Memorial Building, the erection of which will mean so much to you. Among those who have been most ready to assist are the men who are most active in Harvard.

Do not think that I overvalue the meaning of this sort of student demonstration. I know perfectly well that there is no student and no teacher in the Institute of Technology who does not take pride in the glory of our neighbor, the oldest and greatest of American universities. Nevertheless, such small matters as that to which I have alluded are just those acts of courtesy whose observance helps to mutual respect and whose neglect works against it. Harvard and the Institute of Technology are not simply two schools related by being in the same yard. They are great national institutions fostered by the same community, growing from the same soil, and sustained by the same public spirit. In one respect alone should they always be rivals, namely, in such acts as look toward the cultivation of common courtesy and mutual respect.

You remember the story of the hunter in a western State who found himself face to face with a giant grizzly, and who offered a prayer after this sort: "O Lord," said he, "help me agin this bear, but if so be you can't help me, don't help the bear, and you will see one of the finest fights ever put up in this neck of the woods." My feeling is that our attitude in athletics should be somewhat of the same sort. In football and baseball we are not to be competitors with Harvard. In track athletics let us beat her if we can, and if we can’t, let us "put up a good stiff fight." But when Harvard joins battle with an outsider, let us cheer her on to victory. And if you don’t cheer for her, don’t cheer for her opponent. Stand by and see a good fight, remembering that courtesy like charity begins at home.

I am afraid you will consider what I am to say next as somewhat in the nature of a preachment. If I were going to call it a sermon I should take my text from the eighth chapter of Mark and the twelfth verse, which reads, "Why doth this generation seek after a sign?"

I do not know what relation there was between the Sophomore-Freshmen contest of the 19th of November and the disappearance of sundry shop signs from Hunt...