Mr. Cates:

MR. PRESIDENT, PARENTS AND OTHER FRIENDS:
The Class of 1902 welcomes you to its Class Day. To us it marks the end of our course of study, in which we have laid the foundations of our work. To you our parents and other friends, we hope the day will be one of interest and enjoyment.

To describe our emotions as we see you before us, would be impossible. In almost the same breath we are glad and sorrowful. We are glad because, like the trained athlete, we are anxious to run the preliminaries in our struggle for honors in the greater world. Sorrowful, because from this day forward our four years of associations and study are to be reckoned in the past.

To-day the bonds of friendship formed during our undergraduate life show their worth. You see us together; to-morrow, although we go to all corners of the globe, these friendships will still be as strong. We have little fear of losing friends made in struggle, defeat and victory.

In our four years here we have come in contact with the problems which confront men, and we have solved them as best we could. It is here that we have shaped and matured our minds and formed our ideas. Foremost among the many things we hope to impress you with to-day is our loving sense of indebtedness to our Alma Mater.

In order that you may know more about us and the road we traveled to reach this long-desired day, I take pleasure in introducing our historian, Mr. Walter Havens Farmer.

Mr. Farmer:

MR. MARSHALL, FELLOW-CLASSMATES AND FRIENDS:
Man is always seeking for insurance. It may be insurance against loss of life, accident, financial loss, loss of reputation, or against many other losses. Among these many kinds is one of which I wish you to take especial notice; namely, insurance against false criticism. A history may very properly be called a record of events and occurrences. As the chronicler of those events and occurrences connected with the Class of 1902, I am in duty bound to state them as they took place and as they were. For this reason it seems wise to take out an insurance policy for the Class of 1902, to protect it against false criticism, jealousy and conceit.

In tracing the course of our class during the past four years, I shall take the liberty of recalling some of the most important developments which the Institute made during corresponding periods, and which were more or less intimately connected with our class.

For instance, on the opening of the college year, in the fall of '98, the Institute had just completed the Henry L. Pierce building, which increased by one-quarter the capacity of the buildings already erected, by adding forty-five thousand square feet of floor area, and all this solely for the especial needs and requirements of the entering class.

I refuse to tabulate the one experience which befell our class, and from which we came forth with no more laurels than did any of the preceding classes, and personally with very much less. I refer to the opening day of our Freshman year. Should any one be unfortunate enough to desire further information on the subject, I suggest that that person look it up in any publication ever issued at Technology.

In spite of the “Y. M. C. A. reception to the entering class,” we were never formally introduced to the Class of 1901. There was a little “informal handshaking,” however, on the occasion of our class election in the hall below. Even the two heads of the Institute decided at the last moment to join in the general jollification, and they even gave some of us a brotherly grasp of the hand. I think it can be considered a drawn battle, as far as honors are concerned. Naughty-one had more men captured, whereas Naughty-two was constitutionally disabled. At all events, both classes saw fit to apologize to each other through President Crafts, in the form of a written promise never more to indulge in such informal introductions.

Soon after our health recovered from the renewal of our constitution, but long before we were able to distinguish Engineering from Pie Alley, our military career began. Like everything else which we undertook, we started with new material in the person of a brand new captain from the regulars, Captain Boardman. Under his skillful guidance we made a record in military drill and tactics which stands pre-eminent in the annals of M. I. T. Possibly Captain Boardman’s phenomenal success with us was due in a large measure to the fact that he, to quote his own words, “approached the subject from a synthetic rather than from an analytic point of view,” as had been done the year previous.