

survey of Virginia in 1836. He organized his corps of assistants, directed their work, co-ordinated the results, instructed the public, drew from the Legislature the annual appropriation; all this, while he was carrying on the work of his chair at the State University.

His ability to plan and administer was still more strikingly shown when he left Virginia and came to New England. Amid more favorable surroundings here he was to realize the dream of his later years in the foundation of the great Institute of Technology. Its history is a romance. Years of struggle marked its origin. The public had to be instructed, friends gained, opponents met, existing interests conciliated or withstood, money collected, buildings erected and equipped, and a Faculty assembled. This was done largely by one man, approaching fifty years of age, and a comparative stranger. Behold the result in a Polytechnic institution without a rival in the land. If in infancy it was overlooked, in its maturity its charms are drawing distinguished suitors. It stands as the crowning work in the life of its great first president. Our dear old master

needs no marble shaft to perpetuate his memory. "If you seek his monument, look around you."

It may be doubted whether in this century men like him are possible. When he grew up, a man might be eminent in several sciences. At an early British Association meeting some spoke of hearing Rogers the Geologist, others of Rogers the Chemist, and still others of Rogers the Physicist, not dreaming that they were speaking of the same person. It was the boast of some of the professors of that day that they could fill any chair in the college. That day is gone. A man can be expert only in one small section of one subject. We are growing to be a generation of specialists. Our view is microscopic. We see more, but we also see less. Details are multiplied but the field of view is reduced. In getting power to explore the atom we may lose the power to see the world.

If such men as Professor Rogers are no longer possible, we shall miss a great deal in losing the ample sweep which took in a great circle of knowledge, developing large and liberal sympathies, revealing helpful analogies, and protecting cautions supplied by cognate branches of

knowledge. Natural Philosophy was Physical Science and something more.

In the twenty-one years since Mr. Rogers left us, a great change has been coming over the educational institutions in our land. They are drawing closer together and getting to be like one another. Once they were isolated; now they meet in Educational Associations. Their frequent celebrations are attended by invited guests from all sister institutions. Academic honors are granted by one to the distinguished teacher in another. This national union of colleges has no written constitution but it is getting to be felt as a reality. The students have not escaped this nationalizing tendency. There is arising in our land the type we may call the American student. Sectional differences once so prominent are growing less, while the great qualities of manliness and thoroughness are becoming the distinguishing traits of college men from every quarter. Students are less and less rated by wealth or family. Merit is coming to the front as the only just ground of distinction. Soon the college colors and the college yell will be the main

difference between institutions. Every lover of his country will rejoice at this, and will hail the day when the youth of our great country, from whatever section they come, shall honor and strive for that which is true and honest and estimable. No one would have rejoiced more at this elevation of the student body than Mr. Rogers, and no one of his time contributed more than he to make it possible.

To this unity the passing of great teachers from one part to another of our land has powerfully contributed. When Professor Rogers came from Virginia to Massachusetts, the best we had was given to you. Your great Institute was not originated here. It was conceived in Virginia, but it owed its realization to the public spirit and enlightened liberality of Massachusetts. The Institute of Technology and the University of Virginia ought not to be strangers to one another. We have one precious memory in common. In presence of that memory I salute you to-day, and bring the best wishes of the University of Virginia for the continued prosperity of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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