

(First there was the introduction of new profs.)

ADDRESS TO NEW STUDENTS - OCTOBER 4, 1960

In welcoming new students at ^{the} convocation Oct. 4
Pres. Kerr said.

MY REMARKS TODAY ARE ADDRESSED PRIMARILY TO OUR NEW STUDENTS, AND I WISH TO SAY AT THE OUTSET THAT IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO DALHOUSIE.

YOU HAVE COME HERE, AS OTHERS LIKE YOU CAME, IN A SUCCESSION THAT STRETCHES BACK BEYOND LIVING MEMORY, TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION AND TO PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR THE PROFESSIONS OF YOUR CHOICE. I HEARTILY COMMEND YOU ON YOUR ACTION AND AMBITION, AND ASSURE YOU OF ALL THE ASSISTANCE THAT WE CAN REASONABLY GIVE YOU IN CARRYING YOUR PURPOSE FORWARD TO RICH FULFILLMENT.

I KNOW THAT I SPEAK FOR ALL YOUR TEACHERS WHEN I SAY THAT THEY WILL TAKE IT AS A COMPLIMENT IF YOU WILL CONSULT THEM ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS AND IN PARTICULAR DISCUSS WITH THEM ANY DIFFICULTIES THAT YOU ENCOUNTER IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS OF STUDY - THE EVIDENCE OF THE ACTIVE INTEREST OF THE STUDENT IN THE SUBJECT THAT HE IS BEING TAUGHT IS PART OF THE REWARD THAT EVERY TRUE TEACHER APPRECIATES. AND ALTHOUGH I MYSELF, TO MY GENUINE REGRET, CANNOT LOOK FORWARD TO CONTACT WITH YOU IN YOUR CLASSES, I SHALL ALWAYS BE GLAD TO SEE YOU IF YOU THINK THERE IS EVER ANYTHING THAT I CAN DO TO HELP YOU. I MAKE THE SAME OFFER IN THE NAME OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE DEANS OF THE SEVERAL FACULTIES.

THERE IS A FAMOUS STATEMENT THAT A TRUE UNIVERSITY IS NEITHER A FACTORY NOR A TREADMILL BUT AN ALMA MATER WHICH KNOWS

HER CHILDREN ONE BY ONE. THE INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL STUDENT IS EASY TO ACHIEVE, AND IS EVEN INEVITABLE, IN A SMALL UNIVERSITY. IT WAS POSSIBLE HERE IN THE DAYS WHEN DALHOUSIE HAD A FEW HUNDRED STUDENTS AND WAS AFFECTIONATELY CALLED "THE LITTLE COLLEGE BY THE SEA". EVEN WHEN I ASSUMED MY PRESENT OFFICE IT WAS THE RULE THAT EVERY STUDENT ON REGISTRATION MUST HAVE A PERSONAL APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT. DALHOUSIE IS STILL SMALL IN COMPARISON WITH SEVEN OR EIGHT OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN CANADA AND DOZENS IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT WITH ITS PRESENT STUDENT BODY OF APPROXIMATELY TWO THOUSAND, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE FOR SOME STUDENTS TO FEEL THAT THEY HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN OR OVERLOOKED. IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THEREFORE THAT YOU SHOULD ALL BELIEVE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY'S STAFF OFFER YOU THEIR FRIENDSHIP -X IN ALL SINCERITY, THAT WE ALL PLACE OURSELVES AT YOUR SERVICE, AND THAT WE HOPE YOU WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN GETTING IN TOUCH WITH US. YOU HAVE JUST BECOME CHILDREN OF DALHOUSIE, AS I HOPE YOU WILL REAFFIRM FREQUENTLY AND FERVENTLY IN ONE OF OUR LOVELIEST COLLEGE SONGS, SO IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT I SHOULD TELL YOU A FEW THINGS ABOUT THE ORIGIN AND CHARACTER OF THIS UNIVERSITY. ~~WHAT I HAVE TO SAY IS AN OLD STORY TO MY COLLEAGUES HERE, WHO ARE AS FAMILIAR WITH IT AS I AM, BUT I TRUST THAT THEY WILL NOT MIND HEARING IT AGAIN.~~ I CONSIDER IT PART OF THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND WITH WHICH EVERY MEMBER OF DALHOUSIE SHOULD BE FAMILIAR.

Referring to the history of Dalhousie, the President said

(over)

He proceeded to recall the Castine Fund, made up of customs dues collected in New England in the War of 1812, when a portion of that territory was invaded and annexed by a British expedition organized in Halifax, and of the decision to use most of this fund in the establishment of a College.

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WHEN BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES BECAME INVOLVED IN THE WAR OF 1812, ON OPPOSITE SIDES, THE PEOPLE OF EASTPORT, MAINE, PUBLICLY DECLARED THAT THEY WANTED NO HOSTILITIES TO DISRUPT THEIR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE OF HALIFAX. THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA PUBLICLY RETURNED THE COMPLIMENT, AND THE AUTHORITIES IN LONDON SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE PLEASED TO HONOUR THIS MUTUAL WISH. SO IT WAS THAT IN THE HEART OF THE HURRICANE OF WAR THERE WAS THIS AREA OF CALM. IN THE COURSE OF TIME HOWEVER LONDON REPENTED OF THE APPROVAL THAT IT HAD GIVEN, AND ORDERED BRITISH TROOPS IN HALIFAX TO OCCUPY AS MUCH OF NEW ENGLAND AS WAS DEEMED NECESSARY TO "INSURE UNINTERRUPTED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HALIFAX AND QUEBEC". ^{An} THE EXPEDITION WAS THEREFORE ORGANIZED, AND IT ACCOMPLISHED ITS PURPOSE WITHOUT VERY MUCH DIFFICULTY AND ANNEXED THE DESIGNATED TERRITORY. BUSINESS WENT ON AS USUAL UNDER BRITISH OVERSIGHT, AND WHEN THE WAR WAS OVER ^{the} CUSTOMS DUES ~~WHICH HAD BEEN~~ COLLECTED WERE FOUND TO AMOUNT TO MORE THAN ELEVEN THOUSAND POUNDS. THESE WERE BROUGHT TO HALIFAX, AND BECAME KNOWN AS THE CASTINE FUND, AFTER THE AMERICAN PORT WHERE THE TROOPS HAD THEIR HEADQUARTERS.

IN THE YEAR 1815 THE RIGHT HONOURABLE GEORGE RAMSAY NINTH EARL OF DALHOUSIE BECAME LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA. HE ^{persuaded} ~~SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING~~ THE PROVINCE TO MAKE MOST OF THE CASTINE FUND AVAILABLE FOR THE CREATION OF WHAT HE CALLED "A SEMINARY FOR THE HIGHER BRANCHES OF EDUCATION... IN HALIFAX, THE CAPITAL OF THE PROVINCE, THE SEAT OF THE

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LEGISLATURE, OF THE COURTS OF JUSTICE (AND) OF THE MILITARY AND MERCANTILE SOCIETY. SUCH AN INSTITUTION IN HALIFAX, OPEN TO ALL OCCUPATIONS AND SECTS OF RELIGION, RESTRICTED TO SUCH BRANCHES ONLY AS ARE APPLICABLE TO OUR PRESENT STATE, AND HAVING THE POWER TO EXPAND WITH THE GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT OF OUR SOCIETY, WOULD, I AM CONFIDENT BE FOUND OF IMPORTANT SERVICE TO THE PROVINCE". SO DALHOUSIE CAME INTO BEING, A NON-SECTARIAN COLLEGE, IN IMITATION OF EDINBURGH, WHICH IN TURN BORE A RESEMBLANCE TOO STRIKING TO BE ACCIDENTAL TO THE COLLEGE OF GENEVA.

THE STORY OF DALHOUSIE, AS DR. HARVEY, UNTIL RECENTLY PROVINCIAL ARCHIVIST OF NOVA SCOTIA, HAS WRITTEN, CANNOT BE DISSOCIATED FROM THE STRUGGLE OF DEMOCRACY IN THIS PROVINCE AGAINST MONOPOLY AND PRIVILEGE IN CHURCH AND STATE. IT WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A LIBERAL EDUCATION FOR ALL QUALIFIED STUDENTS, WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF CLASS OR CREED, WHO WERE PREPARED TO MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO IMPROVE THEIR MINDS; AND AS DR. HARVEY ALSO INTIMATES, IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF THE GENIUS OF THIS NOBLE SEAT OF LEARNING WERE FORGOTTEN, IN NEW GENERATIONS IN WHICH THE SPIRIT THAT ANIMATED DALHOUSIE AND HIS SUPPORTERS WILL NEED TO BE REAFFIRMED REPEATEDLY AND TRANSLATED INTO CONTEMPORARY TERMS.

THE FIRST SITE OF THE COLLEGE WAS THAT ON WHICH CITY HALL NOW STANDS. DALHOUSIE SPOKE OF THE COLLEGE SIMPLY AS THE COLLEGE OF HALIFAX. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO CALL IT ST. PAUL'S, AFTER THE HISTORIC CHURCH THAT STOOD, AND STILL STANDS, AT THE OPPOSITE END OF THE GRAND PARADE, BUT NOTHING WAS DONE ABOUT IT. AFTER DALHOUSIE LEFT NOVA SCOTIA

TO BECOME GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF UPPER AND LOWER CANADA, IT WAS DECIDED BY THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THE COLLEGE THAT IT SHOULD BEAR THE NAME OF THE MAN TO WHOM IT OWED ITS EXISTENCE.

ABOUT SIXTY YEARS LATER THE PROPERTY OF THE GRAND PARADE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE CITY OF HALIFAX, IN RETURN FOR A SPECIFIED SUM TO BE PAID TO THE GOVERNORS OF DALHOUSIE EACH YEAR IN PERPETUITY AND THE SITE ON WHICH A PORTION OF THE UNIVERSITY, NOTABLY THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL FACULTIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, STILL CARRY ON THEIR ACTIVITIES. A BRICK BUILDING WAS ERECTED, WHICH BEARS ON ITS CORNER-STONE THE INSCRIPTION:

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED 1820

THIS CORNER-STONE OF THIS BUILDING WAS LAID BY
THE HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM YOUNG, LL.D.

APRIL 27, 1887.

ACTUALLY THE FOUNDING IS USUALLY GIVEN AS 1818, ALTHOUGH THE CORNER-STONE OF THE FIRST BUILDING WAS NOT LAID UNTIL 1820.

THE 1887 EDIFICE IS NOW CALLED THE FORREST BUILDING, AFTER THE MAN WHO WAS PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY AT THE TIME, DR. JOHN FORREST, AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN TO GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS AS "LORD JOHN". HE STILL LIVED IN HALIFAX IN RETIREMENT AT THE CLOSE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR, AND I ONCE HAD A DISCUSSION WITH HIM WHICH I FOUND VERY HELPFUL ABOUT A PROPOSITION THAT OUR INTERCOLLEGIATE DEBATING TEAM HAD TO ARGUE THAT YEAR. AN OLD ALUMNUS OF THE COLLEGE TOLD ME THAT

WHEN HE, AS A FRESHMAN, STOOD IN THE MAIN HALLWAY OF THE BUILDING AND GAZED ABOUT HIM WITH WIDE-EYED WONDER AT SUCH SPACIOUSNESS AND MAGNIFICENCE, PRESIDENT FORREST CAME ALONG AND DIVINING HIS THOUGHTS SAID, "YOUNG MAN, YOU ARE ADMIRING THIS FINE BUILDING. THIS IS ALL THAT DALHOUSIE WILL BE IN MY TIME AND IN YOURS." AS IT TURNED OUT THAT STUDENT LIVED TO SEE DALHOUSIE DEVELOP IN MANY WAYS.

IN THE YEAR 1911 IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THE CARLETON STREET CAMPUS, IN TURN, HAD BECOME TOO SMALL FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY, AND THAT MORE SPACE WAS URGENTLY NEEDED. A COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNI ADVISED THE GOVERNORS THAT A MODERN UNIVERSITY SHOULD HAVE ONE HUNDRED ACRES: BUT THE GOVERNORS FINALLY SETTLED ON THIS SO-CALLED STUDLEY PROPERTY, WHICH JUDGE SIR ALEXANDER CROKE WHO ONCE OWNED IT HAD NAMED AFTER HIS ANCESTRAL HOME IN OXFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND. FORTY ACRES SEEMED TO MANY THOUGHTFUL PERSONS MORE THAN THE UNIVERSITY WOULD EVER NEED. INDEED IT WAS ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO THAT A DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE INDICATED TO ME, WITH A SWEEP OF HIS ARM, THE UNOCCUPIED GROUND NORTH OF THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES BUILDING AND ASKED, "WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH ALL THIS PASTURE?" THE "PASTURE" IS NOW GRACED BY THE SIR JAMES DUNN SCIENCE BUILDING WHICH WILL BE FORMALLY OPENED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND THE MEN'S RESIDENCE WHOSE COMPLETION HAS BEEN DELAYED BY A PLASTERER'S STRIKE.

THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNIVERSITY IN DUE TIME WILL HAVE TO WIDEN ITS BOUNDS AGAIN, AND THE CITY COUNCIL ANTICIPATING DALHOUSIE'S PROBLEM ADOPTED ZONING REGULATIONS

TO PROTECT THE UNIVERSITY'S INTEREST ALONG UNIVERSITY AVENUE. I THINK IT IS CONSERVATIVE TO EXPECT THAT MANY OF YOU, DALHOUSIE'S YOUNGEST CHILDREN, WILL LIVE TO SEE THE AVENUE LINED ON BOTH SIDES WITH STATELY BUILDINGS THAT WILL HOUSE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY AS IT ENDEAVOURS TO MATCH THE GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT OF OUR SOCIETY. IT WILL BE YOUR PRIVILEGE TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION BOTH TO THE REPUTATION OF DALHOUSIE FOR HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND TO THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE INCREASING PURPOSE THAT I HAVE BRIEFLY SKETCHED.

IN THE MEANTIME, MAY I URGE YOU TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR OPPORTUNITIES DURING YOUR STUDENT DAYS.

YOU HAVE COME HERE TO STUDY. KEEP EVERY OTHER INTEREST SUBORDINATE TO THAT. IF YOU PLAN YOUR PROGRAMME ^{with discernment} YOU MAY GIVE YOUR STUDIES TOP PRIORITY WITHOUT SACRIFICING THE FUN, ALL THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE THAT ^{should belong to} ~~IS THE PROPER~~ PATRIMONY OF YOUTH, AND THE WHOLESOME EXTRA-CURRICULAR INTERESTS SPONSORED BY YOUR COUNCIL OF STUDENTS.

NOW THAT YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL NOT NEGLECT THE PERSONAL PRACTICES THAT WILL HELP YOU TO PRESERVE YOUR SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE, WHICH I REGARD AS A MAN'S MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION. I LIKE THE ADMONITION OF ST. PAUL, "KEEP THE SECURITIES OF THE FAITH INTACT." AS YOU BECOME CONSCIOUS OF WIDER INTELLECTUAL HORIZONS, WHICH MUST INCLUDE THE REVOLUTIONARY ADVANCES ^{of} ~~to~~ SCIENCE, AND YOU EXCHANGE A MERELY INHERITED SYSTEM OF BELIEFS FOR CONVICTIONS THAT YOU CAN JUSTLY CALL YOUR OWN, I SUGGEST THAT YOU REMEMBER THE REMARK THAT

SIR CYRIL HINCHELWOOD, MADE A FEW WEEKS AGO IN THE COURSE OF HIS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT THE TERCENTENARY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, THAT WHILE SOME PEOPLE TODAY, AS IN THE PAST, THINK THAT SCIENCE AND RELIGION ARE INCOMPATIBLE, OTHERS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE NEW SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE CALLS BUT FOR A MORE ROBUST RELIGIOUS FAITH. THE SECOND, I SUBMIT, IS THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY.

AND THROUGH EVERYTHING KEEP IN MIND THE THOUGHT THAT YOU ARE PREPARING YOURSELVES HERE FOR THE SERVICE OF YOUR GENERATION AND FOR THE DISCHARGE OF HIGH DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP. THE WORLD TODAY IS IN A STATE OF FERMENT. NEW NATIONS ARE BECOMING VOCAL IN THE COUNCILS OF HUMANITY AND ARE TELLING THE OLDER NATIONS WHAT THEY SHOULD DO. AFRICA HAS MORE SPOKESMEN IN THE UNITED NATIONS THAN ANY OTHER CONTINENT. CHINA IS CHALLENGING ITS YOUTH TO MAKE "THE LONG LEAP FORWARD". COMMUNISM, WITH ITS MATERIALISTIC CREED, BOASTS THAT IT WILL ATTEND THE OBSEQUIES OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION. THESE ARE CONSIDERATIONS THAT INTELLIGENT YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE NO RIGHT TO IGNORE. ~~YOUR LOT HAS BEEN CAST IN A VERY CRITICAL TIME.~~ IN EVERY COUNTRY STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITIES, AND THEY ARE A SMALL MINORITY, ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE SERIOUS USE OF THEIR PRIVILEGES, AND TO QUALIFY FOR THE EXERCISE OF THEIR STEWARDSHIP OF THE THINGS THAT ARE EXCELLENT IN THEIR TRADITION. YOUR LOT HAS BEEN CAST IN A VERY CRITICAL TIME.

ABOVE THE CONFUSION AND THE TUMULT, THE WISEST OF OUR

LEADERS CALL UPON US ALL TO RECOGNIZE THE TRAGIC FOLLY OF MAN AT WAR WITH MAN, AND TO DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER, AS PRIME MINISTER MACMILLAN PHRASED IT IN NEW YORK A FEW DAYS AGO, TO PROMOTE PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS, TO ACHIEVE THAT PROSPERITY THAT WILL BANISH DESTITUTION AND WANT, AND TO EXTEND TO INDIVIDUAL HUMAN BEINGS EVERYWHERE THE RIGHT TO MEDITATE UPON WHAT HE CALLED THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF ALL, MAN'S TRUE RELATION TO HIS FELLOW-MAN AND TO HIS GOD.

from the economy of mankind

THESE YEARS AT DALHOUSIE COULD WELL BE THE BEST AND MOST CREATIVE YEARS OF YOUR LIVES TO DATE. MAY THEY BE SO IN ACTUAL FACT.

In conclusion President Keen urged the students; (1) To remember that they had come here to study, and they should keep every interest subordinated to that, (2) To keep the rules - these had been made for the common good. "Not only our students ~~are~~ ^{in recent years} ~~more~~ have been mature enough to conform to the regulations of the University, and the Senate has seldom found it necessary to impose penalties for breach of discipline." (3) To attend to the exercises of their religion, now that ^{so many of} they are away from the restraints of their home life. He commended the judgment expressed by the President of the Royal Society of London in his address at the Tercentenary last summer that the new advances of science instead of conflicting with fundamental religious belief must only call for a more robust faith. (4) Finally he referred to the great changes that are taking place in the world's life, and urged the student through everything to keep in mind the idea that they were preparing themselves for the service of the generation and the discharge of (their) duties at all