

GREETINGS FROM THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

I FEEL honored today to participate in the ceremonies incident to this dedication. I congratulate the institution upon the propriety of naming this building after the greatest man of the Shenandoah Valley—a man who, when the verdict of history does him justice, will rank in the pantheon of history reserved for the very few supreme leaders of the world—Woodrow Wilson.

I appreciate the honor of being permitted today to voice the greetings of the people of the Shenandoah Valley to our distinguished guests, and to express our pleasure in this renewed mark of the progress of this State Teachers College.

We in Harrisonburg and the Valley feel a peculiar sense of pride in this college.

My pleasure today, however, is touched with sadness by the death of Dr. Alderman. Fine as Woodrow Wilson was, the eulogy of him pronounced by Edwin Alderman was equally fine. While Governor I was brought into intimate contact with Dr. Alderman, and learned to appreciate a spirit burning with love of exalted ideals and of the essential service public education can render to a democracy.

In the annals of the University of Virginia, however long it may endure, two names will stand pre-eminent—that of Jefferson, the founder, and Alderman, the builder.

The creator and the first president of our university co-operated in spirit at either end of nearly a century, to teach us that training of all the people is the surest safeguard to preserve government free and able to serve all the people.

Out of the confusion of the greatest war in history have come two powerful challenges to Jefferson's faith in the ability of the people to govern themselves. Russia revolted against the tyranny of the aristoc-

racy only to inaugurate the tyranny of another class.

Italy, disgusted with public disorder, elevated to the head of the state a talented and strong dictator, who frankly despises democracy. In both countries, however, the democratic ideal is eclipsed because a general system of popular education has failed to train the people to understand, appreciate, and translate into practice that ideal.

In our country we realize imperfectly in practice the democratic ideal, but the spirit of the fathers who sacrificed to give us free representative institutions survives to make us highly resolved that "government of the people, for the people, and by the people shall not perish from the earth." Whenever we become indifferent to the faith of Jefferson some man arises to renew that faith.

Virginia gave Jefferson to the nation and the university Jefferson founded helped to train the Shenandoah Valley's own Woodrow Wilson to do much to realize for his time Jefferson's objective of equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

What is the most vital instrumentality in training men and women for the uses of a democracy? It is not great buildings or elaborate equipment, desirable as these may be, but it is an ever renewed army of teachers trained to be efficient and consecrated to the task of making the new generation better citizens than the old.

This is the mission of the teachers' colleges. This is the mission that dignifies and ever sanctifies the work of the devoted men and women who direct our colleges for the training of teachers. You, the students here, are trained and educated so that you in turn may train and educate the children of the state. This work well performed means more to progress and civilization than any other secular form of human activity. Like the priestesses of old, you are here consecrated to keep alive the fires of human knowledge. As I have come in contact

with the men and women, like Dr. Duke and the able heads of the three other teachers' colleges in Virginia, who are directing the training of teachers, my faith grows stronger that the day approaches when all the children of all the people may be educated to understand their privileges and duties as citizens, as well as prepared to do better their work in the world. As Woodrow Wilson is made alive for us today by the eloquence of our distinguished guest, Dr. Dodd, we may feel that his spirit is rejoiced that here in the Valley where he was born a building dedicated to the better training of teachers is now opened as a memorial to him. Some called him the schoolmaster in derision, but he lived to see the nations of all the world go to school to him, and if ever the ideals he taught are translated into practice by high statesmanship the world will indeed be made safe for democracy.

While we rejoice today in the completion of the group of buildings, so substantially and attractively constructed, we should not forget the debt of appreciation we owe to those whose vision and courage and labor made possible, step by step, and building by building, what we now see. To Senator Keezell, of Rockingham, great credit is due. He introduced the bill to establish this teachers' college, and throughout the years he has freely given of his great influence and ability to its development. Today we rejoice with him that his dream has been realized. Senator Conrad, long a member of the State College Board, Senator Paul, Senator Swank, and the Rockingham members of the House, rendered invaluable service in the development of this institution, and our thanks are due to them, as what has been accomplished was possible only by complete unity of effort.

I congratulate, too, Dr. Duke and his distinguished predecessors and all who have contributed to the completion of this impressive and effective group of buildings. May this college survive and serve, as long

as the fame of Woodrow Wilson increases, into the remote future, as a light house pointing the safe course to avoid the dangers and darkness of ignorance.

HARRY FLOOD BYRD

GOVERNOR TRINKLE PRESIDES

Presiding at the dedicatory exercises in Wilson Hall on May 15 was former Governor E. Lee Trinkle, who is now president of the State Board of Education. In his introductory remarks Governor Trinkle said:

Through the official position which I hold as president of the State Board of Education, there comes to me the task of presiding over these dedicatory exercises. I want you to be happy in the thought that I shall personally occupy only a few minutes of your time. The program shows there are a number of prominent people present to speak to you.

Most of you have a knowledge of the beginning and work of this institution. This is indeed and should be a happy day to the people of the Shenandoah Valley as well as to the entire State of Virginia. It should be one of great joy to the teachers and students of this great institution.

On March 14, 1908, an act was passed by the General Assembly, authorizing the establishment of this college. I see in this audience, in the person of Senator Keezell, the gentleman to whom more credit is due than to any other. In 1909, the first faculty meeting was held. Dr. Burruss presided. On the morning of September 20, 1909, the teachers met classes for the first time. At the opening of the first meeting, there were only three buildings in use. Since then the college has grown phenomenally, and the dedication of this building, named after Woodrow Wilson, constitutes the completion of one of the finest groups of college buildings in the state.

Some poetic mind called America the melting pot for all races; there have been some disappointments in melting adults, but none will deny that our public schools are the real melting pot, pouring out a new race. Under our schools, race, class, and religious hatreds fade away. From this real melting pot is the hope of that fine metal which will carry the advance of our national achievement and our national ideals.

HERBERT HOOVER.

Next to acquiring good friends, the best acquisition is that of good books.—COLTON.