

BY THIS CONQUOR!

"I GIVE UNTO YOU THE KEYS"

It would be impossible to properly evaluate the superlative character of this occasion without unlocking the doors of memory and traversing the sacred corridors of the past.

Many events of by-gone years that seemed only trivia in passing are summoned tonight into proper focus and they become episodes of great significance.

A brief survey of life's high moments will intensify the importance of this hour; but prolonged meditation upon even the choicest experiences of history would introduce a melancholy undertone into this festive hour, <sup>and</sup> befog your perspective of tomorrow's dreams.  
*would doubt loss*

Across the nation at this season, multiplied thousands of America's finest young men and women are donning the cap and gown of thier Alma Mater.

To those of you who graduate tonight from this school, you could make no greater mistake than to place Holmes Theological Seminary in the same classification with all other ~~schools~~. *INSTITUTIONS.*

To compare this ~~institution~~ *College* academically, scholastically and financially with others is to do it a grave injustice.

But when you analyze the purpose, character, and Spirit of this place, it suddenly stands out like a lone beacon shining in the world's dark night.

Every institution of learning bears its own peculiar character, breathes into its family its own unique spirit, stamps upon its graduates its own singular image. This pattern is underscored a ~~hundred fold~~ *THOUSAND* by this Seminary.

Men and women around the world who have studied within these gates, and have drunk deep from the

fountain of truth here move among society with the ~~individual~~ stamp of Holmes.

*indelible*

This graduation day may be for you a terminus, or it may well be a grand thoroughfare.

Jesus tutored his faithful followers for three years and only at one point did He calculate the tremendous ~~power~~ proportions to which His ministry had challenged them, when He said, "I give unto you the Keys."

In a similar sense, this exercise is a parallel to that ancient episode. For three years, you have been coming to this moment. This is the crisis experience. Tonight the president of this Seminary will say to you in substance,

"I give unto you the keys."

Every class period, every examination, every disappointment, every discouragement, every joyous experience has prepared you for this hour.

Take the keys. They are emblems of achievement.

They are symbols of:

1. Authority
2. Character
3. Integrity
4. Liberty
5. Trustworthiness

*Yesterday* If you have learned ~~in~~ discipline and self restraint ~~here~~, you can unlock the doors into glorious liberty.

*Tomorrow*

If you have kindled in your soul a thirst for knowledge, you can unlock the past and commune with the great of all the ~~past~~ ages.

If you feel the urge to write, sit down with Shakespear, Milton, Chouser, Byron, Browning.

Are you interested in Science? Think of Lewis

Pasteur, Thomas A. Edkson, Einstien.

Do you want to lift this world a little closer up toward God? Talk with St. Paul, Peter, James, and John. Walk down through the ivory corridors of God's book.

Make friends with Wesley, Luther, Spurgeon, Talmadge, Clark, Matthew Henry.

If you are called to dark lands across the sea, spend some time with Livingsten, Judson, Carey...catch the zeal that flamed in their hearts like a forest fire.

If you are tempted to feel that the task is too great and that you are too small, think of N. J. Holmes who took an old abandoned Hotel on the top of Paris Mountain, and by faith built a school of the Prophets that has literally rocked this world for God.

KEYS DENOTE AUTHORITY. An accepted axium is that "Knowledge is Power." Yet, we must recognize that knowledge as such must be classified. Certain knowledge is destructive. The world totters tonight on the brinks of annihilation because of the threatened abuse of evil power.

The authority of TRUTH will be your badge of distinction as you serve society and find your niche in a restless world.

Before you can unlock the graneries of earth and heaven for a hungry world, you must come to grips with truth...you must unlock the fountain in your own soul and drink deep and long from them yourself.

When Joseph came forth on that memorable day to meet his brethern, he had the keys of all Egypt hanging at his belt.

He did not become Prime Minister through political shenanigans, ~~fraternality~~ <sup>favoritism</sup>, or through some Paternal affiliations. He weathered the storms of fraternal

anamosity, bore the blighting fury of a rejected woman's scorn, and endured the long dark nights in the confines of an Egyptian Dungeon.

Up this lonely path he tread, with every footprint stained with blood, sweat, and tears, until he sat at Phareah's right hand.

When Joseph was with his father as a lad, he bore the keys of responsibility; in Potifer's house, he held the keys of administration; in Phareah's prison, he had the keys of trust; on Egypt's throne, he held the Keys to the Kingdom.

It is a custom in our cities to present a visiting dignitary a large key to the city. This is a tribute to some special personal achievements, and it grants the bearer certain temporary rights and liberties.

The keys offered to you tonight will unlock the archives of the past. They will open the doors of the present. They will fling open the corridors of the future through which you may walk into the mysteries and marvels of tomorrow.

Keys denote responsibility.

Knowledge thrusts upon you responsibility in commensurate degree. Therefore, the kind of training that has been offered to you here places you in a unique classification.

When you emerge from these sacred premises, you will be stepping off of the broad shoulders of the greatest man that it has ever been my privilege to know.

That alone carries with it a responsibility that beggars all description.

The world in which you will find yourself tomorrow is characterized by space travel. Rip Van Winkle slept 20 years and only a few people knew him. If you fall asleep for a few days, the world will go off and leave you

You're not here tonight to build a monument; you must not look only into the past to lives already lived, to races already run, and to heights already reached.

You stand tonight before the door of the future with the key in your hand ready to thrust it into the lock.

The light on your face is not the golden hue of the twilight hour, but the reflective rays of the rising sun.

The sentiment in your heart is not ~~caused~~ <sup>caused</sup> by the fond farewells of friends at evening; but by the excitement of being alive.

The tenseness in the atmosphere is not occasioned by the aching silence that will prevail in the classrooms here tomorrow; but rather by the impatience that you feel in accepting the challenge of life's morning hours.

We believe that you're worthy of our confidence and we believe that you will accept the responsibility of your heritage...and that you will use the key of truth to strike down injustice and loose the shakled hands of men and women caught in the world that's dark with error.

*Meshes of FA*

One ~~fatal~~ mistake tomorrow could prove fatal. The path of life is marked all too frequently with ~~the~~ tragic derilights who made that one mistake of thinking that life's verities and treasures could be bought on bargain counter days.

I bargained with life for a penny  
And life would give no more  
However, I begged at evening  
When I counted my scanty score.

For life is a just employer  
She gives us what we ask  
She always pays her wages  
When we have done the task.

Academic achievement alone is not education. It is only the basis for training. In the laboratory you will never find the ultimate answer. It will be out there in the school of experience when the stakes are high...when eternal principles are in question...when your own integrity is on the auction block, and where human destiny rests on your decision.

The strides of <sup>Modest</sup> progress stagger our imaginations. We are amazed at the advance in medical science. We're told in a little while from now advertising will be projected into the night skies and space will be sold according to the position of the stars.

Pedestrians will shop on moving sidewalks while traffic goes on below and overhead. No baseball game will ever be called because of rain, fog will never keep a plane grounded. Summer resorts will be created at will. Artificial suns flung into the heavens will grow and ripen fruit the year around.

In such a mad and intoxicated world ~~the only book~~  
~~the fittest will~~ ~~once more~~ ~~be the~~ ~~basic~~ ~~law~~ ~~of~~ ~~nature.~~  
XX  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ there is no graduating class  
anywhere that will stand a better chance than you...  
because of the character and nature of the school that  
crowns you tonight.

The training, the disciplines, the truth, and the spirit of this school will provide for you the one vantage point from which you may use the key of eternal truth.

There is a possibility of your thinking that

All frontiers are settled now  
He said with a gusty sigh  
I wish I'd lived in early days  
When adventure still ran high

*Relay*

*Relay*

The world is all quite civilized  
There is nothing left to dare  
No opportunity remains  
I wish I'd lived back there.

Oh, foolish youth, the future's large  
Where men may dare and win  
At every problem still unsolved  
The wide frontiers begin

So long as hunger walks the earth  
While one child cries for bread  
Where men grow desperate for food  
The new frontiers are spread.

While children die of strange disease  
While men have ills uncured  
Where medicine stands questioning  
Are still frontiers assured.

As long as knowledge questions why  
As long as earth has tears  
Will youth be challenged and youth dare  
To conquer new frontiers.

The key of truth that you hold will need no defence.  
You will never have to apologize to any man for the  
Bible doctrine taught here.

It was Spurgeon who said, "Defend the Bible? Might  
as well try to defend a lion! Just let it loose."

Mr. Walter Bamrosh, the beloved music master, was asked if he were dying and could hear only one last Symphony, what would he choose. Said he, I would like to hear Beethoven's ninth...for, he continued, Beethoven wrote this work after he was totally deaf, and it has been noted that these passages evoke new harmonies of bliss and wondrous beauty.

They are combination of sounds never heard before and they were not drawn from his mental remembrance of music, but they were sounds from a higher world. It was as if his deaf ears, having been deadened to the sounds of this present world, gave him another, inner ear, that was opened to the harmonies of a higher world.

Remember, the darker the night, the more conspicuous the light; it is the law of nature that as long as you look toward the sun, you will see no shadows, and as you face the conflicts of life, if you would keep the shadows of earth from your face, keep looking into the face of Jesus Christ.