President Taft Speaks for Gymnasium Fund

Endorses Move for Gymnasium as Healthful and Helpful

"No Well-Equipped University Is Without Means of Exercise Near at Hand In All Kinds of Weather"

"I Speak of Howard University as a Type. It Is Here In Washington. It Represents the Headship of Negro Education."

The Central (Gymnasium) Committee of the Howard University Alumni Association, of which Prof. Kelly Miller is chairman, Mr. Robert A. Pelham, Sec'y-Treasurer, and Mr. Shelby J. Davidson, Financial Agent scored a complete and unchallenged triumph when on April 9th, at Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, President William Howard Taft as principal speaker addressed the Alumni of Howard University in the interest of the campaign that is being successfully carried on for the ten thousand dollar Gymnasium Fund. Distinguished guest, prominent men and eminent citizens constituted an assemblage the like of which Washington has not seen in a great while taxing the capacity of the auditorium. The program consisted of addresses by those most intimately connected with the University and with the gymnasium campaign. The music was furnished by a full university orchestra under the direction of Mr. Joseph H. Douglass.

The decorations consisted of the white and blue intertwined with the American flags with a festoon of palms banked around the rostrum. The Alumni to the number of onethousand, together with their families and friends, had been provided with seats in the main section and presented a magnificent spectacle. The meeting was held under the joint auspices of the Financial department of the Gymnasium Committee and the Bethel Literary and Historical Association. Mr. A. D. Washington, president of the Literary, an alumnus, introducing the Financial Agent, Mr. Shelby J. Davidson, for the finance department, who in turn briefly presented Prof. Kelly Miller who presided.

The arrival of the President of the United States
was greeted with prolonged applause the audience rising until he and his escort were seated when the orchestra played "Hail to the Chief."

Introductory Remarks of
Dean Kelly Miller

Ladies and Gentlemen:
It is not the prerogative of the presiding officer to make a speech. You have been invited here tonight to promote the proposition to establish a gymnasium at Howard University for the physical education of fourteen hundred students under our care.

A University city is fortunate indeed as compared with those cities deprived of such facilities. In a city that possesses a great university, the ambitious youths are enabled to receive the advantages of higher education, without money and without price. While Howard University is a national institution in its opportunities and proportions, in its aims and in its reaches, in its sources and resources, it nevertheless stands as a local institution for the city of Washington. In our student body, fourteen hundred strong, there are 272 pupils contributed by the city. We have in this university a larger local constituency than the entire student body of Lincoln University, in Pennsylvania. When, therefore, we present the claims of this university to you, we appeal not only to your local pride but your self-interest also, for this is the institution in which your sons and daughters are educated.

Howard University was founded as an institution for the liberal education of the youth, and she advocates the higher education without apology and without equivocation. We stand upon this foundation laid by our founders upright, down straight, four square, unshaken and immovable. But while we believe in the higher development of the intellectual life of our student body, we also believe in the well rounded and well grounded manhood, and therefore we desire to make available facilities for the education of all that leads to manhood. We wish to develop the man physically, intellectually, socially, morally, and spiritually, and therefore we appear before you tonight to present to you the claims of this institution, not merely upon your local loyalty and passive sympathy, but upon your substantial support as well.

But as I said in the beginning, I must not allow myself to be betrayed into making a speech. The appeal will be made by other members on the program. And while this appeal is to be made especially to the alumni and former pupils of the University, in a larger and more general way, it is made so the citizens of the District of Columbia, and especially to those of you who have done as the honor to attend this meeting tonight.

I now take great pleasure in presenting to this audience a gentleman whose energy and enthusiasm have contributed mightily to the growth and expansion of our Alma Mater, President W. P. Thirkield.

Address of President Thirkield

Ladies and Gentlemen:
I am here not to make a speech, but simply to give the motto of this meeting; and that motto is "HOWARD UNIVERSITY MUST HAVE A GYMNASIUM." And we must have it quick. We want a gymnasium not merely for the bodies of men, but in the interest of the manhood of men; for the aim of education is manhood, virile, high-souled, son-crowned manhood and womanhood. One of the best definitions given modern education is that education relates to the whole man, and consists in drawing forth all the faculties with which the Creator has endued him, physically, intellectually, morally; in other words education has to do with the head, the hand, and the heart.

Now, we believe in offering facilities for the higher education for all men: not one kind of education for one set, and another for another set of men; but open doorways to the highest and noblest things in education to all men of all races. If we are to train men for leadership, if we are to equip men for largest service, then we must give to them largest opportunities for the development of their entire nature.

Now, at Howard, we have been making provision for the intellectual life of men. In the Providence of God, we got Mr. Carnegie to come down—he was present at the great meeting at the Fortieth Anniversary and the Installation of the President—and he was so impressed at that hour that we accomplished what I had been trying to accomplish in a whole year. And in ten days we had a gift of $50,000 as a gift for our new Library. That library has opened a new life to the University. It has given a new atmosphere to the intellectual life of the institution. Hour by hour throughout the entire day, from sixty to seventy young men and women are going in and out of those doors. Upon the walls, accessible to them at all times, are between two and three thousand volumes, besides forty thousand in the fireproof stacks. The finest opportunity is given there for study and research, and thus our library is making its contribution to the higher life of the students at Howard.

And then we found ourselves very much cramped in the Sciences. We were cooped in a couple of small rooms in the third story of that main building, with the most inadequate laboratories. And yet here are the modern sciences that are more and more making their large contribution to modern education. And it was through the appropriation of Congress, led, I am glad to say, on the floor when it had been thrown out on a point of order, by the present chairman of the Committee on appropriations, that we got the amount of $800,000, and now we have on the campus one of the best equipped modern buildings for the study of sciences. And there day by day during the week, in actual practical laboratory work in chemistry, biology and in physics, there are between six and seven hundred young men and women with finest facilities offered them in the study of the modern sciences.

And then it appeared to us that there must be opportunity for

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the training of young men in modern engineering. Through the generosity of our Government, we were given our new Applied Science Building, where young men for the first time in any institution especially devoted to the training of Negro youth, are offered modern facilities in civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering. And when you have a race that is organizing towns, that is building factories, that is acquiring land by the hundreds and thousands and millions of acres, that is building homes and equipping institutions,—that race, if it is to go on to its largest and finest life must have engineers who can lead them in civil, mechanical, and electrical lines. Now this is the contribution we are making to the intellectual life. And then that the body might be properly provided for, we have had last year a modern heating and electric light plant completed. (Enter the President of the United States.)

Now these facilities have been made possible by the generosity of our government; and I want just here to say that in all the records of the history of Howard University that stands, for the broadest training of the Negro race, the finest and strongest, the most fundamental things that have ever been said as a contribution to the higher education and as a contribution to the placing of Howard University as an obligation on the government of the United States for the adequate training of the Negro race,—these finest, largest, most fundamental things in the interest of higher education and of Howard University have been spoken by His Excellency, William Howard Taft.

Now the government has done these things for us, and just in a word, because I must give way to "The King," we have come to the gymnasium. And we believe that in the building of a gymnasium, this enterprise ought to be laid upon the alumni of the institution, that men may be trained to highest and broadest manhood. Education in these days involves not merely the education of the mind but also of the body; and the moral and the intellectual, and the body is fundamental to the highest and broadest training.

Now there have been, in history, several ideas as to the management of the body. One is that the body is all. Therefore feed it, pamper it, give rein to the beast, let us drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die. Another view is that the body is bad. Curse it therefore as a viper of the blood, as did many of the saints of old. But our type of the modern saint is Phillips Brooks. If you want a saint, do not get one who is sickly and pale and cadaverous, but one who has a sound sane mind in a sound body.

And so in the interest of the training of the physical man we are here tonight backing up this gymnasium enterprise. We want to train men to courage, we want to train them to endurance, we want to train them to highest and broadest and noblest life; and for this end we must train the bodies of men.

Now the Negro race needs this as well as any other race. It has shown its powers of endurance through a rugged representative who climbed to the top of the world and sat there on the North Pole,—and if he didn't get to the South Pole, it was because he was not asked to go. And so in order that man shall be trained for the largest intellectual and physical life, for courage, also endurance, we propose to lay the foundation in a clean, strong, sturdy body.

We started four years ago on this campaign. It was to be a "whirlwind campaign," but it did not whirl. Now we have come tonight to give it a new impetus, and I trust that such enthusiasm and devotion to the interests of the University may be developed here as shall swing this campaign on to victory, and that we shall have the gymnasium so greatly needed on the campus of Howard University.

Remarks by Dean Miller. Introducing President Taft

Any audience in America would very highly appreciate the honor of listening to the first citizen of the United States. The successor of Washington and of Lincoln, who now occupies the presidential chair, is a man of the highest patriotic and philanthropic traditions. He is a man of noble impulse and of a generous and all-embracing sympathy. He has honored the colored race in that he has selected distinguished individuals of this class to high stations under the federal government; and most especially in the case of Mr. Wm. H. Lewis, who was made Assistant Attorney General of the United States, being the first instance since the foundation of the Government where a colored citizen has been elevated to a sta-
tion second only to that of a cabinet officer.

But, Mr. President, we owe you our negative thanks as well as our positive praise. We want to thank you for a celebrated appointment which you did not make as much as for any which you have made.

The President has placed the colored race under a heavy tribute of gratitude in that he has lent the high prestige of his personal and official authority to the cause of the higher education of the Negro, and that too, at a time when the cause stood in sore need of such distinguished advocacy. Those of this class who are to stand in the high places of moral, social and intellectual leadership, need the discipline, the culture, the learning, which the most rigid scholastic preparation only can confer; for the tasks which devolve upon them are as intricate in their relations, and as far reaching in their consequences as any which have ever taxed human wisdom.

But especially has the President of the United States placed Howard University under a tribute of gratitude. He is a member of the governing body of Yale University, and Howard University, two of the greatest institutions of learning in the United States. And just as Yale University, your beloved Alma Mater, stands for supremacy in the intellectual and athletic arena, so Howard University claims supremacy in the intellectual and manly development of the Negro race. But Mr. President, as a member of the governing board, you have given to Howard University not merely your passive sympathy, but you have laid aside at times and on occasions, the heavy duties of state, to show your interest in the enlargement of its plans and policies.

It might not be unbecoming at this time to mention the fact that in the distinguished group of celebrities, known far and wide as the "Black Cabinet," which the President has called upon to help him administer the affairs of this great country, and who we are told, meet daily in conference to devise statesmenlike policies for the Negro race,—in this distinguished group, three out of seven are Alumni of Howard University.

In the future distribution of favor, if the proportion continues, Howard University will have no cause of complaint.

But now, the Alumni of Howard University are under a special debt of gratitude to you, Mr. President, for laying aside the duties of the state at this time, to help us promote the proposition to develop a gymnasium for the physical welfare of the fourteen hundred students placed in our charge.

Ladies and gentlemen: it affords me distinguished and peculiar pleasure to present to you the Honorable William H. Taft, President of the United States.

Address of President Taft

On being introduced President Taft was greeted with the "Howard Clap."

"I think that rather more sensible," remarked Mr. Taft, "than the Yale yell. You notice I only use the comparative."

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I cannot state, as well as your chairman has stated, my view of the necessity of the existence of Howard University. I can only repeat, in language less well chosen, that I believe it to be essential in the development of the Negro race that we should have universities, furnishing the highest education possible, distributed over the country, for the purpose of educating those who are to be the leaders of that race.

Every once and a while you meet a man whose vision is a bit clouded who talks about the waste of money in teaching Negroes the curriculum of an academic institution, of sending them to universities, adding that it is much better that they should go to manual-training institutions. Such a man has never thought on the subject, and does not understand that here is a race striving upward and onward that needs men who shall lead it, men who shall figure in the learned professions among them as physicians, as lawyers, and especially as ministers. Now, you can not give to the learned profession any education too cultured, or too far advanced; it is essential, if the race makes the headway as it ought to, that those of us who are responsible for its coming here should furnish the means by which it shall lift itself.

It is essential that we should encourage this as much as possible, and furnish the means ourselves, in so far as it may be proper, for the institution of such colleges as Howard and Fisk, and other institutions of that character for the higher education of the Negro.

Now, those people who are worrying about the waste of money on that account need not sit up late at nights on the subject, for I have looked into the question of the amount of money that is invested in these institutions and it is not anywhere near enough to furnish the education that is needed by the Negro race in this country. The funds are not sufficient.

Howard University is under the shadow of the capitol, and properly receives and ought to receive, money enough to make it a great educational institution. Of course it is well to have voluntary contributions where you can get them, but where you can not get them they ought to be placed out with government appropriations.

Now, we need gymnasiums, of course. We need gymnasiums

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because they are the means in a city of maintaining that physical exercise that is essential for the health of the body, and without a healthy body you cannot have a healthy brain. You can get along for a while, but after a time if the body wears out the brain does, and the only way of keeping that going in its proper normal condition is to have regular and healthy exercise. I don't mean that you have to cultivate your muscles so that they shall bulge out like billiard balls, but it is essential that the body should be kept in exercise so that the normal functions work in a healthy way, and there is nothing that contributes to that so much as a gymnasium. In a gymnasium people exercise together. We are a gregarious people and if one exercises another will. It is an encouragement to the whole university to have a place where men can meet. Sometimes there is competition — sometimes there is not. If you have a line set of muscles so that you can beat somebody else, why of course you invite competition. If you don't you are content with dignified exercise that does not involve the greatest amount of speed. Then you get along with yourself or with some one else equally deliberate. But the presence of a gymnasium on the campus promotes that kind of exercise. You can overdo it. Men can go into exercise and devote all their time to it and exhaust all nervous energy and not do much intellectual work, but that is what a gymnasium is for, although it sometimes leads to that extremity.

No well-equipped university is without the means of exercise near at hand in all kinds of weather, and that is what a gymnasium is for.

I sincerely hope that you may get it. Howard University can never call on me for anything in the way of developing that university to which I will not respond. But, unfortunately, I do not have the purse strings of the Government. It is generally essential that my signature should be upon a bill or it becomes a law, and that applies to appropriation bills as well as other bills, but it is a good deal harder to get the signature of the Speaker and the president of the Senate than it is mine on appropriation bills.

I speak of Howard University as a type. It is here, it is here in Washington. It represents the headship, in a way, of the education of the Negro, and therefore those of us that feel a responsibility about working out, and helping to work out, the great problem of the development of the Negro race, look upon it as a type of the instrumentality that is essential in that development. We believe in the higher education of the Negro, so that the leaders of the Negro race may have high ideals, and I believe they have. I believe that they subscribe, as perhaps some other elements in our community, do not, to the reign of law, to the respect for constituted authority, our institutions under our Constitution as they are. We have very good courts, if they are only respected. The trouble about it is that we do not always have public opinion strong enough to support the authority of the courts. We do not always find that individuals are stiff enough and rigid enough in their views of the enforcement of the law and the respect for law to make the courts respected as they ought to be throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Take the matter of lynching. That, as well as the administration of our criminal law, forms a disgraceful page in our social history. I just think it is well to take a text on that subject. Now, I know that our courts are not perfect, I know that they don't apply the law with the certainty and dispatch in criminal cases as they ought to, and I believe that part of this departure from law into lynching and disorder is due to the fact that courts are not certain and are not full of dispatch in disposing of criminal cases. But we must not attribute it all to the courts. There is among our people a disposition to forget the sanctity of the law, and to ignore that fact that no civilized country can live unless the law is respected. Now, lynching is justified because it is said to apply to one offense that is particularly heinous in the minds of us all. That is not true. Statisticians show that lynching is applied to a great many crimes. The moment that the mob acquires that wolfish desire for human blood the example is dreadful to the community in which that exhibition of lawlessness is given. There is not any crime I don't care what it is — that justifies a departure from law in the punishment of the person whose suffering is to be put down.

One of the serious questions we have to face in this country is that we have not among all our people as profound a respect for the law and the necessity for obedience to it, as we ought to have, and that is part of the reason why we

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Students and Alumni of the University are invited to contribute. Address all communications to Howard University Journal.

Howard University,
Washington, D. C.

Friday, May 3, 1912

EDITORIAL

All signs point to the greatest Commencement in the History of old Howard, and an Alumni Reunion that will be a record-breaker. No such interest has ever been shown in all the history of old Howard as is now manifested. Letters are coming from all parts of the country, showing deep interest and a growing affection and enthusiasm for "old Howard." The Alumni are aware as never before. Their faces are turned towards their Alma Mater. They are coming to the Reunion of 1912 for glad fellowship and fresh inspiration through a renewal of the association of the olden days.

There will be songs and yells, and the marching of the Alumni hosts and the joining in of the young "grads," and altogether such a day as has never yet been on the old Howard hill.

It is proposed to follow the custom of Harvard and other colleges, and have a procession of Alumni according to classes. It is earnestly hoped that there will be representatives of every class from the beginning. A banner will be ready for each class, and the members will gather around their flag. Headed by brass bands and inspired by songs and college yells, there will be such a marching along the college walks and under the old trees and around the athletic grounds as has never before been seen.

The whole day will be given to reunion and jubilation. First will come the Alumni meeting. And the chapel has never seen such a company as will gather on that day. The new President of the Alumni Mr. Dwight O.W. Holmes has brought to his high task that enthusiasm and knowledge and splendid ability which spell success. His spirit has become contagious, and all the officers are working in harmony and with entire devotion to the interest of that body. The gymnasium project will receive a new impetus.

After the Alumni address, will come the luncheon, tendered by the Board of Trustees. The Commencement exercises have been planned for the campus. It is expected that a great tent will be available, sufficient to hold the thousands who will be present. At night, the campus will blaze with myriad electrical lights from our new Electric Lighting and Power Plant. All the buildings will be illuminated. The brass band will furnish music for the promenade concert. The Alumni Banquet is expected to surpass in attendance and interest, all previous occasions.

Alumni, keep your eyes turned toward Howard from now until the fifth of June. Plan for a pilgrimage to your Alma Mater! Let the world see the thousands of Howard Alumni at their best. There is no body of Alumni connected with even the oldest institutions of the Nation that, united and organized for systematic and aggressive work, can exercise a larger influence over a greater number of people in race betterment and national welfare.

How many of your class can you locate? Let us have word how many of them will be with us on June 5th.

The "Gym" Thermometer at the Dietz Building shows about $6,000 in pledges: cash in hand between $1,500 and $1,600.

The state meeting at Oklahoma February 22nd, was a success. Many pledge cards were received as a result and early contributions are expected.

The Alumni who have subscribed can do more for the "Gym" Fund by paying their subscriptions than in any other way. It serves two purposes: saves sending notices, which costs; and encourages others by increasing the fund.

Everybody is with the Alumni, great plans are under way and many things projected for the future, of these, the Gymnasium looms up nearer than all the rest.

Every Alumni is requested to send at once to Mr. Robert A. Pelham, Dietz Building, Washington, D. C., his or her present address and other data required for the Alumni Catalogue.

Do not fail to keep the Alumni Officers advised as to your correct address. This will insure the prompt receipt of all Alumni literature and keep you in touch with all University matters of interest.

If any Alumni has not received a copy of the February Record or knows any one who should, kindly drop a card to Financial Secretary, Robert A. Pelham, Dietz Building.

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Alumni day plans contemplate business meeting 9 a.m. program 11 a.m.; luncheon served by Trustees of the University at 1:30 p.m.; business 2:30; grand march 3:30; Commencement Exercises 4:30.

Every class from 1872 to the present graduation class is expected to be represented at the Commencement and Alumni day, June 5th. Will each graduate communicate with the members of his or her class and get together?

The Baltimore Alumni have gotten together. Word from President Holmes of the Alumni and Miss Lacy Slope show intense interest in Alma Mater. At a meeting April 18, the Association pledged itself $1,000, sent in $900 in individual signed pledges. Who is next?

The Central (Gymnasium) Committee acknowledges with appreciation the efforts of the Howard College Dramatic Club in the presentation of "For One Night Only." It was a success. A few more efforts from the inside of the rank would soon make our appeals for funds unnecessary.

Word has just come from Berkeley, Va., of the successful presentation of a drama, to crowded houses, under the direction of Mrs. R. G. L. Paige, the wife of an enthusiastic alumnus of Howard. Such individual effort could be put forward in every locality, it shows ability, would cement interest into an effective working force. You may hear more of this later, watch!

The Financial Agent of the "Gym" Fund, Mr. Shelby J. Davidson, plans to visit all the larger alumni centers before June 5th. Several organizations have sent in word of preparation for a big meet and rally for the $10,000 fund. Is the association of your city in line? Cannot you create an enthusiasm which will bring your fellows together and join this movement?

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"For One Night Only"

Cast of Characters
Prof. Martin Goldwhinney, Raymond Brown, Jr., Mr. Locke '12.
Benjamin H. Locke, David T. Newman, Mr. Terry '12.
Mr. Charles Harkins, William Winthrop '13.
Jack Harkins.
Louis A. Howard '14.
Mrs. Sophronia Goldwhinney, Miss L. Vaught Turley '14.
Mrs. Marianna Newman, Miss Zephyr Chism '13.
Miss Paula Goldwhinney, Miss Oceola M. Macarthy '13.
Rosa.
Miss Vergie M. Porter '15.

At the Howard Theater on the evenings of April 25 and 26, the Howard College Dramatic Club made its fourth annual appearance in R. M. Baker's adaptation from the German, "For One Night Only." The play, a four-act comedy, has been a favorite with the better class of college dramatic organizations because of its wholesomeness. It is free from the vulgar eroticism of the presentation of last year, "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

The plot of the play is woven around a learned Professor who becomes involved while attempting to have produced a play of his, without the knowledge of his family. The acting as a whole was a creditable performance and Mrs. George W. Cook and Mr. Nathaniel Guy who directed the work are to be commended for the interpretative quality of the work. The numerous amusing situations like the scenes of a more serious nature were mastered at all points: the laughable scenes at the end of the first act between Miss Macarthy and Mr. Locke; the "Barnstorming scene" before the second curtain on the second act; and the very pretty scenes between Miss Chisom and Mrs. Tuckier—to say nothing of the climax in the third act when "the Professor," "Dr. Newman," and "Paula" make their escape.

The beautiful gowns, the ease and grace of the "actresses" lent an added charm to the various tableaux. Miss Turley's grace and poise deserves particular mention. The stage was a very pretty picture whenever the ladies appeared.

Mr. Locke, whose inimitable acting as "Tony" in the premier performance of the Club, "She Stoops to Conquer," is well remembered, gave a good representation of the "then pected" husband. Mr. Terry was, as expected, excellent in his portrayal of "Spotts," the "ham" actor. Miss Porter's "Rosa" was irresistible. Her work was careful and consistent. With Miss Chisom's entrance in the first act the work bounded to a higher level. She was at her ease at all times. Mr. Winthrop, as "Mr. Harkins," and Mr. Tucker as "Dr. Newman," handled difficult parts in a most satisfactory manner, while Mr. Howard, as "Jack," although with little opportunity to show, his rare ability was all that could be desired, especially in the "card scene." Miss Macarthy, whose rich speaking voice possesses charming qualities, made a natural and therefore pleasing "Paula." In short, the parts of almost equal importance and length of lines were capably cast.

Mr. Gilbert, whose management of the four productions of the Club has made the organization notable should have a peculiar sense of gratification in this his last college production, in that under him the Howard College Dramatic Club has established in the University life a place of distinction with an opportunity to wield a wholesome influence in student life.

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Address of President Taft
(Continued from Page 5, Column 3)

have these exhibitions of lawlessness over the country and these cruel murders for that is all they are. It is not any less a murder because 400 men take part in it than because one man does. Ordinarily it is accompanied by a good deal more cowardice because 400 are in it instead of one. The only way by which it can be suppressed is that sometimes we shall have men as sheriffs, and as governors, and as prosecutors, and as jurors who will see to it that the men who are engaged in pulling the rope under those conditions shall themselves swing by the rope. We need not sit snugly by—those of us in any particular section—and think we are better than those in any other section, because that lawlessness has shown its ugly head both north and south of the Mason and Dixon's line, and it is condemned wherever it appears, and it is to be suppressed only by an improvement in the individual opinion of the necessity for the enforcement of law. Everything—and I am bound to say I believe this thoroughly—that goes to minimize the respect for the courts, the respect for the enforcement of law, and the following of law just as it is, contributes to the continuance of that abuse and to the continuance of lawlessness which we all deplore theoretically, but which I am sorry to say we at times express too much sympathy with.

It is the courts upon which our entire civilization rests. It is through the courts that our individual liberty, our right to the pursuit of happiness and our right to hold property are to be secured. I don't know whether you have ever looked into the question to see whether in other
countries than this liberty and the right to hold property are held secure, but if you have you will find that in the countries where they are least secure there are declarations in the law that are as perfect in their rounded sentences to show the regard that the law has for all those rights as anyone should desire. But the trouble about it is that declarations work only on the conscience of the executive and of the judges and of the legislature and in no other way, and if their consciences are not pricked to an observance of those institutions why the institutions fade away and disappear, and that is what happens in a great many of the so-called Republics that are nothing but little temporary dictatorships, with one revolution succeeding another.

Now, what is the difference between those declarations in those constitutions that I refer to and the declarations in our Constitution? It is that in our Constitution we don't alone declare in favor of the liberty of the citizen, but we provide in the Constitution for the very procedure by which that liberty is to be asserted. The Constitution does not only say that a man shall not be deprived of life, liberty, and property, but it says that the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended in time of peace. Now, what does that mean? It is the writ of habeas corpus that enables you and me to maintain our liberty. If any one deprives you of it, you go into court and file a petition with the judge, and if he does not issue a writ and bring you before the court to test the question whether you are lawfully held or not, he himself goes to prison. In other words, that is the procedure. It is not a declaration; it is a practical instrument for asserting your liberty. That is the difference between Anglo-Saxon liberty and the declarations of liberty that have come down in the constitutions of other countries. And so it is with respect to other instrumentalities in the pursuit of happiness. They say you shall not be deprived of life, liberty, and property except how? Except by due process of law. In other words, they refer to the procedure. They are practical in their declarations, and that has come from Magna Charta. Those old Englishmen who thought and believed in trial by jury, and by due process of law insisted on having those instrumentalities for the preservation of the rights mentioned on their charter rather than the mere declaration.

Now, we have to return, if we would avoid these abuses to which I have referred, to the profound respect for and obedience to the laws that have been preserved in England down to the present day. They don't have lynching in England. Now, why don't they have it? It is because the criminal law in England is enforced with certainty and dispatch. They punish crime and they punish it promptly. They have the same guaranties with respect to life, liberty, and property, the same guaranties as to those accused of crime as we have. And yet they go on and try every case and convictions follow. They don't have to have a murder case take six weeks and have it tried in the newspapers, with all the headlines and all the maudlin sentiment and all the flowers that are sent to murderers. When a man is tried there, the question is, is he guilty or not. They call the witnesses and they don't take four or five weeks to get a jury. They get a jury in a day, and they put it through. Now, that kind of enforcement for law shows first, respect for law; and second, such enforcement of it that no one can make an excuse for lynching.

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I believe we can improve matters. I believe we can improve matters by making our courts more expeditious, and I think in so doing we shall take away part of the excuse, but on the other hand the best way to improve a people after all—I don’t mean to depreciate the usefulness of instrumentalities in a change of government and a change of method and a change of law, but the real method of improving a community is to improve and to make higher the standard of the individual.

Now I did not intend to come in here and talk on this general subject, but I just drifted along. It has not much to do with a gymnasium, but a gymnasium, if properly used, will tend to develop a good brain and a good body, and that will make a good citizen, and that will make a man who respects the law, who helps to enforce it where it is his duty as a citizen to enforce it, and it will take out of man’s mind and of his soul, if he maintains sanity, that sympathy with unlawful methods that comes by reason of a maudlin sentiment that interferes so much with the enforcement of the law.

Now, I sincerely hope that you will raise enough money to build this gymnasium. I hope that Howard University will continue to grow in usefulness. I am glad that you have such an effective and efficient president who has given his mind and heart and soul to the development of the institution and I am glad that you have a body of alumni and alumnae that make for the strength of the university and create a public opinion that will make for its growth and will give sufficient support to it throughout your community to call for a proper respect for it by the community at large and by Congress in its most useful appropriations.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak here and for giving me the opportunity to say that whenever I can help Howard University call on me.

Address of Dwight O. W. Holmes, President General Alumni Association

It would seem that enough has been said to convince even the most reluctant alumnus of his duty in joining heart and hand and purse in contributing to the realization of the end and aim of this meeting, namely, the erection of the Alumni Gymnasium upon the campus of Howard University.

Howard, to-day, is in the first flush of its early manhood. The new century has brought to it the strength of maturity and ushered in the blooming Renaissance. She has, I believe, upon the realization of her great destiny, that of becoming the great National Negro University, equal in all respects with the best universities in the country. And indeed, she seems specially favored by Fortune for just that destiny. Situated at the Nation’s capital, with all the advantages offered by the city of Washington as an educational center, closely in touch with the machinery of national legislation; surrounded and patronized by the largest, wealthiest, and most intellectual group of Negroes in the world; and intimate with the largest and best organized public school system to be found anywhere, Howard stands unrivalled for the fulfillment of this high destiny.

Now to my mind, The Alumni can take active part in this development—in this progress toward better things in many ways; but first of all in some constructive way. To that end, fellow alumni, our greatest task, our most urgent duty, is the creation and perpetuation of a Howard spirit, a college loyalty, an eternal devotion, first within our own hearts; and we must endeavor by every legitimate means within our power to render conditions here conducive to the development of those same virtues within the hearts of those now sojourning here and those to come who will some day join our ranks. But mere talking will not do this for abiding love is not born of academic discussion. Arguments of cause and effect engender no devotion. Logical dissections, with their why’s and whose, are not undergirding enthusiasm. Love, enthusiasm and devotion are sentiments born and nurtured within the hearts of men by deeds that try the soul, quicken the pulse, heat the blood, involve sacrifice. It is in doing deeds for her glorification that the true soulful devotion for Howard must be born.

It is probably in the field of athletic endeavor that the seeds of college spirit find most fruitful soil. The spirit imbued by clean physical contest is in kind and character similar to that engendered by honorable battle—a white hot flame when the stress is at its height followed by a dull red glow; less fervid but eternal. Whose loyal soul upon that field does not thrill when the game is on? Each Howard heart beats faster and faster as the conflict ebbs and flows; each voice surges stronger and stronger; each voice rises higher and higher until all burst forth in one tumultuous shout of victory, when our gallant warriors force the ball across the line, uphold our honor and set floating proudly to the breeze the glorious White and Blue.

In foot ball, basket ball, base ball, track and field, Howard’s athletes have for years wrought nobly for her cause; in fact, I venture to say, have contributed most largely to the creation of that vitalizing spirit of which I speak; and yet this all-important branch of university life receives the least serious consideration if the provision of adequate facilities be taken as the criterion.

Day after day they toil in grime and sweat, giving their time, their energy, their blood, their gore for the glory of Howard’s arms. Aye indeed, they labor.
and they faint not, but by their efforts spread abroad the name and fame of Howard. And year after year we go by thousands and see them tight—tight and seldom lose, tight and often win. And so has it been for over twenty years. And twenty years ago much did we long for a Gymnasium; and Howard's athletes are crying just as bitterly today, and Howard's students are appealing just as earnestly as we did two decades ago—and the ground is yet unbroken.

Engraved in deathless stone over the portal of the new Union Station are these words; "Be noble, and the nobleness which lies in other men, long sleeping but never dead will rise in majesty to meet thine own." Howard's athletes have through twenty trying years been noble; noble in victory, noble in defeat, noble in hope, noble in patience. Let that nobleness that lies in our hearts, long sleeping but never dead, rise up in majesty to meet their own. Alumni, the call to immediate and specific duty is here. The world judges worth by results, by things done. Howard herself is a success because she has given to the world men and women who are doing its work. And if the alumni body means anything at all it will speedily crown yonder summit with that gymnasium pledged to the students of the University four years ago; and in so doing will rear aloft an enduring monument to true alumni zeal and furnish inspiration to student generations yet to be.

Whenever I see the old place she speaks to me of days that were and I answer her thus—and may the sentiments of your heart be consonant with these of mine:

I love every spot,
Every blade of grass
That carpets thy bosom fair,
Thine ivied walls,
Thy hallowed halls,
Every memory that lingers there.

And the voice of the breeze
As it sings through thy trees
Seems to say in its musical rhyme
That thy heart as of old
Is as dear to my soul,
As it was in that long gone time.

When thine old walks I see,
Every face dear to me
Becomes again and loved voices I hear
And with rapture divine
Round my heart I entwine
Each remembrance of thee

Ah, in years yet to be,
When thy vision I see
And the sands of my life run low,
May my heart beat as true
To the White and Blue,
As it did in those days long ago.

Ladies and gentlemen, the proposition is to raise $10,000 for this cause: and we look to Washington, with its 600 Alumni and its 100,000 constituents and well-wishers to take the lead in this matter! I sincerely hope that when you are through, all that the country at large will need to do will be to put on the finishing touches.

Address of Mr. Robert A. Pelham

Mr. Robert A. Pelham, secretary-treasurer of The Central Gymnasium Committee, spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I am and have for sometime been charged with the duty of placing in the hands of every Alumnus the pledge card and the Alumni record card. If you fill in and sign the former it will constitute a subscription to the "Gym" fund while the filling in of the latter will aid in the revision and correction of the Alumni Catalogue.

Any institution sending out in the busy world as many young people, as has been Howard's happy fortune, is justified in watching anxiously the future of this army, both from the natural interest which must exist for those who have sustained the relation of pupil and teacher for a period of years and as an index of the influence which letters have in moulding character and furnishing an equipment for successful and beneficial careers. Because of this natural anxiety and interest in those who have left their fostering care, the faculty and trustees have delegated to us the task of collecting and arranging a catalogue which shall be as comprehensive and accurate as possible.

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secure information of those who have died and ladies who have married since graduation, and for that reason cannot be traced by reference to earlier catalogues. To secure this information cards have been put in the hands of ushers which will be given those present and the committee wishes to be insistent in urging the friends and relatives of the Alumni who have changed their residence, married and consequently changed their names or have died since graduation to fill out those cards with the desired information and return them as early a date as possible.

In so doing you will greatly facilitate the efforts of the committee and Faculty in securing a perfected catalogue of the Alumni of Howard, for which service in behalf of the Faculty I thank you in advance.

Address of Mr. Shelby J. Davidson, Financial Secretary

Mr. Chairman:

Under ordinary circumstances to be the last speaker on an occasion like this is sufficiently discouraging, but tonight when the President of the United States has also preceded me together with the eminent array of speakers, it is especially so. It would seem to you that being placed last on a program that it was intended that I should have the last say, but that I have decided to disappoint you in order to do something which the others have not done, however distinguished. I am for once going to turn the tables and let you, the people have the last say.

Under our form of government and the plan of the judiciary therein, the Supreme Court in all matters of legal controversy has the last say. It is said that a layman in an altercation with a newspaper man has the disadvantage because the man with the paper has the last say, but tonight we are to overturn these precedents and give to the people the right of the final word. You have heard that money talks; shortly after it was started owing to the fact that the Y. M. C. A. had a half erected building and was too in the field soliciting from the same people who would be asked to help as in our effort, it was thought best to discontinue our campaign until the same was completed. The Y. M. C. A. fund having been raised and the money all in on January last the campaign for the gymnasium fund was resurrected. At that time the subscriptions amounted to about $8000 and the cash in hand was about $1000. Tonight after less than two months I am pleased to announce that the total subscriptions amount to $4,000 while the cash in hand is something more than $1,500. During this period by correspondence and personal canvass we have located and interested the alumni all over the country. We have been carrying on a talking feast but tonight we have ended our propaganda of words and from now until June 1st we propose to have a propaganda of works.

We are bringing to you this appeal with the hope of interesting you in the lowering of the high death rate as shown by the insurance companies of the country, we purpose to establish and maintain sanitary conditions in the homes of the millions of our people and make the laws of hygiene and physiology as sacred to us as to those of the more favored race and we believe that in this medium of gymnasium teaching the high scientific ideal of physical culture, we can do it.

The twelve or fifteen hundred men and women as students of Howard University rise as a vision before me and I trust will remain with you until this work of the gymnasium is completed. No better service can be rendered the race than by sending these pupils back to their homes on the mission of sanitation, preaching the gospel of health and life both to themselves and to those among whom they live.

Remember Alumni Day, Wednesday June 5th.
Program

2. Invocation, Rev. I. N. Ross.
3. Announcements, Mr. A. D. Washington, President, “Bethel Literary.”
4. Introductory Remarks, Prof. Kelly Miller, Chairman, “The Central Committee.”
5. Howard University and the Gymnasium, Dr. Wilbur P. Thirkield; President Howard University.
6. The Pledge Card Alumni Record, Mr. Robert A. Pelham, Secretary-Treasurer, “The Central Committee.”
7. Music, Violin Solo, Gypsy Airs (by request) Sarasate, Mr. Joseph H. Douglass.
8. Address, Hon. William Howard Taft, President of the United States.
11. The Campaign for the Gymnasium, Mr. Shelby J. Davidson, Financial Agent.
12. Music, Veritas: College March, Densmore, University Orchestra.
13. Benediction, Rev. T. B. Livingston, St. Andres, South America.

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(To be filled in by person himself if living and accessible, or by one who knows the facts)

Name....................................................................................................................................
Was graduated, class 1..........................................Department: Degree, Diploma or Certificate
Present address: Street No.................................................... City.................................. State
Present occupation...................................................................................................................
Since graduation: positions held..................................................................................................
Member of what learned societies..........................................................................................
Special work done including service to community, church, city, state or nation and publications.
Married to............................................................................................................................................................
Date............................... No. of children.............................. living............................. dead..............................
Filled out 191 By .........................................................................................................................

Every alumnus is urgently requested to fill out at once a pledge card, and also the card with the data for the Alumni Register and return the same immediately to Robert A. Pelham, Financial Secretary, Howard Alumni Association, address 639 F Street, n. w., Washington, D. C. Phone, Main 3640.

Home Coming Day—Howard Alumni Can You “Come Back”? The University Invites You Back Every Son and Daughter of “Old Howard” is Invited to the Alumni Reunion and Commencement, Wednesday, June 5