

**Oratio inauguralis : quam in academia Harvardiana, Cantabrigiae
Novanglorum, nonis Octobribus, A.D. MDCCLXXXIII / habuit Benjamin
Waterhouse.**

Contributors

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ORATIO INAUGURALIS,
QUAM
IN ACADEMIA HARVARDIANA,
ANNO 1783,
HABUIT
BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE, M. D. &c. &c.



ORATIO INAUGURALIS, ✓

QUAM

IN ACADEMIA HARVARDIANA,

CANTABRIGIÆ NOVANGLORUM,

NONIS OCTOBRIBUS, A. D. MDCCLXXXIII,

HABUIT

✓
BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE, M. D.

ET MED. THEOR. ET PRAX. PROFESSOR.



CANTABRIGIÆ:

TYPIS HILLIARD, METCALF, ET SOC.

MDCCCXXIX.

GRATIS IN ALIBUS

IN ACADEMIA BAKARANA

CANTONIA NOTAGRAM

NONA OCTOBRIS A. D. MDCCLXXIII

Med. Hist.

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1829

B. WATERHOUSE & B.

CANTONIA
THE HILL, BOSTON, MASS.
MDCCLXXIII

ADVERTISEMENT.

This inaugural oration, delivered in 1783, may be valuable on one account ; for as much as it fixes the era of an historical fact not to be found on the records of the University. That the origin of the second school of medicine in America (that of Pennsylvania having preceded it by about thirty years) should have been publicly celebrated before the highest civil authorities in the Commonwealth,—clerical and literary bodies,—with a festive entertainment, and by illuminations of all the college buildings, and yet no record made of the installation, must surprise all those unacquainted with the remissness of times past.

*As the department of THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC consociates and unites the entire science of medicine, the first Professor of it was led to speak of its preliminary branches,—Anatomy, Chemistry, Botany, Materia Medica, and Natural Philosophy,—and to appeal most earnestly to the powers and virtues of the Commonwealth, to supply a desideratum, benevolently called for by suffering humanity,—I mean, the study and restoration of “the MIND diseased.”**

* Now [1829], in a great measure, supplied by a noble Asylum for the Insane.

If the primordium of our Medical School; and if the date of the first lectures in this new world, on Natural History in general, and on Mineralogy and Botany in particular, be a matter of little importance now, it does not follow, but that an authentic record of such events will be a subject of more than simple curiosity in times to come. The public have been recently apprized, by the first man in the nation,† how little was actually known of “one Harvard,”—a name that will be venerated so long as the University shall exist!*

Cambridge, New-England, January 1829.

* *First given by the author in 1786 and 1787 in the Rhode Island College; and from that period, during more than twenty years, in the University of Cambridge. See his “BOTANIST,” printed in 1811,—being the Botanical part of his course of Natural History.*

† *By His Excellency JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, President of the United States, on the completion of the monument, just erected in this vicinity, to the memory of the Rev. John Harvard, a native of Old England.*

ORATIO INAUGURALIS.

QUUM ad dignitatem publice hac in scholâ medicinæ Harvardianâ docendi advocatus, jam nunc autem, cum aliis meis in eâdem facultate sociis, solenni ritu constitutus sim, meæ sunt partes, antequam munus nostrum auspicati fuerimus, ut salutationes ex more dicam, grates debitas persolvam.

TE IGITUR IMPRIMIS, CUJUS SUB AUSPICIIS TAM FLORET NEQUE SOLA ACADEMIA, TOTA VERO RESPUBLICA NOSTRA MASSACHUSETTENSIS! VIR SPECTATISSIME, PRÆFECTE,* AMPLITUDINE MUNERUM, VIRTUTUM PRÆSTANTIA, ILLUSTRISSE! MIHI SEMPER, SEMPERQUE NOSTRATIBUS, POSTERIS SEMPER, PER OMNEM PROVINCIARUM FÆDERATARUM, PROPTER BENEFICIA MAXIMA, BELLO FURENTE, PERICLITANTE LIBERTATE, IN EAM COLLOCATA, UNIVERSITATEM, COLENDE!

VOS ETIAM, CURATORES EXIMII, ACADEMIÆ HUIUS CANTABRIGIENSIS PATRONI MUNIFICI, QUIBUS SUMMÆ VENERATIONIS TESTIFICANDÆ MIHI EST CAUSA, QUOD, CUM VESTRÆ SIT AUCTORITATIS, VISUM EST NOBIS ET NOSTRA DISCIPLINA ACADEMIAM AUGERE, CONSALUTO!

TEQUE, PRÆSES† ORNATISSIME, DOCTISSIME! MUNERIS GRAVITATE, SPLENDORE ERUDITIONIS PRÆCLARE! NOSTRÆ ACADEMIÆ LUMEN SEMPER VENERANDUM!

* Hancock.

† Willard.

VOS QUOQUE, PROFESSORES CLARISSIMI, AMICISSIMI COLLEGÆ!

NEC NON VOS, VERBI DIVINI INTERPRETES! CASTISSIMI! PLURIMUM VENERANDI!

ATQUE VOS, LECTISSIMA JUVENTUTIS STUDIOSE CORONA! PATRIÆ SPES! CURA ET AMOR NOSTER, CONSALUTO!

VOBIS DENIQUE OMNIBUS, CUJUSCUNQUE VEL ORDINIS SITIS VEL REGIONIS, AUDITORES HUMANISSIMI,

BENE FAUSTUMQUE PRECOR!

QUUM primum Reipublicæ Batavianæ cives summâ virtute, extremis laboribus, summam sui potestatem sibi vindicâssent, scholas protinus medicas curabant adornare; quippe qui rectissime judicarent, vix aliquid tantum commodi, majorem famam, gentibus afferre, quam medicæ artes, quâ possit diligentîâ, bene instauratæ.

Quibus causis populus quivis in bellum impellatur, haud difficile est ex curis, intermisso bello, primo ab eodem in loco habitis, intelligere. Hinc ista prudentissima nostri seculi civitas Batavorum, integris rebus, scholas medicas, inter id genus alia, instituendas putavit. Tum vero omnibus viribus in rem literariam intendere; datâque operâ ut cognitiones, virtutes, præcipue autem cultus DEI verus, per totam civitatem florerent, magna ferre indicia quarum rerum causâ dimicâssent;—hos fructus exoptatos, hanc esse spem, quæ Reipublicæ laboranti in auxilium advenisset.

Hæc si, ac similia, Batavis sint laudi, nos revera Americani necesse est majorem laudem consequamur: quippe quum bellum, belloque consociata, duris urgens in rebus egestas, gladium strictum, mors ipsa, adhuc grassarentur; hoste foris, intra muros proditore luctantibus; laxâ societate vixque solutâ; spe solâ relictâ! tot, inquam, malis nobis instantibus, tantâ tenebrarum undequaque circumfusâ caligine, vel hujusmodi rebus intendisse animum, vel occasionem disciplinas liberales colendi præbuisse, plus est quàm sperari potuisset, omnia exempla facile superat. At eâ tamen ipsâ turbâ rerum, nullâ tranquillitate, otio nullo, Academiæ, eruditorumque sodalitates, apud vos sunt instauratæ! Inter diras adeo calamitates affulgebat spes aliqua disciplinarum reficiendarum, et vestris auspiciis caput extulit Schola Medica.

Hæc ævi hujusce apud nos facta per longum tempus memoriæ proditum iri, minime dubium est. Non poterunt scriptores non illos homines admirari, qui, sicut olim, tempore Nehemiæ, Judæi, alterâ manu operati sunt, telum alterâ comprehenderunt; ita, nec contumeliis hostium, nec ensibus moti, in id incubuere, quo rem repararent literariam æque ac publicam.

Prævalidum vero præsidium contra gentium omnium vastatorem schola medica; quam, etsi non instituistis, mente tamen, discordiâ mundi nostri fundamenta quatiente, suscepistis. Quis enim adsit, quis horum juvenum maxime juvenis, cui nostræ calamitates non in memoriam veniant? quis earundem non particeps fuit?—Sed nunc nulla procella! Salva res est! quiescit orbis totus terra-

rum! Gentes, igitur, omnes, tollite plausus! acclamantes ovanti voce DEO; quippe bella placat ad nostras usque ultimas terras! Tandem perfringitur arcus! detruncatur hasta! sceptrumque tyrannicum ipse OMNIPOTENS fregit! Regnat pax! exultat tellus! Extemplo deserta revirescent, incultaque! frequentabitur solitudo! Non nobis—non nobis, auditores dilecti! sed Illi, qui templa Cœli summi tonitru concutit, est hujusmodi otii, est tot beneficiorum, libertatis carissimæ, in perpetuum, sit ita! firmatæ, soli Ipsi, inquam, danda est laus!

Est nostræ disciplinæ, hominem integrum conservare, infirmum roborare, morientem, si possit, restituere, vitamque extendere. Quantum opus, tanta instrumenta.

Praxin Medicam, de quâ agimus, spectant anatomia, chemia, herbarum scientia, remediorum, omni ex naturâ quærendorum, cognitio. Quum igitur maxime valet, latissime patet, pro vestrâ obsecro humanitate, mihi pauca de medicâ arte disserenti, facilem aurem præbeatis.

Medicinam antiquissimis temporibus solâ constitisse experientiâ, et ratio docet et quicquid superstet artis historiæ; postmodo verùm de theoretice cogitatum fuisse, deque medicamentorum, ut dicunt, rationali, per colloquia indagato, et disputationes. Præterea negari non potest, quin prior pars, ἐμπειρικὴ dicta, omnino certissima sit; rebus enim iisdem, experientia eadem est. Hinc HIPPOCRATIS scripta, hinc libros *Galenii*, hinc *Celsi*, aliorumque veterum medicorum ad praxin pertinentia, experimenta præcipue complectentia, posteritati æternæ traditum iri verisimillimum est.

Plurima tamen detexit circa corporis fabricam recentiorum industria; multum adhuc latet, et latebit forte diu. Nihilominus, qui nobiscum hac in arte antiquos conferre voluerit, nostrâ perpensâ anatomiâ, chemiâ, chirurgicâ, botanicâ, mechanicâ, physicâ, novis perpensis medicamentis, priorum multis, aut fœditatem propter, aut cruciatus in utendo, abjectis, hos nescio quatenus cedere ultro fatebitur.

Ad corpus humanum, tam sanum quam ægrum, rite cognoscendum, dilucide explicandum, nihil utilius, imo, nihil magis necessarium est quam anatomia. Sola hæc morbos explorat; sedibus, quamquam sint occultæ, reclusis, haud raro causas morborum in lucem exponit; unde magna anatomix in τῶν φυσικῶν καὶ παθέων doctrinâ utilitas.

Quis, quæso, Auditores optimi! de rupturâ cordis cogitasset unquam, nisi id in factis anatomicis deprehensum esset? Quis vasa lactea,—quis cordis et aliorum musculorum irritabilitatem,—quis peristalticum intestinorum motum compertum haberet, si abfuisset anatomicorum sedulitas? Hinc semper manet, anatomen primarium esse medicinæ fulcrum.

Botanice, parum veteribus cognita, eo hodie excolta est, ut nulla est planta, quæ non ex certis, a Creatore illi inditis, notis, facile cognosci possit.

Nihil minus medicinæ utilitatis attulit chemia. Nam hujus auxilio et patefactæ sunt latentes, antea autem ignotæ, in corporibus vires; quinetiam medicamenta valentissima, veteribus incomperta, in usus hominum cesserunt; totaque res pharmaceutica insigniter adaucta est.

Quare medicus chemiâ carere non potest, si errores in remediis administrandis gravissimos vitare velit. Quâ vitantur difficultate ! quum sit error multiplex. Quam frequentes paralogismi ! Quæ nunc tamen non est narrandi locus.

Neque profecto exponantur animantium sine physicæ accuratâ notitiâ motiones. Qui potest enim, aëris incompertâ naturâ, intelligi quomodo fiat respiratio ? Visus ut explicetur, lumine haud intellecto, haud perspectis ejus radiandi legibus, qui fieri potest ? Qui auditus, nisi $\tau\eta\tilde{\nu}$ $\pi\nu\epsilon\nu\mu\alpha\tau\iota\kappa\eta\tilde{\nu}$ prius incumbatur ?

Quinimo, animalium singula corpora quasi sunt machinæ quas dicunt hydraulicas ; in quibus magnâ celeritate, in circulum eunt redeuntque diversi humores, perpetuo motu, vix credibile pondus. Ideoque ad mechanicen quicquid pertineat, quicquid ad hydrostaticen, se quodammodo cum medicâ disciplinâ commisceat. Istarum vero scientiarum præcepta, ubinam est majore fructu requirere, quam in hac ipsâ Academiâ ?—Hæc quidem amplius persequi vellem ; sed angustius tempus vetat. Aliâ occasione, in amplissimo dilectissimoque hoc campo, lubenter exspatiabor.

“Homines ad Deos”—ita Cicero—“nullâ re propius accedunt, quam salutem hominibus dando.” Sic jure locutus est Romanæ eloquentiæ parens. Quid autem humanius, quid homine, quid Christiano homine, dignius, quam opem languidis, morbo affectis, cruciatis, afferre ? Dolendum quidem est, illam medicinæ partem, quæ tractat de regimine mentis, quoad medicorum est, mente-

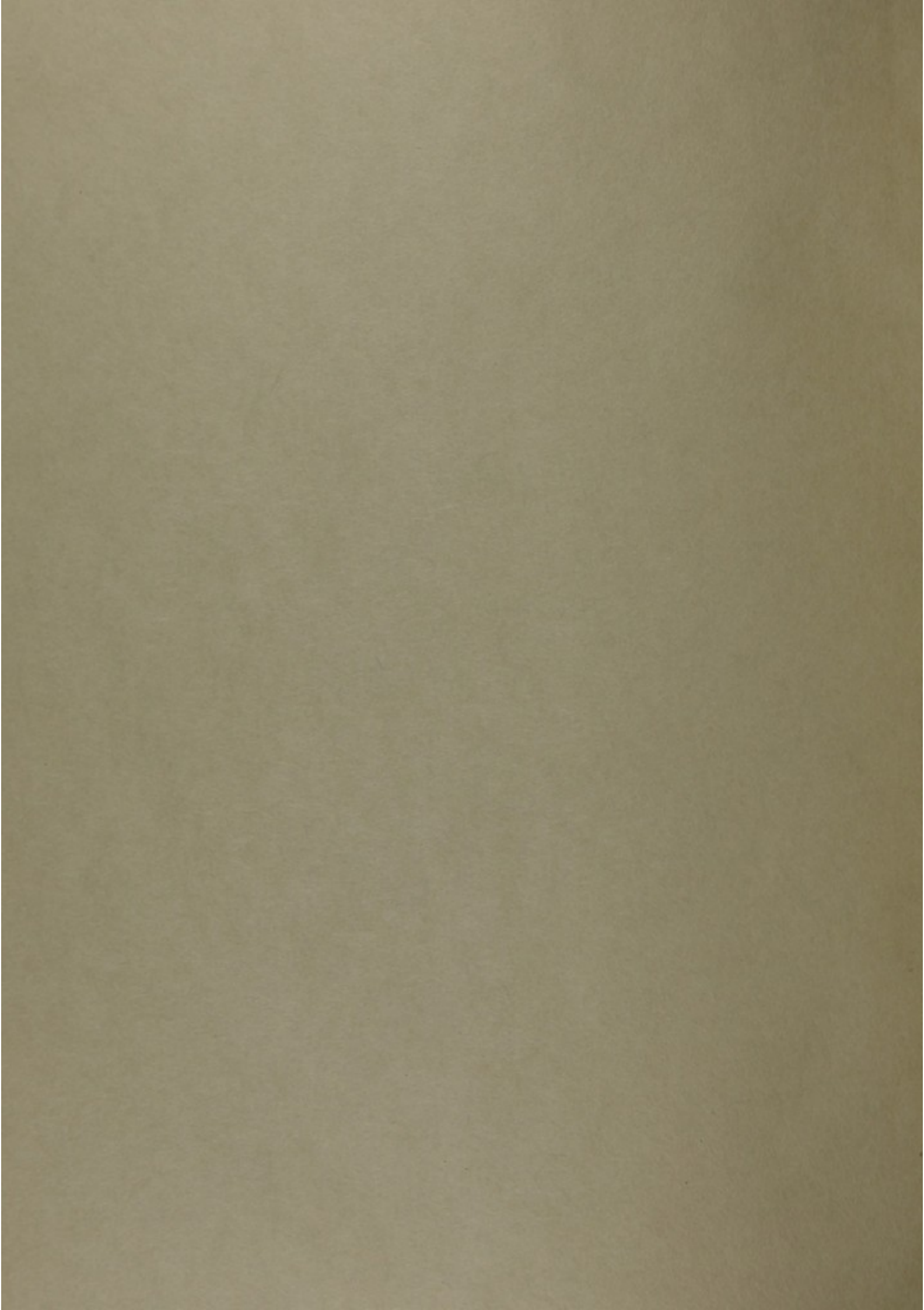
que capti curatione, adhuc adeo incultam, adeo desertam, jacere, ut propemodum tota desideretur! Quocirca agite, eruditi! collatisque in commune notitiis, tentaminibus, et si quid aliud perutile sit, medicam hanc philosophiam colite, exornate! Jubet argumenti dignitas, suadet artis incrementum, exigit denique humani generis amor, ut opus istud aggrediamini!

Et TU, PRIMUS inter primarios, PRÆFECTE celsissime! Tu, PRÆSES prudens, literatus! Vos, hujusce Academiae Curatores generosi! Vos, Verbi Divini Interpretes casti! vos nihil prius, nihil cordi magis, nihil honori, utinam habeatis, nec habituros diffido, quam ut hæc nostra Academia, unde toti Reipublicæ Americanæ eximiam utilitatem, civitati vero, in quâ sita est, et decus, et opes, et magnam fortunam adferri quisque sapiens judicet, insignia indies capiat incrementa. Vobis datur, Patriæ Parentes, fautores mei atque amici! penes vos est condecorare scientias; hanc disciplinam in primis necessariam, apud nos quidem adhuc incultam, medicam scilicet, instituisse, vestra laus est.

ACADEMIA CANTABRIGIENSIS!—et jam tibi adscito vel mihi liceat TE matrem compellare! age! perge! solis orientis instar, lumina usque ad Reipublicæ nostræ extrema diffunde! Nunquam mihi suadebitur, quin horum beneficio et posterorum, quin Cœli favore, magis ampla, magisque, evaderis; nostras terras omnes complexa illustraveris! Dubitandi locus non est, tibi hanc futuram fortunam, quæ ipsi Reipublicæ fortissimo vinculo nexa es.

O faxit DEUS OPTIMUS MAXIMUS, hoc tandem tempore, quo civitati plus immineat quam hactenus unquam periculi, Patriam dilectam, Academiam, libertatem, Cœli beneficium unicum, solum Reipublicæ columen, intactas intemeratasque evadere, in æternum vigere!

DIXI!



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