The Oxford Falcon.

S. M. THOMPSON,] PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING, ON NORTH STREET. [PROPRIETOR.

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The Oxford Falcon.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.

S. M. THOMPSON, Proprietor.

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[illegible]—University of Miss.,
Feb. 27th, 1866.

Mr. C. B. Howry,

Dear Sir: The Hermean Society offers you its most sincere thanks for the able address [illegible] represented us on Thursday last. As a slight manifestation of their satisfaction with your speech, and their gratitude to yourself for it, the undersigned committee was selected to request the address for publication. We doubt not that there are many to whom an opportunity for perusing it at leisure [illegible] ing that you may grant our request, and [illegible].

Yours, respectfully,
[illegible] Mays,
[illegible] T. Hill,
J. W. McLeod.
Committee.

Oxford, Feb. 28th 1866.

Gentlemen: Yours of the [illegible] inst., requesting of me for publication, a copy of the Address delivered by me on Thursday last, has been received, together with the solicitations of many others I feel that I cannot but comply with your request, and in so doing I beg to state that the Address was not written with a view to publication, for [illegible] I could not bestow that care and attention which, in justice to you, should have been done.

I have taken the liberty to abridge the Address. Herewith transmitted is the remainder.

Allow me to tender my thanks to you, gentlemen, and through you, to the members of the old Hermean, for the kind attention bestowed upon me.

I have the honor to be,
Your ob't serv't and friend,
CHARLES B. HOWRY.

To Messrs. Mays, McLeod and Hill.

ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS,

—DELIVERED BY—

CHARLES B. HOWRY.

Ladies and Gentlemen.—In obedience to the request of my fellow-members of the Hermean Society of the University of Mississippi, I appear before you on this occasion to deliver the [illegible] required alike by the Constitution of our Association, and [illegible] speak your attention for a short time.

The [illegible]

[illegible] of life, and one which if we, as a people, would recognize and bear steadily in mind, would do much in assisting us to rise from the ashes in which vandalism has consigned us. An Inflexible Purpose, the Great Base [illegible].

In the contemplation of the various attributes and qualities which adorn [illegible] ing which strikes the attention with more force than the possession of the old Roman virtue of Perseverance and Stability of Purpose. When we look [illegible] the successful efforts of men in the walks of literature, the fields of science and in every department of human undertaking, we cannot fail to notice that those whose names are thus embalmed possessed in an extraordinary degree those great attributes which I have mentioned. 'Tis said in the Scriptures that "no man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back" attaineth the glorious end of his soul's eternal reward; so too, with much propriety, may this expressive aphorism be applied to that man who, for the lack of this essential ingredient, [illegible] turns away from [illegible] the majestic [illegible] of nature and the [illegible] of this world. Irresolution, [illegible] which creeps upon its victims [illegible] fatal facility, when once seated is extremely difficult to throw off, and though the most rigid moralist cannot say it is vicious in itself, [illegible] many a fair name has been blasted and many a fine heart has paid the penalty of it even at the scaffold. And though it may appear trifling in the light step of buoyant youth yet it requires no great penetration to observe that with advancing years its form changes to that of a hideous monster which finds the possessor on [illegible] destruction, as it were, with open [illegible] upon whom no dependence can be placed, [illegible] er by every wind that blows, oscillating like the pendulum of a clock, from one extreme to the other, who has neither fixed principles nor consistency in conduct, presents to my mind one of the worst phases of character. Great events often hinge on the determination [illegible] at Waterloo [illegible] the decisive battles of the world [illegible] the world ever [illegible]. But without multiplying examples of the direful effects of irresolution of character, let us proceed to the illustration of the transcendent importance of its opposite.

Let us carry out the simile drawn by Mr. Wirt of two young men issuing from the walls of the same College and entering upon the arduous duties of real life under circumstances as similar as could be desired. And here the digression will be pardoned when it is said that there is a certain ordeal which all men inevitably undergo while encountering the cares of life's busy throng, and it is a problematical question whether he [illegible] vantageous circumstances, for there is [illegible] too [illegible] upon others and too little upon himself. [illegible]

Suppose the two individuals alluded to, to have had the advantages of an early education alike, the same incentives to action, the same laudable ambition to realize the expectation of friends [illegible] of each alike, the same smile of expectation plays upon their lips, the same [illegible] in the breast of each, and both long to climb the hill of ambition, to tread the path of honor, and to hear the shout of applause.— With these [illegible] feelings they go forth from the sheltered river of boyhood never thinking perhaps of the cold reception which will greet them on their first [illegible] boards. One of them, however, endowed with extraordinary mental abilities, regarded by the world as a prodigy of genius whose brilliancy is already beginning to illumine the labyrinthian [illegible] of the [illegible] and the one [illegible] talents already. Look forth like the meteors through the heavens, [illegible] the wonder and admiration of the world, lacks the unshaken stability of purpose necessary to accomplish the [illegible] of his ambition; the other, though an individual upon whose brow is not stamped the [illegible] of those brilliant qualities, yet possesses ordinary ability and a calm and unshaken [illegible] of mind to meet the many difficulties incident to human life. Now let us trace their progress through the [illegible] of change and mark the result. The man of genius at first soars proudly aloft, dazzling the admiring multitude with the high conceptions wrought by his fertile intellect, culling incipient flowers from the lap of fame, and completely eclipsing his competitor in the race.— But in the interim the latter is not idle. He has adopted the encouraging motto of the poet, and a motto which seems designed for the young.

"Learn to labor and to wait."

Though his eye waxes dim over the classic page, and his brow grows pale under mental exertion, yet slowly and surely he is gathering the rich gems of knowledge and ere long we see him ascending the hill of life, leaving his competitor far in the rear. The world looks on in admiring wonder; the [illegible] the mighty [illegible] kindled again in the breast and he determines to take his stand where genius [illegible]. But alas for his good resolutions! Ere it is formed his wavering [illegible] and he is left high and dry, stranded on the sands of his own folly.

All the performances of human art at which we look with praise or wonder are attributable to the inflexibility of purpose and perseverance which characterized the performers. In revolutions it is the man possessed of these qualities that always comes first to the surface moulding the troubled elements around him into harmony and dictating to the rabble the measures that should be adopted. The histories of nearly all distinguished revolutionists, from Alexander the Great to the present Napoleon, furnish striking proof of this fact. Let us go back in imagination to the days of ancient splendor and departed greatness. See what a picture the youthful Alexander presents standing on the banks of the Granicus, the little stream made famous by the great battle there fought, when he said in response to the entreaties of his counsellors, that, if it was in the power of man to subdue, the mighty hosts of barbarians spread before them that he would do it! [illegible] to subdue the Persians; this persistence in the crisis of battle and the [illegible] with which he thus stimulated his followers than even his great strategic abilities, which caused the victorious ensigns of the [illegible] Macedonian Republic to float in every breeze, and which bid him weep that he had no more worlds to conquer.— Caesar, the imperial Caesar, the taker of eight hundred cities, the conqueror of three hundred nations, the pride of imperial Rome and the fear of the rest of the world, owed his wonderfully successful career to the indomitable energy and fearless resolution which so strongly marked every feature of his character. What a theme for history and song! [illegible] standing on the banks of the Rubicon, [illegible] rating the calamities which the passage of that little stream might bring upon the world and the reflections that might be made upon it by posterity, he cried out, *Jacta est alea*, "the die is cast," and immediately passed the river. Though [illegible] in its consequences, yet we must admire his manly nerve. Hannibal, the great Carthaginian general, the [illegible] of Cannae, and a name synonymous with terror to Rome and Romans, with [illegible] of mind scarcely ever equalled and [illegible] dared to [illegible] the [illegible] summits of the Alps [illegible] his invincible army [illegible] their leader. Centuries have rolled by in the whirling vortex of time since the [illegible] actions, [illegible] of history [illegible] to the centre, overturned [illegible] and principalities, [illegible] whole nations under his feet to satisfy the lust of power and the [illegible] of the civilized world. [illegible] amid all this is to be found one single achievement which surpasses in grandeur the [illegible] of the Alps! Shade of Napoleon! rise not from the slumbering [illegible] of the dead to tell of the [illegible] of your [illegible]. Search history from the days of Plutarch to the present time and no where will be found any one event marked by such an extraordinary determination.

Coming on to modern times I might point to the illustrious example of a Cromwell, a Frederic the Great, and even to the men of the American Revolution. Though the achievements of these men were not so great as those of others perhaps—though their conquests were not so vast as those of an Alexander, a Caesar and other heroes of antiquity—though success did not always crown their efforts, they yet gave examples, unrivaled in modern times, of what resolution can effect against the greatest opposition of [illegible] and the [illegible] of fortune. The [illegible] spirit [illegible] Lord Clive, made the [illegible] the rich provinces of the East, and realized in an incredible short period of time more than all the gorgeous visions which had floated before the imagination of the more [illegible] Dupleix and the other emissaries of the French government. Napoleon, a name perhaps the highest on the roll of conquerors, was moved and carried on by the same spirit, whether waving the tri-colored cockade of imperial France over the fields of his first success opposing the combined power of Europe on the frontiers of his dominions, or meeting the wild Arab and Mameluke on the plains of Egypt. His indomitable will, scarcely less than his vast military genius, is the key which unlocks the secret of his astonishing success, which enabled him to level thrones and partition empires and cause the despots of the Old World to murmur with the hoarse surges of popular commotion and bloody revolution. A similar peculiarity too, perhaps more strongly developed, marked the only adversary that ever successfully resisted "the grey eyed man of destiny." In the life and death struggle between England and France the first fifteen years of the present century the stern immobility of the Iron Duke acted as inspiration in the cabinet and in the field, for though the British coalitions were defeated again and again new ones were as constantly formed until at length the power of France was broken.

But it is not only to those whose existence [illegible] employed in military enterprise that an inflexible purpose proves a priceless jewel. True it is, that nations and individuals experience in advantages, and [illegible] undertakings [illegible]. Nations that have the will to make [illegible] and walk the bloody pilgrimage, [illegible] by adhering to the one great [illegible] eventually [illegible] which bind them [illegible] overriding the [illegible] of arbitrary power, [illegible] the cheering light of liberty shining in [illegible]. Individuals, though they tread not the blood [illegible] of battle and pluck not the bright wreath of fame from [illegible] in the [illegible] quiet paths of life, [illegible] mental science, [illegible] will tell [illegible] determined purpose [illegible] reach the [illegible]. To what else [illegible] than that [illegible] will [illegible] perseverance [illegible] friends and the [illegible] of the world [illegible]. Over six hundred [illegible] years since the Red Man paddled his light canoe [illegible] in his [illegible] the noble [illegible] the [illegible] emblem of the perseverance of the immortal inventor, Franklin, the philosopher and the sage that pointed to the [illegible] clouds and [illegible] its electricity—the immortal Morse, who going still farther, made it subservient to his commands and the means of flashing his thoughts around the globe, together stand forth and alone in their brilliancy, having by the aid of pervading genius and perseverance accomplished the grandest triumph of our intellectual nature that has ever graced the grand roll of human achievement. The Spirit of inquiry combined with resolution of soul originated the Reformation and laid the deep and imperishable foundations of Protestantism. Who doubts that Luther had his peers in the closet? Who doubts that there were men who saw the necessity of reform, yet lacked firmness to brave the bulls of the Pope and the frowns of Catholicism in order to bring it about. In the Great Reformer we behold the exhibition of those attributes which enabled him, with the aid of those whom he afterwards inspired, to set in bold defiance the decrees of ecclesiastical despotism and dispel the murky clouds which hung over the rising hopes of the world. A Kepler and a Copernicus, a Herschel and a Newton, spent the whole of their lives in the pursuit of great truths in the noble science of Astronomy, and with what result!— Those great laws which govern and control the motions of other worlds have been ascertained, and that which before appeared wrapped in the gloom of an impenetrable mist, has been simplified by the touch of their master hands. Moving through the illimitable fields of space, measuring planet by planet, bringing the sun and moon to earth, as it were, and weighing them in a balance, they astonished the world by the depth of their reasoning and the magnificence of their discoveries.— Sages and philosophers stood aghast at the sublimity of the theories newly propounded. The metaphysics of Aristotle had held the human mind in bondage for so many centuries, that when the attempt was made to break up the old foundations, and genius stormed the entrenchments of error, the world rejected these bold and fearless speculations and echoed the cry of persecution.— The spirit of resistance to these [illegible] persecutions, such as actuated Galileo in his cell, such as actuates all great men under difficulties, enabled them to pass triumphantly the terrible ordeal, and to-day the world acknowledges its gratitude for these contributions to science. So too with the works of Locke and Bacon. Their genius led them to discover two new methods in the art of reasoning and bid them attack the ancient systems of speculative and theoretic philosophy, and though everywhere throughout the literary and scientific world they met [illegible] contumely and abuse, yet the determination to combat error finally demolished those ancient systems and developed the true scheme of human effort. Combined with the triumphal car of intellect this inflexibility of purpose moves on to new conquests and in the triumphal march the outworks of received opinions fall away, the old theories in philosophy, science and literature, are quietly conveyed to their last home, and error after error crumbles into dust.

Perhaps there never was a period in our history when greater necessity existed for the exercise of the recuperative energies of the people and of the country, and for the display of an Inflexible Purpose, than at the present moment. I allude particularly to the people of the Southern States. The bark launched by us but a few years since, amid such bright anticipations, [illegible] by the blood of the [illegible] of the South and wafted on by the prayers and tears of her fair daughters, has gone down amid the breakers of [illegible]. Our labor system has been destroyed, our social system demoralized, 'old times are gone, old manners changed.' All have experienced the vicissitudes of war and felt the change of fortune. Everywhere may be seen the trend of destruction and decay, our population diminished, our fields once teeming with grain, desolated, our towns and cities in ruins. Under these adverse circumstances it behooves us as a people who have not yet lost our honor to rise superior to misfortune, and nerving ourselves for any future, [illegible] through the dark clouds which overhang the present.— We have seen enough to understand the real realities and true philosophy of life, and to know that the air-blown bubbles of our youth and hope fade away at the attempt to clasp them; and that in the determination not to be intimidated by these blows of misfortune there is yet hope for our future prosperity.

If Southern energy is now permitted to slumber, if Southern people now move in doubt and fear, trembling at the shade of evil, then their lack of courage, their unnatural timidity, will prove disastrous to their best interests. And as individuals, let us bear in mind that remark approaching to the sententiousness of a proverb, that our will is the rudder which steers the ship.— The shores of fortune are covered with the stranded wrecks of brilliant men who have not inflexibility of purpose, and therefore courage and faith, and who have perished in sight of more [illegible] but less capable adventurers, who have reached the harbor in safety. With the possession, the full possession, of this indispensable characteristic, our bright expectations will be accomplished while

"Shadows fly,
And hope gleams beneath from afar—
A sea of glory like the sky,
And wisdom beams in every star."

We have no reason to blush for what we have been or for what we have done. And truly will we of the present generation, we who have been crushed to earth by the overwhelming force of numbers, witnessed and felt the mortification of defeat, see the verification of Shakespeare's immortal sentiment,

"The pen is mightier than the sword."

With this then, let me ask of those whose inclinations lead them to despond why dwell in the clouds of theory when we can be warm in the sunshine of practice? Why fear the future when exertion will make bright that future? Why build Utopias and indulge ourselves with air-castles when the real Paradise can be attained by putting forth exertion? May we not gather a lesson from the beautifully drawn picture of the frail but green and glorious vine which born in darkness and obscurity springs forth to court the sunshine and the light so essential to its existence; or, from the little bird, that essaying to build its nest, toils day after day with patient art and ere the work is crowned the tiny fabric is dashed to earth by some sad mishap, but finding the ruin wrought is not cast down, but still keeps heart and toils again?

What truth is here, O man:
Hath hope been smitten in its early dawn?
Have clouds o'ercast thy purpose, trust, or plan?
Have faith and struggle on!

This sums up in a few words the solution of success in every department of human undertaking. This causes the utterance of the proud exclamation, *I have attained the Mecca of my hopes!* So shouts adventurous boyhood as mounting into the spreading branches of the giant oak of the forest he plucks the first ripe grapes and bears them home in childish triumph, or scaling the lofty cliff he looks down in exultation on his late adventurous companions and views with ecstatic pride the panoramic splendors spread before his youthful vision. Thus exultingly [illegible] the stern warrior when with the plume and wreath and gay paraphernalia of war's red fatigue, he mounts the car of victory to hear the story of his deeds echoed by his grateful countrymen and listens to the peans of praise sung to his name. Thus proudly exclaims the student of nature and nature's mysteries, as exploring the fields of science, snatching hitherto undiscovered stars from the depths of the firmament, culling bright and blooming flowers on his pathway, he at length is assured that though the stream of time may sweep by his works yet they will stand alone [illegible]

[Continued on fourth page.]