

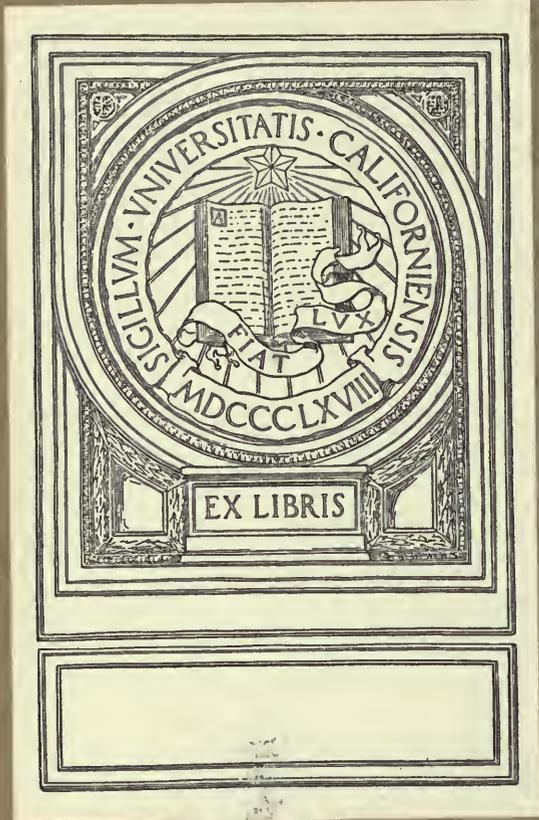
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BROWN UNIVERSITY BROADSIDES

BY

GEORGE PARKER WINSHIP

Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library



Providence
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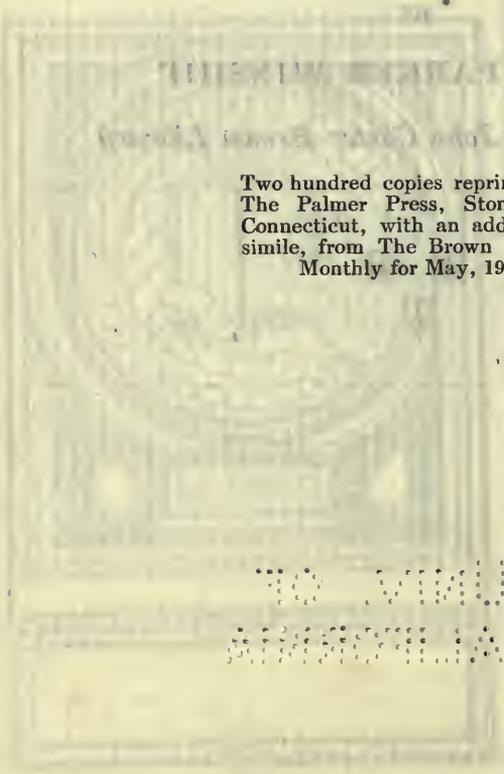
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1913

BROWN UNIVERSITY

BROADRIDGES



Two hundred copies reprinted by
The Palmer Press, Stonington,
Connecticut, with an added fac-
simile, from The Brown Alumni
Monthly for May, 1913

TO THE
ALUMNI

LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY BROADSIDES

At Brown's first Commencement, the audience, "consisting of most of the principal Gentlemen and Ladies of this Colony, and many from the neighbouring Governments," were provided with the equivalent of a Programme of Exercises in the shape of a full sized sheet of paper measuring 18 1/2 by 15 inches. The printed matter on this broadside was prepared in the style at that time commonly used by Harvard and the other American colleges, which in turn had copied the usage of the English Cambridge, where the traditions of the mediaeval universities still survived. At the head was the name of the Chancellor of the College in the largest type, preceded by the doubtless well-deserved characterization "*Benevolentissimo ac eximia virtute, doctrinaque utilissima praedito, Viro.*" Below this were the names of the faculty, consisting of the President, James Manning, and a single tutor, David Howell, and then the famous seven of the first graduating class, with the careful note revealing the democratic tendencies of the time which were doing away with distinctions of birth and official position, "*N. B. Nomina alphabetice disposita sunt.*" Below these, in three columns, were the titles of subjects which the graduates were prepared to discuss. The whole was a product of the printing press of Solomon Southwick of Newport.

Southwick was the printer of "The Newport Mercury," which contained a very satisfactory report of the first grad-

uating exercises. This report was reprinted on a small broadside, and a copy of this which was carefully filed away among his business papers by the elder Nicholas Brown, from whom it has descended to the John Carter Brown Library, is the only one now known to be in existence. It tells how the seven "young Gentlemen commenced Bachelors in the Arts," with a salutatory oration in Latin, pronounced with much Spirit, and forensic disputes on two of the one hundred and fourteen subjects which were listed on the programme. The first of these, which occupied most of the morning, was happily in English, on the timely subject, "The Americans, in their present Circumstances, cannot, consistent with good Policy, affect to become an independent State." This was followed by an oration on Benevolence, in which Mr. Rogers "particularly noticed how greatly that infant Seminary stands in Need of the salutary Effects of that truly christian Virtue." At three in the afternoon the audience again convened for a syllogistic dispute on the Thesis, listed as number 8, under the head of "*Pneumatologia*," "*Materia cogitare non potest.*" The reporter warily records that "the principal Arguments on both Sides were produced, towards settling that critical Point." After the distribution of various degrees, which included the honorary Degree of Masters of Arts, "at their own Request," to ten worthy clergymen, the Valedictorian "took a most affectionate Leave of his Class-

mates.—The Scene was tender—The Subject felt—and the Audience affected.” Throughout, we are told, the audience, “tho’ large and crowded, behaved with the utmost Decorum.”

The College Library possesses an incomplete set of the old broadside “Theses” which were issued for each Commencement day, from the first in 1769 until 1811. After this, the Commencement programmes were printed in the more convenient size of the ordinary pamphlet.

The second and third “Theses,” for 1770 and 1771, have at the bottom the interesting statement, “Typis Johannis Carter, in Papyrum Providentiae confectam!” The first paper mill in Providence had been established five years before this. In “A Providence Gazette Extraordinary,” dated August 24, 1765, William Goddard wrote that “a large and very complete PAPER MILL is just finished, about a Mile and an Half from this Town, and in a few Days will be set to work. By the Fabric of Paper here, a vast saving will accrue, and will stop just so much Money in the Country as the Quantity made will amount to.” This mill was located at Olneyville. The statement that the programme was printed on paper of local manufacture suggests the paragraph in the report of the previous Commencement which records the fact that “The President and all the Candidates were dressed in American Manufactures,” a practice still fashionable with the families of Presidents on Inauguration Day.

The set of “Theses” belonging to the College is complete from 1769 to 1774, and then there is a break until 1786. During this war time interval, classes were graduated in 1775, 1776 and 1777, in

1782 and 1783. This was the period when the “college edifice,” University Hall, was occupied as barracks and hospital for the Continental and French soldiers engaged in the Revolutionary struggle. The college exercises continued intermittently, in temporary quarters. It is, however, probable that these five Commencements were held with all the usual formalities, including the distribution of the printed “Theses” or programmes. Somewhere, among the treasured papers of the descendants of the graduates and students of those years, there must be copies of these old broadsides, which the college itself does not possess.

Besides the five “Theses” of the Revolutionary years, which are lacking from the College collection, there are five others, for 1787, 1793, 1801, 1806 and 1807, of which no copies are now known to exist. Two others, for 1792 and 1799, have been badly torn, so that parts of the text is missing. If any alumnus of Brown can secure these for the College Library, he will make a contribution of considerable interest, toward completing the University archives.

The printed “Theses” contained the titles of all the subjects, in every branch of learning, upon which the candidates for the Bachelor’s degree were supposed to be prepared to hold opinions which they could maintain in public argument. The regular exercises, in the earlier years, consisted largely of a carefully prepared debate upon one or two of these subjects. This gave place before long to exercises more in the modern style. The first Commencement for which a regular printed programme has been preserved is 1799. One “Dispute”

BENEVOLENTISSIMO

Ac eximia virtute, doctrinaque utilissima praedito, Viro,

STEPHANO HOPKINS, Armigero,

Collegi hujusce, intra Coloniae Insulae RHODIENSIS Fines, CANCELLARIO,
Admodum Reverendo aeque ac Honorando **JACOBO MANNING**, Praefidi,

Quibus Artibus Liberalibus Scientiisque et Fidei Praefiguntur, cujus sub moderamine frequentia philosophemata sunt doctissima;

Doctissimo pariterque dignissimo **DAVID HOBBS**, ejusdem Seminarii Tutori;

Denique, omnibus desiderio Scientiis assiduis, ubicunque in Terrarum orbe, tam Ecclesiarum Praefidis, quam Republicarum bonis moribus, principibus, nostro Collegio Faventibus;

THESES haece (Nominis sancti) Jovonis, in Artibus iniciatis, deservit;

Josephus Belton
Josephus Eaton

Gulielmus Rogers
Richardus Steites
Carolus Thompson

Jacobus Mitchell Varnum
Gulielmus Williams

Sensus Observantiae, D.D.D.C.C.

N. B. Nomina alphabetice disposita sunt.

GRAMMATICA

1. **GRAMMATICA**, a seorsum recte dependenda, ferbendi, docet.
2. Alphabetae simpliciter omnes sunt simplices nostri scripturae non possunt.
3. Cognitio linguae cui particulae sunt requiritur, facillime acquiritur. Ergo.
4. Ad obviandum cognationem linguae anglicanae accuratam, multa scilicet opera est.
5. Cognitio graecae linguae, compositionem ejus verborum intelligendo, nullum pendet. Ergo.
6. Graeca lingua nec fideliter dici potest, neque doceri, nisi ad radices maxime attendatur.
7. Apud Graecos, infinitivos verbis, antecedente articulo, pro substantivo sepe usurpantur.
8. In rerum natura causam tunc temporis exultare possunt.
9. In nova Tellure non sunt verba hebraica inter graeca commixta.
10. Linguae hebraicae peculiariter exultare debent.

RHETORICA

1. **RHETORICA** est ars bene persequens naturae hominum, optime exprimens.
2. Studium prope, perspicacitas et dignitas, ad compositionem elegantiam, maxime conducit.
3. Interrogatio, ab origine, non est naturae corruptio. Ergo.
4. Vox, in legendis, per pauca non fit modulata.
5. Summa perfectio artis oratoricae ex omnibus passionibus recte exprimens, maxime pendet. Ergo.
6. Orator, quoque, facillime contentivatur, (certis partibus) optima est. Eadem.
7. Studium naturae ad acquiriturum hanc artem, valde necessarium est.
8. Ars rhetorica, nisi per vocem vivam, accurate doceri non potest.

LOGICA

1. **LOGICA** est ars bene ratiocinandi, causi, virtutem investigandi, aliisque communicandi.
2. Cognitio sophismatum, falsum a vero distinguere, et bene ratiocinari, necessaria est.
3. In idearum successione, nullum intervallum inter ideas reperitur, et illarum proximae recipiuntur, concepti possunt.
4. Ideas separatae non mixtae, quam compositae dicitur. Ergo.
5. Ideas positivas, negativasque assequere necesse est.
6. Sunt multae veritates, quae demonstrari nequeunt.
7. Modi et figurae ad bene ratiocinandum, non profusa sunt profusa.
8. Omnia argumenta ad potius egrum reduci possunt. Ergo.
9. Aliae figurae necessariae non sunt.
10. Miracula existere non hominum testimonio esse fieri possunt.
11. Praesentium finitatem methodo probanda sunt.

MATHEMATICS

1. **MATHEMATICS** in numeris comparanda et quantitate mensuranda veritas.
2. Si numerus a numero equaliter divisi possit, sic et ab eorum partibus aliquos divisi possunt.
3. Dato quocunque in duas partes ignota dividit, differentia quae data, singulas partes facillime invenitur.
4. Nullus numerus in divisi possit, ut unus partem quadratam vel in altero indivisibilis, esse queat. Et, II, 11.
5. Quadratum requiratur in rerum natura esse non potest.
6. Omnis angulus trianguli isosceles ignotus, proportio erit, ut summa omnium laterum ad summam omnium angulorum, ita unum laterum ad unum angulum.
7. Very praedicabilia de aliquibus figuris geometricis demonstrationem non admittunt.

2. Una quantitas infinita, multas quantitates infinitas continere potest. Ergo.
9. Inter quantitates infinitas ad infinitum datur comparatio.
10. Cylindri sunt inter se, ut quadrata diametrorum in altitudinis ducta.
11. Si duo verius, circuli sunt ducti in dimidii radii equalis, uti quadrato datur, uti dimidii datur.
12. In transversis diametris ellipticis ad conjugatum, sic areae circuli, cujus diametris, diametris ellipticis transversis equalis est ad arcam ellipticam.
13. Arcus diametri hyperbolicorum quibus sicut est transversus, sunt ut conjugati.
14. Equalis areae fere sunt omnia parallelogrammata, eodem diametro hyperbolice circumscripta.

PHYSICA

1. **PHYSICA** phaenomena naturae describit, aeque perfectio mundi est experimentis, causis explorata.
2. Attritio cohesiones in tactu non dimittitur.
3. Electricum fluidum per brevissimum viam (certis partibus) semper transit.
4. Aurora borealis per electricitatem optime explicatur.
5. Vegetatio, in electricitatis, aegrotat.
6. Minima particula materiae per maximum datum spatium in diffunditur, ut resilla linea quae parva consistens, minima data resilla lineae minor sit.
7. Vapores aethales per ignem carius sunt.
8. Aer subtilis per ignem purissimus potest.
9. Sidera in fluidis sociorum magnitudines solum alterantur.
10. Corpora magnetis non aequalium que in medio inaequali in equilibrio sunt, in altera gravitate specifice diversae possunt, in equilibrio non remanent.
11. Corpori per varias plures composita despondent, in aliquo pluri partem, eadem velocitas non est, ut eodem descendendi in eandem perpendiculariter altitudinem, esse.
12. In Orbe fixo heterogenei particulae abundat ser, et salubri generosus, et humido, et fluida. Ergo.
13. Hic gravior, ille levior.
14. Omnis boni, cuiusque intensitas, eadem est velocitas.
15. Suctio in rerum natura non datur.
16. Causa reflexionis hanc alius datur.
17. Malum rariis transpositionem lucis plus quam actum impedit.
18. Si obliquum imagines eorumque in retina depictae sunt, necesse est ut inversae sint.
19. Tempus naturalis motus illius concepti equaliter divisi, non potest.
20. Sol minus agitur in linea elliptica revolvens, quam si in linea requiritur semper movetur, terra praeter.
21. Unusquisque planetae centrum sibi solum proprium circumvolvitur.
22. Luna in revolutione circa terram acceleratur. Ergo.
23. Luna ad terram appropriatur. Ergo.
24. Obliquae lineae ellipticae est maxima, cum nodus hanc ascendens in arcus est, et minima in libra. Ergo.
25. Praesensque, aliquando in cyclo hauri variatur.
26. Lineae ellipticae planum ad lineae aquatoriae planum vergit.
27. Ellipticae soli frequentes accidunt quam hunc i, sed, singulas hanc enterius videntur.

ONTOLOGIA

1. **ONTOLOGIA** quatuordecim quatuordecim proprietates simpliciter demonstrat.
2. Nullum est corpus grave potest. Ergo.
3. Deus non est creatum.
4. Unusquisque materiae materiae communitate accedit.

6. Omnia causi suam consequuntur effectum.
7. Idea rationalis, in natura, archetypum non habet.
7. Principium individualitatis, in corporebus, ad praesens tempus omnino refert.

PNEUMATOLOGIA

1. **PNEUMATOLOGIA** est tractatus ubi verba de spiritibus sunt.
2. An caelestis spiritus, nullis corporibus juncti, ex revelatione sciri possunt.
3. Spiritus per se condenser nullum est ubi.
4. Angeli postquam mortem movendi auri non habent.
5. Voluntati compesit libertas.
6. Spiritus de partibus non constant. Ergo.
7. Natus qui sunt immortales.
8. Materiam cogitare non potest.

THEOLOGIA

1. **THEOLOGIA**, quodcumque notum fieri potest de Deo, necque quae voluntate eorum non explicat.
2. Deus est potest.
3. EST.
4. Nil, ut a Deo venit, propositionem ad amicum habere potest.
5. Peccatum originale imputari acquit, donec postpositum persona sit. Ergo.
6. Post originale imputatum cum corpore, imputatur.
7. Lux naturae hominem praevalere est arguit.
8. Regeneratio, ex opera creaturae, nihil perdit. Tamen.
9. In divinis impressione respicienda, mens est activa.
10. Praesentia Dei decretum implicat.
11. Sanctificatio est continuatio continua graiae a Spiritu Sancto, et opera reatorum sua ad hac derivatur.
12. Angeli beati, per electionem in Christo, confirmati fuerunt.
13. Animulae pro cibis, Antichristiane non dicitur.

ETHICA

1. **ETHICA** est scientia praedicta ad felicitatem hominum per virtutum adhaerentiam.
2. Militaribus obligatio ex Dei voluntate solum procedit.
3. Inter bonum et malum, fere naturae non distinguere docet.
4. Nemo sine incrementum unquam agit. Ergo.
5. Coram voluntatem, nemo unquam agit.
6. Nulla passio, in sua natura considerata est vicia.
7. Hinc malum, ut malum, perit. Ergo.
8. Utrum, damnationem suam velle, juri naturae oppugnat.
9. Cuiusque jus suum privatum, sui est ut scire, cum lege non potest.
10. Africano in servitium perpetuum reducere nec juri divino, necque humano contrari.

POLITIA

1. **POLITIA**, in res publica moderanda, veritatis.
2. Omnis praedicta, leges formatae, et processa indiget, a populo derivatur. Ergo.
3. Senatus populi velleque imponendi, qui in illo senatu non representantur, jus non est.
4. Status libertatis servari ad statum armatum et fionemque maxime conducit.
5. Literarum, ad societatem firmendam et bene moderandam, multum adjuvat.
6. Americanis in rerum sua praesentis res nosae militiae, Republica administranda ferrius male covorari.

His praecedit ORATIO Saluatoria.

Habita in Comitibus Academiae apud WARREN, intra Col. Inf. Rhod. et Prov. Plant. Fines. d. 7 a Id. Sarr. A. D. MDCCCLXII.

Apud Novae-HAVAE, ex Typis SOLOMONIS SOUTHWICK.

was still retained, between four members of the graduating class, on the question "Whether Civil Government can be maintained without an Idea of future Rewards or Punishments?" As this, however, was only one of ten parts, not counting the two intermissions for Music, scheduled for the forenoon's exercises, and as nine more were to follow in the afternoon, the four disputants can hardly have approached their task with the seriousness of thirty years earlier. Similar programmes must have been issued for other years, before and after 1799, but the only other ones that are now in the possession of the College Library are for the commencements of 1803 and 1813. The programme for 1799 came to the Library with the Rider Collection, which was presented to Brown by Mr. Marsden J. Perry, in 1903.

The Alumni Catalogue first appeared on one side of a single sheet, measuring 13 1-4 by 11 1-4 inches, in 1775. There were then forty-four regular graduates in Arts, and sixty-seven holders of honorary degrees. The next issue was eleven years later, when the total number of names had risen to one hundred and sixty-three, but the increase was almost entirely in actual graduates, only eleven honorary degrees having been allotted in this period. In 1789, two hundred and fifteen names could still be accommodated on a sheet only slightly larger than the first catalogue. In 1795, the number had risen to three hundred and eighty, and a sheet of the largest size, 21 1-4 by 17 inches, was used.

In October, 1800, it was thought desirable, for the first time so far as the college archives show, to print the Catalogue of the names of the undergraduates. This was done on one side of a

large sheet, like the catalogue of graduates, and gives the names of seven members of the faculty, and the names, with their home addresses, of twenty-two Seniors, thirty Juniors, thirty-three Sophomores, and twenty-two Freshmen. Of the undergraduates, twenty-two were registered from Rhode Island, four from Connecticut, one from New York, two from Virginia and four from South Carolina. The others were from Massachusetts. Similar lists were probably printed each year, but the only ones now in the College Library are dated April 1st, 1805, 1806 and 1807, with a second issue for 1805, dated May 1st.

The University is indebted to Clarence S. Brigham, '99, of Worcester, for the only copy known to exist of a broadside poster announcing a course of what would nowadays be called "University Extension" Lectures. These were offered by the Rev. Peres Fobes, in June, 1790, and the course of twelve lectures covered the whole range of natural science as it was then popularly understood. Professor Fobes, who graduated at Harvard in 1762 and became pastor of the Congregational church in Raynham four years later, was elected Vice-President of Rhode Island College in 1786, to take the place of President Manning while the latter was absent performing his duties as a member of Congress. He was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy the same year, and continued to teach at the college until 1798, continuing at the same time his pastoral duties in Raynham. After President Manning's death in 1791, he was again acting-President for a short time, and, doubtless in recognition of this service, received the degree of LL.D. at the commencement of 1792.

THE REVEREND
PERES FOBES,

Professour of Natural and Experimental Philosophy,
in Rhode-Island College, proposes to exhibit

A COURSE of LECTURES upon NATURAL PHILOSOPHY and ASTRONOMY, viz. Upon the Doctrine of Attraction, in which will be explained the first Principles of Agriculture and Botany ; upon the Mechanical Powers ; Hydrostatics and Hydraulics ; Pneumatics ; Optics ; Astronomy ; Electricity ; Magnetism, and a Sketch of Anatomy. The Whole illustrated by a Variety of curious and entertaining Experiments.

The Course will consist of Twelve Lectures, two or three to be exhibited per Week, at the Philosophy-Room in College. The Price TWELVE SHILLINGS, for the whole Course, or ONE SHILLING and THREE PENCE for a single Lecture.---To commence on FRIDAY, the 25th Instant, at 4 o'Clock, P. M.

TICKETS may be had this Afternoon, by applying to Mr. George Benson, Mr. Joseph Jenckes, or to either of the Officers of College.

Providence, June 24, 1790.

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