THE WORK OF THE COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.*

It is a high privilege to address you today on the work of the oldest bureau of applied science under the government, a bureau which invokes the aid of science in its intensely practical work, where theory and practice go hand in hand. It seems reasonable to hope that some inspiration may be drawn from an account of its work, by young men who are about to take up the pleasures and burdens of a share in the world’s work after going forth from an educational institution which announces as the underlying principle which controls its method, the advance of the practical, side by side with the scientific. It is particularly pleasant to speak of the survey in a locality where such familiar names as Lovering, Bowditch and Pierce will be recognized as among those who helped it in its earlier struggles for recognition, and of a statesman like Charles Sumner as one of its staunch supporters, those of Louis and Alexander Agassiz, who utilized the opportunities afforded by the survey to further the aims of science and to add luster to the fame of its work by their association with it, and where it will be remembered that if Massachusetts gave a Peirce to the survey, the survey gave a Mendenhall and a Pritchett to Massachusetts.

* Commencement address delivered before the Worcester Polytechnic Institute.