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RESEMBLANCES AND DIFFERENCES AMONG AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES.¹

THE American colleges and universities seem to the public and to their own constituencies to be very different; but as a matter of fact they are much alike, and what is more, they exhibit in a striking degree the same tendencies. In durable institutions tendency is quite as important as actual condition. It is my purpose in this lecture, first, to point out the fundamental similarities among the higher institutions of learning in the United States, and then to indicate briefly the nature and probable outcome of the differences they exhibit. (I ought to premise, however, that my remarks will have no application to the group of American institutions which derive from the Roman Church their form of government, their discipline and their program of studies. This firmly established group of colleges, which are chiefly under the control of the Society of Jesus, breathe the American atmosphere, and are not wholly inaccessible to the spirit of modern science; but being essentially ecclesiastical in structure and methods, they bear little resemblance to the ordinary

¹ An address given by President Eliot, of Harvard University, at Yale University, on November 15. Last year a graduate of Harvard University gave anonymously to Yale University a fund of \$10,000, the income of which is to be devoted to the promotion of friendly relations between the two universities. The Yale authorities decided to appropriate the income for a series of lectures from representatives of Harvard University. President Eliot's address was the first of that series.

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