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ADDRESS AT THE DEDICATION OF THE WALKER LABORATORY OF THE RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

I CONSIDER it an honored privilege to be allowed to take part in the ceremony of dedication of this beautiful building devoted to the study and promotion of the science of chemistry in its application to the arts and industries. In this connection it behooves us I think to consider briefly the history of the movement which brings us together, to ponder the purposes of the great institute, of which the work to be done in this building constitutes an integral and important part.

Thinking over what I might be able to present on this occasion it occurred to me to make some inspection of the historic archives of the city of Troy, particularly as they relate to the founding of this, which has taken such a proud position among the educational institutions of the world. In my search I learned that in 1823 Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer made, most wisely in his lifetime, provision for a school to be located on the outskirts of the city of Troy to be known as the Rensselaer School, and the history of this fact written by Weise offers a copy of the first circular issued to announce that the institution was ready for practical operation, as follows:

Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer having established a school near the northern limits of Troy for teaching the physical sciences with their applications to the arts of life, having appointed Professors A. S. Eaton and L. C. Beck to give courses of instruction, particularly calculated to prepare

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