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THE TRAINED MAN OF SCIENCE IN THE WAR¹

THE motto of our society, as our newly initiated members now know, is one by following which unconsciously they have won admission to it: "The love of learning is the guide of life." It must have occurred to you all to ask how can this assertion be true in times like these. That an answer may be given easily is evident if we remember the circumstances under which the society was founded, at the College of William and Mary, in the midst of the Revolution. Our ancestors were engaged in a struggle for the freedom of the individual, the freedom of the soul; so are we to-day. They had entered this entirely unprepared; so did we. They were faced with difficulties which seemed at times unsurmountable; our obstacles to victory are no less formidable. The Phi Beta Kappa Society owes its origin to a recognition on the part of its founders and supporters of two great facts: the importance to the individual of the love of learning and the responsibility resting upon him as an educated man to serve his country.

I think it is only fair to say that the universities of this country have played their part well. Before we actually entered this war, in those anxious years when we were waiting to see whether we would be given an opportunity to join in the fight for the cause of honor, freedom and the teachings of Christianity, or whether we must walk through the years of our lives with heads hung in disgrace, no group of people did as much to hold aloft the illuminating torch, revealing the iniquity of the enemy of civilization, as did the presidents of our universities. Theirs will be the honor forever. They would not keep silent. Then, as soon as we were by official act in a state of war, the first to step forward and say "use

¹ Annual address before the Phi Beta Kappa Society, University of Virginia, 1918.

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