THOMAS ALVA EDISON

TRIBUTES FORMING A MEMORIAL PROGRAM GIVEN AT THE NEW ORLEANS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

AN APPRECIATION OF MR. EDISON BASED ON PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE

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I am deeply honored by being asked to address your association, especially upon the subject assigned to me. I note that I am to be followed by three addresses, having to do with the achievements of Mr. Edison, and it is, perhaps, fitting that I should try to give you, in the few minutes at my disposal, a somewhat personal picture of the man as an individual, a friend and an associate. This will, I hope, give a sympathetic setting to the remarks of those who come after me. If I can give you a little of the Edison atmosphere, I think I will have accomplished my purpose.

I have been associated with him or with companies that bore his name for practically fifty years, and I am afraid that, in telling you of some of the incidents connected with our acquaintance, I may bring myself too much into the picture. This, I fear, is unavoidable, and I therefore apologize in advance for possibly being too personal.

I was brought up in the Edison atmosphere. I spent my boyhood vacations on my grandfather's farm, located within a few miles of the renowned Menlo Park, where Edison carried on his most important work. We had to pass the laboratory in going to the nearest village, and I came to know the surroundings and the general talk of the neighborhood as to
Editor's Summary

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