

SCIENCE

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THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF EDUCATION¹

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Students of Michigan: From farm, village and city, from every state in the union, from every continent in the world, you have come to spend here from four to six years in the formative period of your lives. Why are you here? What has impelled you to leave your homes and come to this small city? While Ann Arbor is a pleasant place in which to reside, there are many other cities, both larger and smaller, more attractively located. We have no inspiring view of ocean, no picturesque lake, no majestic river, no towering mountain peaks, no vine-clad hills, no broad valleys, no historic associations, no ruined castles. Ann Arbor is a commonplace town, pleasant enough in its way, but without the material attractions of which a hundred other places may boast. What is the loadstone that has drawn you from near and from afar? It is the university. What is the university, why does it exist and what is your purpose in coming to it? Some universities have been founded to perpetuate theological creeds, some to serve as monuments to men of wealth and power, but neither of these motives actuated the founders of this university. It had its inception in the wisdom of the early settlers of this state, it has been and is maintained by the labors of their descendants. The rich and the poor contribute to its support. Many of the former send their sons and daughters to more aristocratic institutions and many of the latter are not able to send their children to any university, but all pay in proportion to their means to the support of this institution. What justifies the people of this state in imposing upon themselves the burden of taxation necessary to sustain this university? The total fees paid by

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

¹ A popular lecture to the students of Michigan University on Convocation Day, October 16, 1914.

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