

Honors to James S. Rollins.

[From the Columbia Missouri Statesman, May 17, 1872.]

On Wednesday night of last week in the chapel of the State University, and before a large and brilliant audience and the Board of Curators, an exhibition of the Junior class took place. During the retirement of the committee to consider of the award of prizes the large auditory were relieved and much interested in a proceeding not on the programme; namely, the public presentation to Hon. James S. Rollins of the thanks of the faculty and students of the University for his great services to that institution.

THANKS OF THE FACULTY.

In offering the thanks of the Faculty according to a vote of that body President Read said :

“MAJOR ROLLINS: In behalf of the Faculty of this University I am authorized and directed in this public manner in the presence of this Board of Curators, of the Students and of this assembled multitude to tender to you the expression of their heartfelt thanks for your pre-eminent services to this institution of learning—services begun in the year of your early manhood, continued in the fulness and maturity of middle life and increased with the experience and wisdom of advancing years.

Especially, sir, we thank you for this best crowning effort in devising and securing the late act of the legislature, by which our University is placed upon a firmer and more secure basis.

In honoring you, sir, we by no means ignore or forget the labors of others, especially of our honored Curators, J. W. Barrett, Henry Smith, Col. S. G. Williams, nor of the Representatives of this county, Messrs. Newman and Bass, and many others from different parts of the state whom I cannot name on this occasion.

Especially in connection with this bill the name of the Hon. Senator Morse of Jefferson deserves consideration

and honor as but for his intervention and knowledge as an experienced legislator, we should, at the present at least, have failed of our just right.

But, sir, we know that in every struggle you were the leader—the corypheus of the measure.

We, who have had some experience, know full well the cost of such success—the labors by night and by day—the contest, the misgivings, the hope, the fear; but you have the satisfaction of knowing that it is an achievement, not only for this generation but for all generations to the end of time.

When the struggle is over, and your nervous system becomes relaxed after unwonted tension, and you look back upon the legislative battle and its victory, what amount of money, (if money could be put into the balance) would induce you to encounter all that you passed through to win success.

But, sir, you have a higher and better reward, and when all the strife and contests of party politics are over with you—when personal antagonisms are forgotten, or remembered only to remind you how small and worthless they were, you will then feel that the founding and upbuilding of this University was worthy the best efforts of your life. You will feel a just and proud satisfaction. By others it will be said and written of you—“*non sibi sed patriæ.*”

Your life, sir, will be crowned with the blessings of the young men and women of the State of Missouri; and after you have passed away your name and memory will be cherished as a public benefactor.

The prayer of this Faculty is that you may live to see the University all that you have labored to make it, and that your own life may be as long and happy as it has been honored and useful.”

THANKS OF THE STUDENTS.

This portion of the exercises being concluded, Mr. Henry W. Ewing, of St. Louis, representing the students of the University, arose and said:

“Maj. Rollins: At a meeting of the whole body of stu-

dents on receiving the intelligence of the passage of the University appropriation bill, resolutions were adopted expressing their gratitude and indebtedness to those who were prominent in securing that measure.

While we recognize and appreciate the efforts of other gentlemen who were largely influential in bringing about our late success; yet to you as the leader, and other members of the Board, we especially desire to convey our sincerest thanks, in the resolutions adopted as follows:

Resolved, That as representing a portion of the youth of the State of Missouri, we tender the Hon. James S. Rollins our thanks for his eminent services in both branches of the legislature to the cause of public education in our State.

2nd. That as students of the State University, we are especially indebted to him for his long continued and unwearied efforts to establish a State University on a firm and enduring basis—an institution of broad and universal culture, which with its school of Mines and other industrial and professional departments, will be both a blessing and an honor to the State of Missouri.

3rd. That we tender him our congratulations on the proud achievement which has crowned his efforts in behalf of the University, and that we honor the present legislature for its liberality and enlightened patriotism in the establishment and upholding of institutions, which constitute the true glory of a commonwealth.

4th. That in honoring Major Rollins and expressing to him our grateful acknowledgements, we by no means forget, or pass by, the Representatives of this county and other members of both branches of the Legislature, whose names we shall ever delight to honor for their zeal and efforts in behalf of those measures which have given a firm foundation to our University.

5th. That we rejoice in the general progress of enlightened sentiment among all classes, and trust that the day is not distant when Missouri will stand among the first of all our American states for those great institutions which adorn and ennoble modern civilization, and to this end, as sons of Missouri, we consecrate our lives."

The reading of these resolutions was greeted with loud applause, thus demonstrating they touched the popular heart; after which Maj. Rollins was called for and responded to the high compliments paid him in most felicitous and appropriate terms, his address frequently eliciting the rapturous plaudits of the large auditory.

ACTION OF THE BOARD OF CURATORS.

On the next day, May 9th, 1872, the Board of Curators

being in session, Prof. Wyman of St. Louis, offered the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, The long continued services of the Hon. James S. Rollins, commencing thirty-four years ago in the introduction of a bill by him in the house of representatives of the general assembly of this state providing for the location of the State University, and the various measures since that time of which he has been the author and earnest and able advocate, terminating with the act passed at the last session of the legislature, making provision for the payment of the debts of the institution, enlarging its library, completing the Scientific Building and adding to its permanent endowment, deserve a proper recognition and acknowledgement by this Board; be it therefore,

Resolved, That this Board are deeply impressed with the value of the important services rendered by Hon. J.S. Rollins, and other friends of education, in placing the University of Missouri upon a solid and permanent foundation, where the youth of the state may enjoy equal advantages for higher education with the youths of other states of the Union.

2nd That he has won the honorable title, of "*Pater Universitatis Missouriensis*;" and that the thanks of this Board are hereby tendered to him for his great efforts to promote the prosperity, usefulness and success of this institution.

3rd. That the secretary of this Board cause to be prepared in some suitable form a copy of the foregoing resolutions, signed by the vice-President and secretary, and with the seal of the University attached, and presented to the Hon. James S. Rollins in the name of this Board.

Prof. Wyman accompanied the presentation of this testimonial by a few remarks, in which he embodied a brief recital of the great and long continued services of Major Rollins in behalf of the common schools of the state and of the University.

Resuming his seat the preamble and resolutions were seconded by Rev. Jno. D. Vincil and Col. W. F. Switzler, the latter of whom briefly addressed the Board in review of the self-sacrificing and unflagging labors of Maj. Rollins, embracing a period of more than thirty years, to aid in achieving for the State University a high destiny.

The resolutions passed unanimously.

Major Rollins being present arose with much emotion, and in befitting terms tendered his acknowledgements for the great honor bestowed upon him by the Board. He referred with evident feeling to the example set him by his honored father, Dr. A. W. Rollins, long since deceased, and whose portrait hung in the hall, and ascribed all he had done for popular and advanced education in Missouri to the influence of that example.

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