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*Editorial from New York Evening Post*  
*May 12, 1910*

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*Past and Future of Johns Hopkins*

When the Johns Hopkins University opened its doors, thirty-four years ago, its endowment of three and a half million dollars was looked upon as a wonderful start for a new institution. Not as great as the then existing endowment of one or two of the old universities, it was far greater than any sum that had ever, up to that time, been placed at the disposal of an institution of learning, by private munificence, at a single stroke. With freedom to utilize their resources in whatever way they thought best, the trustees were at once confronted, above all, with the question whether they should take a local or a national view of their great opportunity. The path of least resistance would have been to build up another big American college, attracting large numbers of undergraduates, and doing at Baltimore what Harvard and Yale and Princeton were doing further North. Had they followed this course, there can be little doubt that it would have met with ample success, and especially with that kind of success which is measured by big figures in the college register. There would have been at Baltimore a fine college, with a large and rapidly growing body of prosperous alumni scattered over the country, and with true university work represented only in that fragmentary way in which it was to be found in our other institutions of learning.

But the trustees of Johns Hopkins rose to a higher view of their opportunity. They determined to make the new university an instrument for rendering

to the whole nation a signal service. Instead of adding one more institution—however excellent—to the number already existing that were doing the usual college work, with some extension here and there into higher studies, they undertook to introduce in our country the methods and standards of the great universities of Europe. To this conclusion they came after an earnest consultation with Mr. Gilman, before his acceptance of the Presidency; and to it they loyally adhered when the university was put into operation. Bold as the project seemed to many at the time, it was attended with immediate and brilliant success. American science and scholarship were placed on a new plane; in the course of fewer years than anyone would have supposed possible, the standards of the leading American universities were brought up to the European level. Systematic research in every department of human knowledge gradually became a fully recognized function of our universities. Before the advent of Johns Hopkins, it had seemed part of the order of nature that these things belonged to Germany or France, but that America must be content to utilize the results which European investigators had obtained. The time, indeed, was ripe for a change; but it might have been twenty years longer in coming, had not Johns Hopkins University taken the fine and clear-cut stand that it did.

What seemed a remote possibility before it was accomplished often has a way of seeming a matter of course after it has become a familiar possession. If anybody is inclined to take that view of the advance in university work which was brought about by Johns Hopkins, let him consider what happened seventeen years later, when the Johns Hopkins Medical School was opened. The subject of medical education was a matter of intimate concern to everybody, and everybody knew that medical education in America was in an extremely backward condition. The habit of giving great sums of money to universities, too, had grown wonderfully in the interval; had there been a genuine realization of what was needed, and a genuine and sharply-defined desire to accomplish it, the money would easily have been forthcoming. And yet it remained for Johns Hopkins—which had to wait for the modest sum of \$500,000 necessary for the purpose—to do in the field of medical education what it had already done in the general field. How signal was the service thus again rendered to

LJ 2628  
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the nation may be judged from the way in which President Eliot has referred to it. "The prodigious advancement of medical teaching which has resulted from the labors of the Johns Hopkins faculty of medicine" is an achievement, says the president of Harvard, which must "be counted as one of superb beneficence." And no one who knows the way in which the work of the Johns Hopkins Medical School has been elevating medical teaching throughout the country during the past seventeen years can doubt the justice of this tribute.

To continue its beneficent career in full vigor, to maintain the quality of its work, and to expand in the directions indicated by the needs of the time, the Johns Hopkins University needs a liberal addition to its endowment. By its very merit, it has, in a great measure, cut itself off from the source of supply that is most prolific in the case of other universities. It has turned out no large number of rich alumni; its graduates are engaged chiefly in scientific and professional work, a large proportion of them in the work of teaching. Neither has it made that kind of appeal to local patriotism which the big college naturally makes. Its work has been truly national; and yet the contributions it has received have thus far come, practically entirely, from its home city. There have been a number of handsome individual gifts and bequests, and there was, several years ago, a generous subscription of a million dollars, to which hundreds of Baltimoreans contributed, to make good losses sustained through the original investment in Baltimore and Ohio stock. It is eminently right, therefore, that the friends of the university should now make an appeal for support from the country-at-large. They propose to raise two million dollars, and there should be no doubt of their early success in doing so. To give to Johns Hopkins is to give not to Baltimore, but to the nation. Its work has redounded signally to the honor and the benefit of the country; and the spirit in which that work has been carried on in the past is still the spirit of the institution. It has deserved well of the country; and the best pledge of its efficient use of any resources it may command in the future is furnished by the unique history of its service in the past. In New York, above all, where the wealth of the nation is represented on so gigantic a scale, there should be found many a liberal contribution to so worthy an object of national support.

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