

“We Are All Filled with the Greatest Hope . . .” An Installation Speech of Governor Joseph Dudley

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JOHN LEVERETT¹ took office as President of Harvard College on 14 January 1707/8. At the inauguration ceremonies was his good friend, Governor Joseph Dudley,² who through some ingenious concessions had secured the approval of Leverett's appointment from the Lower House.³ The illustrious Samuel Sewall was also present at the ceremonies, and in his Diary⁴ recorded how the Governor took Leverett by the hand and led him down from the Library into the Hall. There Dudley seated himself “with his back against a Noble Fire,” while Leverett sat down on the opposite side of a table containing the Books of the College Records, the Charter, Seal, and Keys. When certain formalities were done, the Governor made in Latin an installation speech which, if we trust Sewall's Diary account, he had prepared in the Library only some moments earlier. It is this unpublished speech that we edit below from a transcription of it made by Leverett himself.⁵ It is, moreover, an excellent piece of work that despite its functional brevity demonstrates a fine dignity, warmth and concern. I have found no other examples of Dudley's Latin.

Forma Praesidem Inaugurandi a D. D. Gubernatore J. Dudley, Arm., Prolata
in Aula Harvardina, 19 Cal. Feb.⁶ 1707 [/8]

¹ His term lasted till 1724. See Samuel E. Morison, *Three Centuries of Harvard, 1636-1936* (Cambridge, 1936), pp. 53-75.

² Governor from 1702 to 1715.

³ See Samuel E. Morison, *Harvard College in the Seventeenth Century* (Cambridge, 1936), II, 555.

⁴ M. Halsey Thomas, ed., *The Diary of Samuel Sewall* (New York, 1973), I, 584-585.

⁵ In the Harvard University Archives. Leverett's spelling in general has been retained in our edition, but not necessarily his punctuation, paragraphing, or capitalization. Leverett's Latin response to Dudley's remarks I have edited in “A President Accepts,” *The Classical Outlook*, LII (1974), 40-41.

⁶ Ms: Jan.

Post mortem Reverendi Domini Willardi,⁷ nuper hujus societatis⁸ Praesidis maxime assidui, debita cum observantia mihi notificarunt socii se liberrime te, Reverende Domine, principalem et praesidem successurum eligisse.

Electionem generosis Regiae Majestatis Concilii membris communicavi, qui perlibenter assensum suum dederunt.

Exinde hujus Provinciae Delegati in curia magna et generali Minervalia⁹ et in hoc temporis articulo idonea¹⁰ tibi concesserunt stipendia.

Communi assensu et suffragio praesbyterorum hujus Provinciae certo certius¹¹ mihi redditur quod tuum moderamen¹² et cura hujus societatis sibi forent gratissima, et deinde maxima spe sumus omnes impleti vestro sedulo regimine et ductu hancce Academiam tam divina quam humana literatura, ligentia¹³ et religione ita esse florituram, [10] ut nobis et vicinarum Provinciarum¹⁴ sacrae majestati¹⁵ subditis communi beneficio fuerit.¹⁶

Constituimus igitur et ordinamus ut in te religiose suscipias curam et institutionem omnium et singulorum officiosiorum,¹⁷ studentium, et servorum hujus societatis secundum singulas methodos¹⁸ ac leges salutare concessas ac concedendas, ad sacram religionem, literaturam et bonos mores promovendos quantum in te situm est.¹⁹

Et ut semper reddas debitam fidelitatem Dominae Reginae ac obedientiam legibus.

Donamus te quoque potestatibus, jurisdictionibus, proprietatibus et privilegiis in eadem amplitudine qua antecessores tui Collegii Harvardini praesides unquam donati fuerunt. Tradimusque tibi hos libros, chartas atque claves dictarum²⁰ potestatum, jurisdictionum, proprietatum et privilegiorum insignia atque²¹ testimonia.

⁷ Samuel Willard, Vice-President of Harvard, died 12 September 1707.

⁸ Ms: societis.

⁹ Fee given to a teacher.

¹⁰ Written above line.

¹¹ Cf. Plautus, *Captivi* 644: nihil invenies magis hoc certo certius.

¹² Leverett first wrote medicamen.

¹³ Leverett's spelling of legiantia.

¹⁴ Leverett first wrote vicinae Provinciae.

¹⁵ Ms: majestatis.

¹⁶ Leverett first wrote fuerint.

¹⁷ Written above line.

¹⁸ Ms: methodus.

¹⁹ Cf. Cicero, *Pro Archia* 1.1: quantum est situm in nobis.

²⁰ Written above line.

²¹ Leverett first wrote ac.

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