

Office of  
**Thomas R. Easterday**  
Commissioner of Schools

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., \_\_\_\_\_ 191\_\_

Address of T.R. Easterday at the laying of the Corner Stone of the

Sault Ste Marie, High School, October 12th, 1915

Mr Superintendent,  
Hon. Board of Education,  
Friends and Fellow Citizens of  
Sault Ste Marie, Mich.

I deem it the greatest honor ever coming to me in all the fifty-one years I have lived among you, to be your choice this day to present the address on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of THE NEW SOO HIGH SCHOOL.

It may possibly be true, that no man living has been so long and so deeply interested in the physical, educational, moral and spiritual well-being of all our people from the youngest infant to the oldest grand-sire as I have been and still am. To condense into a five minutes talk what I consider due to this occasion, is the philosophers problem of compressing the whole world into one cubic inch.

When I look back half a century I see in all Chippewa County, then embracing all of Luce, only one solitary school building, aside from the two Indian Schools, one on Sugar Island the other at Wha-is-ke Bay, that one, the old school in this hamlet now city. That building only lately pulled down, served this community seventy-five years as a general purpose house. Primarily a school house, various churches used it, The Presbyterian, the Methodist Episcopal and the Baptist Churches were organized in it and the Ladies Club used it last leaving it only to go to their present habitat

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We do our work so fairly that the most sectarian parents cannot be offended . We go forward in the preparation of our youth in this secondary school, in the firm conviction that this great Republic , THE UNITED STATES of AMERICA can not long exist unless the majority of its citizens are truly conscious that they are answerable to GOD for the proper discharge of the duties of life. In such a faith we lay the corner stone of this magnificent edifice, this day. The cares and responsibilities, yea the very life of this nation, civil and religious we bequeath to our sons and daughters, educated and prepared in this and similar schools throughout the land.

In the 16th century a German <sup>Teacher</sup> was accustomed to take off his hat and salute his pupils as equals - asked by another why he did this, he answered - I see in my boys the great men of this great and mighty Empire. That teacher saluted the Monk of Erfurt, the hero priest of Saxony, whose voice shook all Chrisendom, whose battle hymn - "Ein feste burgh ist unser Gott" will be sung down the ages so long as a German Protestant lives .

After my graduation I taught in a secondary school in Shelbyville Ill. Of the eight pupils in my advance class I remember three, George Hahneman, son of a physician, Mattie Breman an orphan and George Wendling. Hahneman married Mattie, and with the money she brought him, he became in a little while a Prince Merchant and later a millionaire Coal Baron. George Wendling son of a blacksmith studied law, then took the platform - His lectures " Paul versus Demosthenes", "The mistakes of Ingersoll" and "The man of Galilee" delivered in his firey eloquence, have held spell-bound mighty audiences , during the last generation.

What shall come in the next half century? From this

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building I see a mighty stream of young people go forth into the world to fight  
lives varied battles. God grant that only such teachers may do service here, as  
shall see in our boys and girls beneath the human the divine. Once a sculptor  
looking upon a rough Ashlar exclaimed "I see an angel in it" and seizing mallet  
and chisel he set to work and ceased not till he and all the world saw his  
perfect concept free from all that deformed - So may all who teach here, all  
who study here, all our people labor on, till called to lay down the greatest  
thing in the world \* Life -to hear, as we enter the Radiant Beyond, from the  
Divine Architect, The Great Master Builder - Well Done ; Well Done  
Well come ; Well come.

*T. R. Easterday, A.M., Ph.D.*