

## GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY—COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

June 9, 1941

Washington, D. C.

**Y**OUNG men stepping forth from the halls of Georgetown today, to swell the glorious throng who have reaped the benefits of her training in the past, will enter a vastly different world from that encountered by graduates of any previous year.

Amid all of the tremendous changes that have occurred and that portend, however, it is a solace to know that there has been no change in the basic cultural and spiritual dowry that Georgetown gives to her sons. There has been no change, because there has been need of none. The fundamental truths and principles which were part of the curriculum in this Mother of Catholic Colleges in the first days of this Republic are still, and must continue to be, the guiding principles of life for every man who aspires to something more in life than mere economic progress.

Coming here today to take part in Georgetown's graduation ceremonies is like returning for a family reunion. So close have been relations between our State and the University since those early days when Georgetown was physically a part of Maryland; and so pleasant have been our associations with the Institution and with its faculty, that it is rather as an adopted son of the University than as Chief Executive of a neighboring State that I prefer to look upon this visit today.

While the name of Georgetown strikes a responsive chord in hearts throughout every section of the Nation today, Maryland rightly regards the University with a special feeling of affection. Not alone is this so because the Institution was founded by one of Maryland's most revered clergymen and citizens, Archbishop John Carroll; nor even by reason of the fact that the people of Maryland had such an intimate part in the establishment and up-building of the University in its early days. Down through the century and a half that Old Hilltop has spread its leavening influence upon the educational system of our Country, Maryland's sons ever have been among its students, and its alumni have left their impress deep upon the history of our State. Simply to refer to our State's official anthem, "Maryland, My Maryland" is to stir up memories of Georgetown of nearly a century ago, for it was your alumnus, James Ryder Randall, who penned those heroic stanzas, the appeal of which will never die.

These are stirring times in the world, and young men who have spent the last four years on the banks of the Potomac, within earshot, so to speak, of our National Capitol, know perhaps much more fully than do the graduates of other sections, of the fast-changing and increasingly ominous developments