

“ACERCA DEL TRABAJO QUE EXIGE
LA ADQUISICIÓN DE LA CIENCIAS”

DISCURSO

EN LA APERTURA ANUAL

DE LOS ESTUDIOS

DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE MANILA
PRONUNCIÓ EL 2 DE JULIO DE 1873

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DEL ORDEN DE PREDICADORES

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MISMA UNIVERSIDAD

MANILA

ESTABLECIMIENTO TIPOGRÁFICO
DE SANTO TOMÁS

A CARGO DE A. AOIZ.

1873

FOREWORD

Belén L. Tangco, OP

CONCERNING WORK THAT REQUIRES ACQUISITION OF SCIENCES

This inaugural lecture on the annual opening of classes was delivered on July 2, 1873 by Rev. Fr. José Garcia of the Order of Preachers, Professor of Philosophy. It was printed by the Santo Tomas Printing Press in 1873.

It was a big task for the lecturer to have been invited to do the inaugural lecture. It was indeed an honor for him to speak before an illustrious assembly.

He intended to speak on the status of the secondary education. Nobody ignores the transcendental and immense advantages of the literary activities, which highlight the knowledge of those gifted with great knowledge. These activities continue to animate human hearts, which if not motivated and challenged would grow weak and discontinue whatever honorable acts which were initiated.

The leaves and pages of the ancient Greece bare its influence on the fine arts and the awards it mustered for those who engaged with it. Likewise, reading the contemporary history would reveal the scales of heights reached by those in the natural sciences like medicine and pharmacy.

He underscores the dignity and necessity of hard work, especially for the youth who could encounter challenges and stumbling blocks to finishing their respective courses. He states thus “It is necessary to suffer all kinds of fatigue and sweat if you like to reach the summit of the high mountain which you have to negotiate to acquire the sciences perfectly.”

If a man would faithfully persevere in his status where God has placed him, he would find it easy to obtain the scientific knowledge, which we for a long time, have not acquired due to difficult tasks and assignments. Human understanding is like one of those terrains, which owing to much care and diligent work produce flowers and fruits. Work is an inheritance from our first parents, and one has to accept this with reservation if he/she does not want to perish necessarily.

Citing the sages of remote antiquity, the lecturer underscores the indefatigability of these brilliant men of science in working for desired produce and harvest. They

consumed the days of their precious existence in profound learning through books and meditation—Arquimedes who was abysmally dedicated to his calculus, St. Thomas Aquinas who spent nights and days in reflecting on the books of ancient philosophers and holy fathers, Leibnitz who constantly worked for entire weeks seated, unmoved, and Newton always thinking, as he always said in his admirable discoveries, assuring that public service was possible due to perseverance and patient meditation. The only way therefore to be useful in society and occupy a distinguished post is to cultivate necessarily one's intelligence. Behold, the obstacles that impede man in tranquil reflections on the truth, as well as recognize the footsteps of sciences are found among thorns and is impossible to walk through these without shedding blood.

