

Increased Endowments for Women's Colleges

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REMARKS OF THOMAS W. LAMONT

I am a little at a loss as to just how to make salutation to seven college presidents at one time, the heads of Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Vassar and Wellesley, who are here before me. I am inclined to address them as "Your Excellencies," for I can imagine no government official more entitled to honor than are these seven presidents, for the noble and distinguished service which they are daily rendering to the public.

Before touching directly upon the subject of increased endowment for the women's colleges, may I refer briefly to an article in a recent magazine issue, entitled "Are our Colleges Playing Poor?" The writer of the article who is himself a teacher in one of our leading colleges fails to adduce one single fact to show that the colleges are insincere in their appeals for funds. For instance, the sort of thing he does is to state that one college carries on its books a certain large investment at a nominal cost; and the writer implies that by so doing the college is deceiving the public. That is the sheerest nonsense. No one of the colleges makes any secret of its bookkeeping. The fact that by skilful management the trustees have been able greatly to reduce the original cost of an investment has no bearing on the total income