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Address of the Brazilian
ambassador, Senhor Nabuco,
at the laying
of the corner-stone
of the new
building of the
American Republics in
Washington, on May
11, 1908

Fundação Joaquim Nabuco

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Address

of the

Brazilian Ambassador

You have spoken, Mr. President, of the other States of this Continent in a manner that shall cause intense satisfaction among them, and for which they certainly will feel greatly indebted to you. You can well see that, with their admiration for your mighty race and the pace of its progress never equalled before, they all bring into this Union their pride of their Latin inheritance, of which there is no higher testimonial than the English language itself. Only when future comes to each of them and they will be able to develop, as this Nation has done with hers, the portion each received on her cradle, shall the world realize the greatness of the Columbus estate. May your happy auguries meet with your usual good fortune! Together with those generous greetings, your address breathes the soul of a people that never allows a difference in its treatment of powerful and of weak Nations.

We were glad to acclaim the high praise you bestowed on the present Secretary of State, while conferring to him the *laurea insignis* in this, the day of his triumph. His visit to South and Central America was one of those inspirations that characterise the statesman who will live in the hearts of many peoples. By the loftiness of his ideals, his fairness, his broad

sympathies, his ability to weigh the imponderables of international sensibility, he won the hearts of all our Nations, and could send you one of the most brilliant *Veni, vidi, vici* of Diplomacy. In their turn they captured him and shall ever keep his image as a friendly hostage of peace and good will from this great Republic.

You can well afford to be generous, Mr. President. No President of the United States will leave in the history of Pan-Americanism a deeper mark than the one you are cutting from ocean to ocean, to change the sea routes of the world so as to bring nearer together the peoples and cities on the two fronts of our Continent.

We give you our thanks, Mr. Carnegie, for your munificent donation. In selecting this City for the permanent seat of our Union, the Latin Republics of America have shown in the most striking way their pride in the Nation that has been the leader of our Continent, and which made it one of the leaders of civilisation. You recollected that your Country, while our associate, is also our host, and that never has a higher tribute than ours been paid to that American Democracy, which your book has so much endeared to our present generations. You must, also, have been moved by the thought, which caused already so many of your works: that of contributing throughout posterity to the cause of Peace. You rightly believe that Peace is Universal Charity. Ours, indeed, is a wholly peaceful alliance, and it shines outside the American orbit only to show that this Continent can already be called the Hemisphere of Peace.

Gentlemen, there has never been a parallel for the sight which this ceremony presents: that of twenty-

one Nations, of different languages, building together a house for their common deliberations. The more impressive is the scene as these Countries, with all possible differences between them in size and population, have established their Union on the basis of the most absolute equality. Here the vote of the smallest balances the vote of the greatest. So many sovereign States would not have been drawn so spontaneously and so strongly together, as if by an irresistible force, if there did not exist throughout them, at the bottom or at the top of each national conscience, the feeling of a destiny common to all America. It seems, indeed, that a decree of Providence made the Western shore of the Atlantic appear late in History as the chosen land for a great renewal of mankind. From the early days of its colonisation the sentiment sprung in the hearts of all its children that this is really a new World. That is the sentiment which unites us together in this auspicious day. We feel we are all sons of Columbus. And if we meet here, it is because we feel also that we all are sons of Washington. Rising on the plain of the Potomac, in the sight of the Capitol, the new House of the American Republics shall be another monument to the founder of modern Liberty. That one is his national, this his continental, Memorial.

Gentlemen, hearing still the voice of his Eminence Cardinal Gibbons invoking upon this Union the blessings of Heaven, our one prayer is that our mutual pledges may grow ever and ever stronger, so that we all come to feel the full inspiration of the undissolvable partnership of the two Americas.