

FOREWORD

FRANK DIEHL FACKENTHAL, *whose addresses as Acting President of Columbia University are gathered together in this little volume, needs no introduction to the alumni, faculty, students, and friends of Columbia University, or to that wider circle who learned to appreciate his high abilities during the time when he acted as his university's official voice and representative. Here they will see reflected Dr. Fackenthal's familiar qualities—his grasp of fundamentals, his practical knowledge of the means of translating those fundamentals into action, his humor, his humanity, his modesty. They will also find traces—very carefully concealed, since the words are his own—of the major services he has performed for Columbia and for those whom Columbia serves. Some who are not watching closely may miss these betrayals of the extent of his own contribution and may need to have their memories prompted. The prompting will be found in the tributes of Professor Hayes and Mr. Hogan, who spoke, at the Alexander Hamilton Dinner held in Dr. Fackenthal's honor, as representatives of the faculty and the alumni.*

These addresses were delivered under all sorts of circumstances—at public exercises and at private dinners, at ceremonies where Dr. Fackenthal bestowed honors and at ceremonies where he received them, to groups of educators and to groups of students. The man, his ideals, his wisdom,

his tact—these are the same in all, but in each his message is subtly modulated to the occasion and to the audience.

The period of Dr. Fackenthal's acting presidency was followed by his retirement from full-time service to the University, after more than forty years. Some may unwittingly conclude that these speeches mark the climax of his career, but all who know him or have followed his activities since his retirement—as one of the Trustees of Columbia University and as chairman of the Trustees' Committee on Education, as educational consultant to the Carnegie Corporation, and as president of Associated Universities—realize that in his career the years of these addresses represent a mere chapter. It was a distinguished chapter, however, and I, who have been working with Frank Fackenthal for years that neither of us has had time to count, am happy to play a part in laying the record before the world.

FREDERICK COYKENDALL

*Columbia University
in the City of New York
April 7, 1949*