

BOWDOIN COLLEGE
Commencement 1990

ARTHUR LEROY GREASON, son of Wesleyan and Harvard, Twelfth President of Bowdoin College, and friend of all who love knowledge, we recall now that day thirty-eight years ago when you met with President Sills over lobster stew at the old Eagle Hotel to discuss your possible future at Bowdoin. How anxious you must have been! But you got the job as instructor of English, and all the other jobs at Bowdoin that followed in a distinguished succession -- to the point where you have held more high offices at this College than any other person in Bowdoin's 196 years. On the stage of Bowdoin College, you have followed the advice of one of your favorite eighteenth-century poets: "Act well your part, there all the honour lies." At a troubled time in the life of this institution, you acted the part to which you were suddenly called supremely well. The honor -- and the gratitude -- are richly deserved.

In a few weeks, you will say farewell as president. But when you return from your travels, you will be welcomed as First Citizen of Brunswick and as one of the most admired men of your generation in Maine. So here at Commencement, the most solemn and yet the most joyous day in the College's year, we say "hail" rather than "farewell" to you and to Polly. Bowdoin will long remember the example of civility and reason you have set. You leave the College a more just, a more tolerant, a more humane place. How appropriate, then, that we bestow upon you the degree, *honoris causa*, DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS.