

MR CHANCELLOR

TO ADD TO THE TRIBUTES PAID TO OUR HONORARY GRADUATES BY THE PUBLIC ORATOR, WOULD BE TO HOLD A CANDLE TO THE SUN. I WILL THEREFORE REFER BUT BRIEFLY TO EACH OF THE DISTINGUISHED MEN WHOM WE SEEK TO HONOUR TO-DAY.

MANY OF THE 1820 SETTLERS OWED THEIR SAFE ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA TO THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE STURDY QUALITIES OF THEIR SHIP, THE 'CHAPMAN'. MANY OF OUR PAST STUDENTS OWE THEIR SAFE ARRIVAL IN THEIR VOCATIONS TO THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE STURDY QUALITIES OF ANOTHER CHAPMAN... TODAY, WE APPROPRIATELY REMEMBER THE EARLY YEARS OF RHODES, WHEN A REGISTRAR COULD STILL BE AT THE STATION TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO DEPARTING STUDENTS. ON ONE SUCH OCCASION, MAJOR WALKER PUT HIS HAND ON THE SHOULDER OF A STUDENT WHO HAD FAILED HIS FINALS FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME AND SAID TO THE OTHERS: "COME AND VISIT US OFTEN - SMITH AND I WILL ALWAYS BE HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU BACK!"... AS THE UNIVERSITY GREW, THIS INTIMATE SOCIETY WAS BOUND TO CHANGE, BUT FOR THE ASTOUNDING MEMORY OF HUGH CHAPMAN. HE HAS NOT ONLY, AT EVERY STAGE OF HIS OWN CAREER, LEFT A GOOD PATTERN FOR RHODIANS TO FOLLOW, BUT HE GAVE THEM, HERE AT RHODES, THE ASSURANCE OF CONSTANT INTEREST AND GUIDANCE AND, ON LEAVING, THE ASSURANCE OF BEING REMEMBERED. CAN ANY INDIVIDUAL CLAIM TO HAVE DONE MORE TO BUILD AND PRESERVE THE SPIRITUAL UNITY, THE ESSENTIAL ETHOS AND THE ESPRIT DE CORPS OF THE GREAT FAMILY OF RHODES UNIVERSITY! HOW WELL HE DESERVES TO BE HONOURED TO-DAY!

WHILE PROFESSOR CHAPMAN WAS KEEPING TRACK OF PAST AND PRESENT STUDENTS, DR. HEWITT WAS KEEPING TRACK OF EQUALLY ELUSIVE OBJECTS. WISE PROVIDENCE ENSURED, THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE LAST WAR AND HER CONSEQUENT NEED OF RADAR EQUIPMENT, THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE, WHEN THE SPACE AGE ARRIVED, TO PLAY OUR PART IN SATELITE TRACKING, AND ALSO TO APPLY SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE TO RADIO-ASTRONOMY. PROVIDENCE ALSO ENSURED THAT THERE WOULD BE A MAN OF ADEQUATE CALIBRE TO DIRECT DEVELOPMENT IN THIS FIELD, AND DR. HEWITT'S NAME RUNS THROUGH THE WHOLE LENGTH OF THE STORY, FROM THE EARLY PIONEERING DAYS TO THE SOPHISTICATED REFINEMENT OF TO-DAY. HOW FORTUNATE WE ARE TO CLAIM HIM AS A PRODUCT OF THIS UNIVERSITY AND TO BE REPRESENTED, IN HIS PERSON, IN THE FOREFRONT OF THIS EXCITING FIELD OF SCIENCE. AS DEPUTY-PRESIDENT OF THE C.S.I.R., HIS TALENTS, RANGING OVER A WIDE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, ARE FULLY MOBILIZED IN THE SERVICE OF SOUTH AFRICA AT A TIME WHEN WE MUST LOOK TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR OUR FUTURE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL. GREATLY HAS HE ACHIEVED, AND GRATEFULLY DO WE HONOUR HIM. MAY THIS BRIGHT STAR LONG REMAIN IN ORBIT.

IF DR. HEWITT HAS BEEN CONCERNED WITH MOVING OBJECTS, SO HAS DR. SOLE, WHO HAS BEEN MOVING OBJECTS, COMPRISING HIS HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, FROM ONE CAPITAL CITY TO THE NEXT. TO HAVE SERVED SUCCESSIVELY IN PRETORIA, LONDON, PARIS, VIENNA, BONN AND WASHINGTON, REPRESENTS BOTH A CAPITAL ACHIEVEMENT AND A MOVING EXPERIENCE. I DO NOT APOLOGISE FOR MY PUNS, SINCE THEY ARE INTENDED TO MAKE DR. SOLE FEEL AT HOME, FOR AMBASSADORS HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF PUNS EVER SINCE SIR HENRY WOTTON, NEARLY 400 YEARS AGO, DEFINED AN AMBASSADOR AS "AN HONEST MAN SENT TO LIE ABROAD FOR HIS COUNTRY". AND, MORE RECENTLY, A WIT SUGGESTED THAT AN AMBASSADOR IS RELUCTANT TO RETIRE, FOR FEAR OF LOSING HIS CAPITAL. WELL, PERMIT ME ONE MORE : WE ARE INDEBTED TO DR. SOLE FOR STUDYING AT RHODES, SINCE OTHERWISE WE MAY STILL HAVE HAD A STUDENT BODY WITHOUT A "SOLE". BUT, TO ATONE FOR ALL THIS, LET ME POINT OUT THAT THE SAME WICKED SIR HENRY WOTTON ALSO WROTE THE LINES ABOUT THE MAN "WHOSE ARMOUR IS HIS HONEST THOUGHT, AND SIMPLE TRUTH HIS UTMOST SKILL" - AND THOSE LINES SAY ALL THAT WE NEED TO SAY OF HIM WHO HAS SERVED HIS COUNTRY SO WELL AND WHOM WE ARE PROUD TO OWN AS A FELLOW OLD RHODIAN.

MR CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ASK YOU TO RISE TO THE TOAST OF 'OUR HONORARY GRADUATES'.