

To the
Very Rev. F. Sorin, C.S.C.
and his Associates, Faculty of the
University of Notre Dame Ind.

In acknowledging the documentary evidence of your consideration in naming me a Doctor of Laws of your renowned University, I have to confess my inability to express in adequate terms my appreciation of your wholly unanticipated action. My first thoughts were of my own demerits, so evident to my own consciousness, and, as it appeared to me, so hidden from yours.

Then came the reflection that I had at least tried to serve religion and morals and good government, and that it might be possible, since a body so able and respectable had placed value upon my poor efforts, that these had been blessed of God in ways that were to me unaccountable.

My thanks are due you, at any rate, for your kindness, and these are proffered you out of a full heart.

There is one circumstance in this connection that I must allude to. The compliment extended comes from an institution founded in honor of the Holy Mother of God — from one that was designed from the first to promote among christian youth devotion to the Immaculate Queen of Heaven. So coming, it has appeared to me, in some sort, a pledge of her protection who is as much the Refuge of Sinners as she is the Queen of Saints and Angels.

I beg of you, each and all, to pray that

through her intercession, I may be made
worthy of the promises of her Divine Son,
to whom, in deep humility of heart, I refer
the honorable token sent, of your confidence
and approval.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Your obliged, and humble servant,

Bern. J. Webb.

Louisville, Aug. 15, 1885.