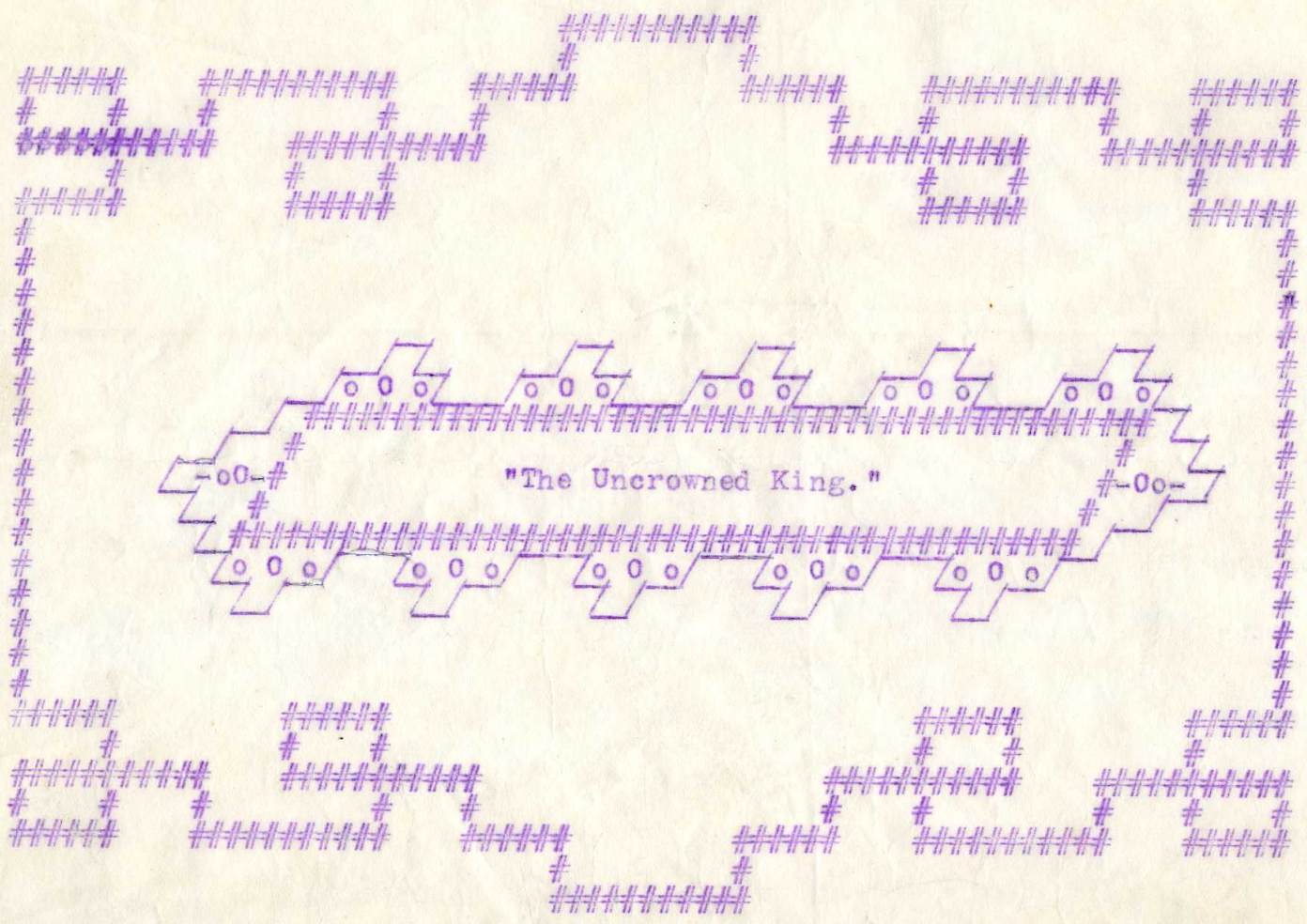


Jennie C. Hughes,
Medal Oration
Apr. 15th 98
University of Idaho.



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-----: "The Uncrowned King": -----
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The sailor standing on the deck of an ocean steamer watching the last faint speck of land melt away in the distance, as he lifts his gaze from the expanse of surging billows to the clear blue ether of the vaulted skies must receive as true and comprehensive a conception of the vastness of God's creation as is ever permitted to a soul hemmed in by human limitations.

And yet the sailor's span of vision, immeasurable as it seems, is but the veriest trifle of our universe and his degree of comprehension but a meagre estimate of the power and glory of the Omnipotent.

Like the boundless deep which the sailor views are the possibilities which human life may achieve and which have through all the ages stirred the soul of man and allured him onward to ever increasing attainments. This is found to be true in looking over the pages of ancient, mediaeval and modern history; in our perusal it is often observed, that in the lives of her great men, may be read the nation's history. Their deeds, like ether, pervading the inmost natures of their fellow-men, not only touch but tint them.

This is the result of their power of successfully grappling with the possibilities which are presented and of their consequent wide influence; yet every individual has his share in creating the conditions of his time, every individual wields his own sceptre "for weal or for woe" and cannot but leave his touch on the time in which he lives.

It was this great expanse of possibilities which led Oliver Cromwell, an obscure, industrious, common-place farmer, to assume the leadership of the Puritan Revolution and to become

finally the organizer and the energizer of the English Government.

Early in the seventeenth century there arose in England a great religious movement called Puritanism and England virtually became the people of a Book; a little later on, this great religious movement became a powerful factor in the House of Commons and religious strifes were prevalent throughout the realm.

Chas. I, then King, with no principle, and entirely lacking in all kingly attributes, was unable to avert the coming catastrophe.

The struggles of the Empire increased, every expedient for quelling the movement failed and the King was driven to accept the last resource.

He raised an army made up of the higher classes and the gay young men who disliked the Puritan strictness, and invested his nephew Rupert with almost kingly power, relying mainly on him for the protection of his kingdom.

For a time he was successful, everything went before the onslaught of the cavaliers, and now, flushed with his many triumphs, the King prepares for one more battle which is to end this strife forever. He stations his cavalry at the foot of a slight elevation and with his infantry on the right, awaits the Puritans. All is in readiness.

Hark! in the distance is heard the notes of a familiar hymn and sturdily marching onward is discerned a moving mass of humanity; they are the Ironsides - the plow-boys, apprentice lads and shop-keepers consolidated into the regiment of "Puritan Dragoons" under the indefatigable leadership of Oliver Cromwell. Nearer they come; the hymn has ceased; they fall into battle array, and now the fight begins.

Rupert charges uphill and the Puritan wing is utterly

