

James McPherson, a graduate of the Class of 1954, is the author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*, a book that won a Pulitzer Prize and sold more than six hundred thousand copies. *Battle Cry of Freedom* and other books that followed it, helped launch an unprecedented national interest in the Civil War. Mr. McPherson says that the issues of the Civil War are still important in American society today: regionalism, resentment of centralized government, debates about how powerful the national government ought to be and what role it ought to play in people's lives.