

# Righteousness on the Cheap: the American Academy in 2017

by Christopher DeGroot



Miss Martha Carey Thomas' portrait by John Singer Sargent

"The mainspring is vanity, assisted by the love of garlic and bread and butter." –*Thoreau*

All across America, the academy is striving to rename itself; from the names of colleges to the statues that line campuses, language must be cleansed of racism and of white privilege, vices which are as deathless as vampires, and of a myriad

other evils on an ever growing list of historical affronts to the present puritanical mind. What energy, what diligence, what commitment! Pay heed, Mr. Pichai, and you too, Mr. Zuckerberg