

(Applause.) Young gentlemen, and young ladies, too, I wish you well; from the very bottom of my heart I wish you well; but I have to say to you that you have both of you much to do and much to learn before you attain to such a standard as I have indicated. Now, I am very well aware that in saying this I am exposing myself very freely to hostile criticism. Men of small hearts and smaller intelligence will always be ready to cry down any project which aims at large improvements in human life as utopian and impracticable. Others of a better class who know the difficulties which beset such schemes will be apt to pronounce this a "devout imagination," as Murray said to John Knox when the great reformer proposed to wrest the Church lands from the grasp of the greedy Scottish nobles for the purpose of educating and civilizing the Scottish people, and carrying out the real object of the original donors. To such I say, Pause and consider. We are living in a period of transition. Forces are at work around us and in society of which we do not as yet half realize the real force. Within these last fifty years we have advanced by leaps and bounds in all matters pertaining to mechanical science. We have done more in that direction in the last half century than had been effected in the preceding two thousand years, or twice two thousand. We have actually and

#### LITERALLY REALIZED THE WILDEST FANCIES

of our poets. We have almost annihilated time and space. We can go in six days a distance which would have required many months of painful travel a few years ago. We can literally put a (telegraphic) girdle round the earth in forty minutes. News of the result of a famous boat race which took place in London at three in the afternoon was once known in New York before ten o'clock in the morning of the same day. The telegraph, you see, came up with Time and passed him on the ocean. Nay, it is scientifically possible (and it may, one of these days, become an accomplished fact) that I, speaking in this very hall as I do now, might at the self-same moment of time make my words heard by a hundred other Young Liberal Clubs sitting in a hundred different places hundreds of miles apart throughout the Dominion, as, indeed, I probably will in a sense through the press. Sir, I believe it is true that in some departments of industry one man, with the aid of machinery, can do the work which a thousand men would fail to do without, and it is computed by Mr. J. S. Mill that to-day three hours' intelligent labour on the part of each adult would provide the whole population of most civilized countries with all the necessaries and most of the comforts of life. It is true Mr. Mill adds this—the saddest of all possible reflections—that, notwithstanding, it is doubtful if, so far, all these wonderful inven-