

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

WE are met today to do honour to the memory of our glorious dead. From time to time, as one by one they have fallen on the battlefield, passing on the torch to those who succeeded them, we have commemorated their individual achievements and sacrifice; we have thanked God that they met the supreme test and were not found wanting, and have asked Him to fill the hearts of their sorrowing loved ones with the Divine consolation.

To-day our purpose is somewhat different. As we sit here quietly in God's house, we desire to recall them vividly to our remembrance, and to enter into communion with them. To-day we want to look at these sixty heroic souls in the mass, as a company, just as we might look upon our Cadet Corps, to which they once belonged, drawn up for inspection. If you can imagine them standing before us in serried ranks, eager to spring to action at the commander's voice, animated by a single purpose, moving as a single living force, unterrified, confident, resolute to achieve, you will begin to understand the power of their unified spirit, and the tremendous spiritual energy that they have bequeathed to us, and to this beloved land in which we dwell. Are we worthy of this bequest? Are we capable of putting it to its intended use?

What is the intended use of this spiritual power of the group, which is like the power of confined waters ready to fall with immense impact upon the assembled turbines for the release of mass energy and the creation of light to lighten up the dark places of the earth, and by its radiance to dissipate evil? As it was the purpose of our men when they went to war to fight against a great and threatening power of evil, so it is the purpose of this grouped spiritual power bequeathed to us through the sacrifice of these heroic lives that we should bind ourselves into a fighting force to strive against the kingdom of evil in our midst.

What is this kingdom of evil? When those of us who are no longer young were children, the kingdom of evil was represented in our minds by the terrible Satanic individuality of the Devil, who went roaming up and down the world seeking whom he might devour; little children, those who had grown aged and strong men and women who knew not God. All sin was personal and all evil individual.

But in our day we have come to recognize more clearly than