

would be to the most sacred institutions of the land, were it to become general. He that is a moral coward is in special danger of becoming a liar. But the liar is not only the basest, but the most pernicious of men.

But there is another view of our subject which has a peculiar claim on your attention. If you are to carry moral courage with you into active life, you *must cultivate it now*. I do not presume to say what the grace of God, and the discipline of circumstances may in future do for a lad who is passing through College, with the well marked traits of moral cowardice deepening in his character; yet, surely the promise is not great for his future course. It ought, assuredly, to be our aim, not merely to make you scholars, but to educate you thoroughly. But we would feel that we were doing this very imperfectly, were we not to labor with our whole heart to train you to be morally brave. For it is fixed in my soul, that without moral courage, no amount of learning or intellectual improvement can ever make you great or useful in the world. The learning that but sharpens the wits of an unprincipled man, only makes him more wicked, or more mischievous.

But, my young friends, you need moral courage for immediate use. Many of you have lately left the parental roof. Not a few, I trust, have carried thence much godly counsel, and have been sent forth with many earnest prayers. These are, indeed, precious means for future well-being. Yet, I entreat you to beware, lest these and other means may be all neutralized by the influence of godless companions. I do not know that there are any vicious young men attending this institution; yet, where so many are together, it is not uncharitable to suppose that there may be some whose example it would be dangerous to imitate. If there be such, let the virtuous be upon their guard against this ill influence. Friendships formed at College have much to do in giving color to a man's future life.—I need not say, if good companionship be unspeakably beneficial, wicked companionship is exceedingly injurious.—This, indeed, may insidiously gain such an influence over even a youth of virtuous principles, as gradually to undermine them. In most cases this is not done suddenly, nor without frequent resistance. The well instructed youth sees danger in the allurements to vicious courses, and for a time struggles against them. He cannot, at once, forget