

the unfoldings of thought and judgment; the quick and dull, the painstaking and the careless. And there they play, in complete forgetfulness of the difficulties of ten minutes ago, or of the ten minutes to come, shrieking and sliding in aimless exuberance of animal spirits, till the bell brings a sudden calm. And it is for you to remember that the greater number of all that crowd will grow up to play a man or woman's part in the world; not really lost in the multitude, though lost to your sight; but individual centres of light or darkness, happiness and pain. It does not need a strong imagination to catch a glimpse of the importance of the teachers function over that mass of palpitating life and possibilities. But familiarity, the daily round, may dull the edge of the idea. It may vulgarize our point of view.

Anyone may take a vulgar view of their life-work—you of yours and I of mine. And the only way to be saved from dropping down into it is to set a high ideal before yourselves, and to cling to it. Whether it be high or low it will, without your knowing it, color all your actions, affect all the tone of your life. What should yours be? Shall it be this? "My life-work is to get my pupils to satisfy examiners, to earn the largest grant, and ultimately to preside over one of the most important of schools." There is nothing in that but what you may wish with an honest ambition desire. But it is a narrow aim. And, even if all here present could attain it, which in the nature of the case cannot be, I think it is not the aim that you, with your hearts' young and generous, would be satisfied to set before you as the end of it all.

Or, there is another ideal. "I

have to train the faculties of these children, to refine their tastes and manners, to mould their tempers, to aim, as far as my reach goes into their lives, at building up in them the highest type of character that the world has ever seen—the Christian type." There is no nobler aim for a life's work than so to spend and be spent for God and man.

Will you, then, set this before yourselves now? For now is the time. Not to wake up later to feel, "Well, I have gained this and that, and I stand where I wanted to be; but I could have done better, yes, if I had the years over again; I would lay down my honored place just to be as this one or that, whose name is not known like mine, but who, God knows, will leave the world better than he found it."

Set the highest ideal of your work that you know before you—the divinest, "To the glory of God," written in gold all across it. And then you will yield to no one in your desire and effort that every child shall have the opportunity of the best means of getting knowledge; but education will for you always mean something deeper than that. It is a poor cramped view of a great profession that would lead you to think that your part is to store the brain with facts, and let others pay attention to disposition and conduct. You cannot separate life off into compartments like that, even if you wished to. All the day long you are affecting morals as well as mind. These are not clever animals you face, with their quick observant eyes. Through those eyes there looks out on you a living soul, with a future that stretches beyond what is seen and temporal, able "to glorify God and to enjoy Him for ever."