

days of ignorance have been numbered; and the representative whose mind is a "tabula rasa," must stand with an "orê clausô. He is powerless to do his countrymen any good; and he lessens them in the estimation of strangers, because he is assumed to be a fair specimen of his race. I implore you then, as you regard the honor of your country, to make good use of the opportunities you now have at this University. But why, it may be said, is there greater reason for this preparation as statesmen now than before? Have we not seen men in our own Assembly who could not speak or write ten words of English correctly—who could not tell you whether William the Norman was the last of the Barons or the first of the Guelphs, and would hesitate to decide whether Rome was in Greece or Athens in Italy—who knew nothing of Governments or Constitutions, or Parliaments or precedents—have we not seen such men holding the highest positions, and sitting in the Councils of the country? *True, you have. But the times have changed.* This very University, during the last eight years, has sent forth into the country a number of intelligent young men who are already making their mark. The other institutions of learning have also done the same. This very day more are going out.* Education is being more generally diffused and more appreciated. Your competitors will be more able and more numerous. But above and beyond this, our Provincial position has changed. We are no longer members of the scattered sections of a wide domain—we are no longer isolated in our interests or our powers—we are no longer the sole arbiters of our own Fate. Our actions hereafter influence not ourselves alone, but others. Let us look at that position calmly, in reference to the new duties which devolve upon us. Let us look at it under the stern aspect of reality,—not *as to what we would or should have done, or left undone*,—not as to what prejudice would dictate, or what enthusiasm would suggest.

* Twelve Students graduated this day.