

determine their life-work, not from any choice in the matter, not because they love it, or have any peculiar adaptability for it, but simply through force of circumstances, or because of environment. There are very few men who have strength of character sufficient to rise triumphant over circumstances and environment, and with a calm, clear head choose the calling in life for which they are best adapted. There are men away back in the bush, far from centres of population, who have spent their lives in hewing down the forest, and tilling the virgin soil, who had they been educated, would have made professors in our colleges, and who would have left names upon the pages of history, of which the world would have been proud. And there are men in McGill University to-day for whom it would have been ten times better if they had remained upon their fathers' farms, and spent their surplus energy in tilling the soil, or working at the carpenter's bench. There are men in this church to-night who are mechanics, who should have been farmers, and there are machinists who should have been professional men. And there are young men here who are spending their lives as type-writers, clerks and commercial travellers, who should be

in college, and if they were there they would make their mark.

I know of a man who was a born machinist but at the earnest solicitation of his father he went to college. He took a brilliant college course of seven years. But at the end of that time he discovered that he had made a gigantic blunder at the very starting, in studying for a profession for which nature had given him no adaptability. He abandoned the whole undertaking, and went back to the work which he found more congenial, an older but a wiser man. Seven years of the best of that man's life were almost wasted, because he was switched off upon the wrong track, because he did not consider and act upon this fundamental principle laid down: for what am I qualified. Perhaps some of you feel like asking: How am I to discover my proper calling in life? My answer is that there is no cast iron rule or law by which a man can discover his proper sphere, but there are certain indications that will point him in the right direction. Nature generally stamps a man's destiny upon him in characters that will show themselves if carefully sought. There is one rule which I believe with some restrictions can generally be followed, and it is this: Follow