

they realize that the influences which they have endeavoured to set in motion here, will be furthered and strengthened by you in upbuilding the mental and moral fabric of society in our land.

Student days, so full of labour and so full of happy memories, for many of you have passed away. To-day you receive that diploma for which you have so long and faithfully laboured, and which opens to you the doors of a profession second to none in the wide world. This is the crowning day for the student, the commencement day for the teacher. The student has been running in a race for the prize, the teacher enters upon his race with high hopes, lofty ambitions, and a determination to leave the world wiser and better than he found it.

While I would not cast even that shadow which deep thought might bring over such happy proceedings as have called us together, yet I should prove recreant to duty were I to indulge in meaningless platitudes or paint pen pictures in order to tickle the fancy or afford amusement for a passing hour.

The importance of the step you have taken is too great; the requirements of the times are too exacting; the conflicts of life too pressing; therefore, even at the risk of being thought over serious and possibly pessimistic, I shall endeavour to call your attention, for a few minutes, to some of the signs of the times, and answer, if possible, some of the questions that will naturally arise in your minds, bearing upon your relationship to the world around you.

At no time in the history of mankind has the spirit of inquiry been so active and so dangerously in earnest as it is in this latter quarter of the 19th century; not even in the golden age of Roman thinkers and writers, nor in the times of the subtle philosophers of polished Greece, nor in those of the Renaissance, when all western Europe seemed in a nascent state, full of restlessness and dissatisfaction, and ready to leap into anarchy and rebellion at the first flash of the firebrands furnished by poverty, jealousy and crime.

These are days when the base-born and vicious by inheritance are beginning to use the leverage which the almost universal spread of education places within their reach, in order to make their influence felt from the foot of the throne which sometimes itself trembles at their heavy