

be a day of joy for us who have reached the summit, for us to whom it means not only promotion to a higher class, but advancement to a higher life, to whom it is the signal of fitness to receive a commission of trust in the great army of mankind? To the graduate commencement day means the realization of all his hopes; it is the land of promise reached. Such being our feelings to-night we can have no hesitation in saying that we are actually living the happiest day of our lives. And have we not good reason to rejoice? To-day, for the first time perhaps, we realize the inestimable advantages we have enjoyed. God has marked us out for the signal favor of a call to higher education, and, through the medium of kind, and devoted parents, He has placed at our disposal, the means of acquiring that precious boon, for which so many, less favored mortals vainly sigh. On our part, whether we turn our thoughts to the past, or stop to reflect on the present, we have very few regrets and many consolations: we have responded to that call, with right good will; we have always tried to make the best of every opportunity and have, in a measure at least, proved ourselves not unworthy of the particular blessings which have been given us; we have made it our aim, to employ our time to the best advantage, and to make it manifest at all times, that we never lost sight of the sacred duty imposed on us by the predestination of God; we have labored conscientiously year in, and year out; we have caught up something of the high-souled enthusiasm of these noble men under whose guidance it was our good fortune to have been placed; we have acted according to their maxims and have not despised their counsels, and consequently, now that the end has come we are satisfied that the honor conferred on us is not altogether unmerited. And what earthly satisfaction is there, fraught with such feelings of pleasure as that which arises from the consciousness of having deserved well an honor received!

But what is this honor of which we feel so proud? Herein is embodied the consideration which will perpetuate the happiness of this occasion. We claim as our Alma Mater, an institution, equalled by few and surpassed by none, on the continent of America. There is no doubt that the course of studies followed in Ottawa University is an excellent one, complete in every detail, com-