

intended for business, to obtain a university education economically and under special supervision."

At Edinburgh a recently endowed university chair is due to the wise liberality of the Merchants' Company; and Manchester, the great centre of trade and manufacturing industry, has now asserted its claim to a university of its own.

There is a noble future, I doubt not, before this young country, such as may well stir the hearts of youthful aspirants as they look into the coming time; but it can only attain to its true proportions under wise guidance, aided by all choicest experience of the past. Let us then dismiss all apprehensions lest knowledge

#### SHALL BE TOO WIDELY DIFFUSED,

and intellectual culture monopolize the social field. The dread of over-education may, indeed, well provoke a smile. Knowledge is, after all, a very relative thing. The most distinguished among our graduates will have learned little indeed if he has not made the discovery that all his knowledge is insignificant when compared with what remains unknown. He is but, as the wisest of England's philosophers has said, "like a boy playing on the sea-shore, who now and then finds a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lies all undiscovered before him."

In a highly educated community, such as we are far yet from claiming to be, the relative difference between the man of cultivated intellect and profound research and the average educated man will not be less, but more, than it is now. The whole national intelligence will be quickened and invigorated. Every truth gained is a vantage ground which reveals heights beyond. Truth springs out of truth, and knowledge begets knowledge. The student will then find himself furnished with more adequate means wherewith to grapple with loftier truths, and fathom profounder depths of mystery. As we look abroad upon a world which still, after all the progress of the ages, perplexes the thoughtful mind with its vast tracts of barbarism and moral night, it is not for us to bid back the kindling torch and court the gloom. With the graves of an unhistoric past beneath our feet, and the mystery of heaven's stars above us, it is for us to look upward and onward with the divine mandate as our motto which first called forth order out of chaos: "Let there be light!" The golden age of this new world lies before us; and while with filial yearnings we look back to that old Motherland from whence all that is greatest and best in our heritage has come, we will not the less cherish the assurance that the world's great future slumbers in our com-

ing time; that, "cast in some diviner mould," the new centuries may be made to shame the old. It is for you who still revel in all the joyous anticipations of youth, to shape the future of your country and realize the wondrous possibilities of this noble inheritance. Let mind then hold its legitimate place; for what is the worth of the most dexterous hand without the brain? Let all faculties

#### BE CULTIVATED TO THEIR UTMOST,

nor fear lest intellectual training should attenuate the muscle or unnerve the hand. Still less need you fear to plough the classic field, lest by over-cultivation you exhaust the soil. Its wealth is more inexhaustible than that of our Western prairies, destined, as we believe, to be the granaries of the world. To you especially who are now entering on college life, with all its ample opportunities and privileges before you, let me urge that the use you are about to make of them will influence your whole future career. The four years of your undergraduate course are the seed-time on which the future harvest of your life largely depends. And there are few sadder heritages of age than the retrospect of time misspent and opportunities lost. Of those who, like myself, have reached an age in which we look back upon life's opportunities as a treasure already expended, there are few, indeed, who do not revert with unavailing regret to wasted hours in which the wondrous possibilities of life's morning were allowed to pass unheeded, "and fade into the light of common day." Let me urge on you, then, to use wisely the opportunities now presented, with a high sense of your responsibilities. These you can scarcely over-estimate. Each one of you is a unit in the grand aggregate of the new generation on which so much of the future of Canada depends. To her, as you enter on your academic career, you take a vow of allegiance, the breach of which involves no less dishonour than that of the faithless knight whose sword was broken and the spurs hacked from his heels. It pledges you to a wise and diligent use of advantages of priceless worth, which the far-sighted providence of Canada secured for you while the *Missa-saga* savage still haunted our bay, and the virgin forest occupied the site of these halls. In your gratitude to her for such an inheritance, your vow may not unfitly be embodied in the greeting given from this place to the youthful Prince in which so many hopes centre as the future occupant of the throne; for we, too, would still glad'y identify ourselves and all that pertains to our young Dominion with the proudest hopes of the empire in all the triumphs of which we claim a share:

*Imperii spem spes provincia salutat.*