

duty to God and to man. It is necessary for you all not only to be stirred up to the keen pursuit, which I should be the last to discourage, of those prizes which are open to you, either at school, in college, or in life, but never to forget that there are higher enjoyments and higher duties connected with the due appreciation of knowledge for its own sake, and to remember that it is the effort to win, rather than the victory, which has real value. For while the victory in a competition may be the means of laying the mind asleep, and inducing it to rest upon what it has done, yet the effort, the true, honest, manful effort, whether it be successful or not, will have left its mark upon the character, will have left you more competent and more vigorous for the discharge of every other duty, and better disposed to face and grapple with the difficulties which in one shape or another must be your lot in life. Well, gentlemen, you are here destined for many careers, many of you, no doubt, following probably the example of distinguished parents, will devote your lives to the defence of your country in the military profession; some of you will find your way into the sacred profession, which has in other times been held to be one of the loftiest to which a human being could devote himself, and which I believe, so far from declining in its importance or in that true promise of internal reward that it offers, is becoming from day to day more and more arduous, and for that very reason more and more honourable, more and more attractive, as it ought to be, to honourable minds. Many of you will find your way into other professions; some of you will probably take part in the government of your country, but rely upon it that it is not for one of those professions alone, it is for all, that the benefits of education are intended. They all rest upon the same footing. They are all directed to the same end—the end of giving glory to God by the performance of duty, by the due use and full improvement of the faculties which He has given. In this process you are engaged; you are not the first generation of scholars that has passed the Wellington College,

but you are amongst the first. Let us think what this College is to be in future times. I do not entertain any doubt but that, as it has already taken, so it will permanently hold, a high and honourable place amongst the institutions of the country. I trust, and I believe, that generations hence, others, worthier I hope than I, may stand where I am now standing, to encourage the youth of that day, as I would fain encourage the youth of this day, to honourable, determined, and manful exertion."

MR. BRIGHT AT BIRMINGHAM.

The present Mayor of Birmingham, Alderman Collings, having occasion to inaugurate the opening of the new municipal building, did not seek, as is customary, to secure the presence of some royal or other distinguished personage for the occasion; but preferred to do it in a much more significant and praiseworthy fashion by inviting all the elementary teachers of that important midland town to a *conversazione*. This event is noteworthy as indicating the estimate in which the teaching profession is beginning to be held in England. Its importance was enhanced by the presence of Mr. John Bright, who made a speech on Education, the sentiments of which were quite in harmony with the occasion. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Bright said: "I beg to thank the Mayor for permitting me to be here to-night. I think that to see these rooms, to see this audience, to feel that I am in the presence of five or six hundred persons who are engaged in the honourable office of teaching in the elementary schools in Birmingham, is a great pleasure. The meeting I hold to be one of a peculiar and of a very interesting character. I do not know where such a meeting has been held before. Certainly, for myself, I have never been present at such a meeting, and I think the Mayor has acted wisely, kindly, and in accordance with his character, and in accordance with the course he has taken during his year of office, in asking the school teachers here to-night, on a night when these rooms are being opened for the first time,