

that they merit indulgent consideration at your hands. You know it is rather their misfortune than their fault to have been set over you. A Professor in Queen's College is reckoned a good life by the insurance companies. You are not in the habit even by way of occasional relaxation to while away the weary hours by baiting and worrying your professors. Instead of applauding as public benefactors and ministers of your harmless gaiety the rising wits who imp their young wings for further flights in the days to come by such practice, you hale them before your tribunals as it were by the hair of the head, and take summary vengeance upon them. I assure you I am no less delighted than astonished at this state of things. I hope it may continue among you and be copied in other institutions. I know some parts of the world where there is much need.

On the whole, then, I think the encouraging circumstances which I have to look to outweigh the reasons for misgiving. With a delightful subject, colleagues as kind as they are able, students orderly and attentive, attached to their teachers and their college, a professor in Queen's will have himself to blame if he fail to inspire interest in his work, at any rate one must do one's best with God's help.

The Chancellor has told you that this is not an inaugural address. It is merely an informal talk, and therefore it ought to have at least one great merit, the merit of brevity. Perhaps I ought now to close instead of entering on subjects which would require more space and more careful statement than I can bestow upon them now. But I should like to say just a very few words by way of commending to you the study of Greek.

Hitherto I have all along presumed that you were as much convinced as

I am myself of its value and importance, and you have indulgently permitted me to take for granted what perhaps I should in the first place have attempted to justify by some show of reason. For we all know very well that there are many people who think Greek is quite an antiquated subject. A very important member of a late English government, best known to the world as Mr. Robert Lowe, is reported to have once said among other remarks calculated to discourage the study of classics in general, and of Greek in particular, that the battle of Marathon was of no more significance to us than a coal-pit explosion. Another statesman used to maintain that one copy of the *Times* was worth more than the whole of Thucydides. Now these remarks, though expressed with unnecessary vehemence, not to say coarseness, pretty well indicate the attitude of many persons. There may be some even here who would say, What's Hecuba to us, or we to Hecuba? The Greeks are dead and buried, let them rest in peace. Let us read our own writers, especially the magazines and newspapers, and mind our own affairs. "The riddling Sphinx puts far things from our minds," as Sophocles says, "and makes us heed the trouble at our doors." There are so many practical wants, private and public, to attend to; life is too short to go back so far as Greece. There are so many things, too, desirable to be known, so much useful knowledge to acquire, that, before we embark on any study, we must ask what will be the practical result? What shall we gain by Greek—it is a troublesome study? There is a great deal of Grammar to be got up, and we find a very little of it goes a long way. Its dictionary is large and labyrinthine. In short, it is a very hard nut to crack, and before we hazard our teeth upon it, we want