

classical tradition, without which your University would be but a vain name, it is thoroughly adequate to the needs of modern life.

Those who came before you, and you, yourself, Rev. Rector, have understood that it behooved our common future to implant and propagate this double ideal of a higher education at once classical and practical. Some of us, akin to the luminous minds of Greece and Rome, enamored of form and measure, will always, through temperament, be found cultivating grace, beauty, contemplation, dreams in the full degree consistent with the requirements of lives craving little empire over things material, for they find elsewhere more subtle enjoyment. Others, full of conquering eagerness, will relentlessly bend their energies towards consecrating the sovereignty of unadorned matter, harnessing by ingenious inventions the forces of nature; mastering nature and compelling her to yield all the bounties which she jealously withheld from our forefathers.

You have here felicitously and judiciously blended in your system of instruction the cultivation of letters with that of sciences. You have even given to mathematics and sciences generally a preponderant importance. You have realized that, in this young and beautiful country of ours, which is evolving and developing with such marvelous rapidity, that branch of human knowledge, far from being infecund and barren, was productive of results which but yesterday were still undreamed of.

Allow me, now, Rev. Rector, to offer a bit of friendly advice to the students of the University of Ottawa. Gentlemen, you have the privilege of spending the first years of your life in contact with two races, and you are receiving here a bilingual tuition. Let the English speaking students improve the opportunity which is given them for learning how to speak and write French. In Europe, and more particularly in England, there is no really well educated man who is not familiar with the French language. Read yesterday's papers; it was in French that the President of the Peace Congress at The Hague, a Russian, addressed his colleagues, at the opening sitting; and it is also in the French language that will be conducted the proceedings of that imposing assembly. This gives you to understand what a marvellous mechanism the French language must be for giving expression to the human thought, since it is adopted as the language of diplomacy. Now, to master the French language is by no means an easy task; but, tell me, is it not, at your age, the spring-time of life, that one must learn how to overcome difficulties? Bear in mind that French is the mother tongue of two millions of