

and a sympathy would have been established between the good Queen and my countrymen that would have done more to solve the difficulties of the Irish problem than all the Viceroy's and Coercion bills that have ever been forced upon that unhappy country. As it is, I believe that she is our friend, and I cannot but think that a nature so noble and good must be in sympathy with the distressed and oppressed everywhere, and I would now ask this audience to join the choir in singing "God Save the Queen."

The request was responded to with much feeling, and Dr. Burns then addressed the class of graduates as follows:

Members of class '87, in calling your attention to liberty to-night I know that I am falling into line in the joyous march of every young heart. Much of the strength of young life is lost by a protracted use of swaddling bands. Many a wreck is thrown of life's shore through cowardly striking sail to one's fears. Many a youth with real genius and intellectual prospects sinks utterly from view through fear of venturing on seas unfurrowed by other keels. The whole genius of our day and our country bids us be free, and were I to give you an advice which would more than another secure for you a fee simple to the purest, deepest mental bliss, it would be: dismiss every mental formula, banish every mental restraint, and follow fearlessly the flashes of your own soul. There is no phrase of thought that is not legitimate to him who, with unsandaled feet and uncovered head, would approach God in search of light. That others have not left their footprints is the most tempting argument to enter and explore. It is a sad fact that in ordinary society the great bulk of human action may be anticipated, because all, but the few who retain their individuality and value their freedom, are simply echoes of others. They can hardly be said to have an opinion. They simply float with the current and, if noticed at all, it is through collision with some upstream stranger, whose counter movement indicates life and force. I know that you sympathize with my thoughts to-night, that you have no fears of a collision between nature and revelation, that the husk of ceremony and sacrament will not stop you on your search for the kernel. I know that you are all possessed of a broad Catholicity, that you not merely

believe that there is common ground for mutual co-operation, but that you will lend your influence to Christian union. Spend not the struggle of your young hearts in creating or strengthening shibboleths. May I say to you to-night, young ladies, that society expects something of you. Don't sink into inaction, even if your sphere should appear to be common-place. And, I beg you, don't stoop to become society ladies simply, like figures for millinery stores or creatures to grace an evening party. "Life is real, life is earnest." You cannot afford, even if your means would permit, to be moving figures to advertise the latest fashions. God has given you minds. He has given you advantages. I question if there is a more powerful influence in society than the earnest, loving words of a good woman. Gold, logic, eloquence, ambition have many a time spent their strength in vain, when the right words from loving lips have proved irresistible. I say not this to amuse or flatter, but to warn and exhort. Be not careless about appearance. The most powerful object on earth is a beautiful woman, and when beauty, wisdom and goodness are combined they form a trinity that both earth and heaven must acknowledge. To-morrow we shall as teachers and pupils be separated, but in affection more firmly bound than ever. You and ours, and we shall claim your victories and cover your defeats. May your friends be legion and your foes not be found. You have before you, I trust, many years during which your path shall "grow brighter to the perfect day," full of action, full of hope, full of victories, and when the days of valedictories shall have passed, and the grand reunion shall have come, may class '87 appear unbroken at the roll call of the skies.

### COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

(From the TIMES of June 21.)

The annual commencement exercises of the Wesleyan ladies' college took place at the Centenary church last night. It was a very brilliant affair and very largely attended by the friends of the college and the students. Rev. Dr. Burns, principal, presided, and there were upon the platform Rev. Mungo Fraser, Mr. Dennis Moore, Rabbi Birkenthal, Dr. Rosebrugh, Mr. J. M. Gibson, M.P.P.,