

cheers.) They do something to expel the corroding rust of idleness—that special temptation to a wealthy country—that deadly enemy in all countries to the body and soul of man. They get us over the first and most difficult stages in the formation of habits of which, in a proportion of cases at least, we may hope will endure and become self-acting. One other claim I must make on behalf of the system of examinations. It is easy to point out their inherent imperfections. Plenty of critics are ready to do this: for in the case of first employments under the State, they are the only tolerable safe-guard against gross abuses, and such abuses are never without friends. But from really searching and strong examinations, such as the best of those in our universities and schools, there arises at least one great mental benefit, difficult of attainment by any other means. In early youth, while the mind is still naturally supple and elastic, they teach the practice, and they give the power of concentrating all its force, all its resources, at a given time upon a given point. What a pitched battle is to the commander of an army, that the strong examination is to an earnest and able student. All his faculties, all his attainments, must be on the alert, and wait the word of command; method is tested at the same time with strength; and over the whole movement presence of mind must preside. If in the course of his after-life he chances to be called to make great and concentrated efforts, he will look back with gratification to those examinations, which more than any other instrument may teach him to make them. General remissness is not the besetting sin of our great town communities—least among them all of Liverpool. Nowhere is the pedestrian's pace more rapid than in her streets; nowhere is his countenance more charged with purpose. We live, ladies and gentlemen, in a wealth-making age. It may surprise you to hear, but I believe it to be unquestionably true, that more wealth has, in this little island of ours, been accumulated since the commencement of this present century, that is, within the lifetime of many who are still among us, than in all the preceding ages from the time, say, of Julius Cæsar. And, again, at least as much of it within the last twenty years as within the preceding fifty. Liverpool has had even more than her share in this great, almost portentous activity. Since I knew her she has scooped four miles of solitary shore into teeming docks; and I am told she is now about to add more miles to these. Out of the mere overflow of her wealth and energy the little hamlets that faced her in Cheshire have grown into a great and populous town district, larger, I believe, in population than she herself was at the commencement of the century. Her opulence has grown, I believe, in still greater proportions than her numbers. If we ask where is this to end, when will this marvellous process be arrested, when will this great flood tide begin to ebb, I for one, know not. I am by no means sure that we are even yet near high water. But with the impetuosity of this galloping career, with the wonderful development of such arts of life as bear directly upon enjoyment, there grow up continually a correlative class of dangers and temptations. "The world is too much with us; late and soon, getting and spending, we lay waste our powers." The world, in truth, becomes more worldly. It ties us down to earth by more and stronger cords; and to break them requires bolder and more assiduous effort. If we wish to secure our freedom of mind against the perils that environ it, this is not to be done by renouncing business or by abating energy in its pursuit; it is by balancing that activity with other activities. Yes, it may be replied; we ought to live in the world unseen as well as in the world we see. That is doubtless true, and for many whose opportunities

are small it is sufficient; but for this great community, whose opportunities are large, though true, it is not the whole truth. The entire nature of man is the garden which is given him to cultivate. We cannot as a nation, or as individuals, be well, if we do not provide for the soul as well as the body. But neither can we be well if we do not according to our means, provide for the mind as the soul. That is the principle enshrined and represented in this institution, as it is in every ancient university and college, and it must be in every institution which aspires to superintend and promote anything that deserves the name of the higher education. And why should not Liverpool—why should not commerce—afford a field favourable to art, literature, and science, as much as to philanthropy and religion? Half a century ago the name of this town stood high with respect to mental cultivation. There is nothing in the pursuits of the merchant that ought to preclude the pursuit of mental refinement. The day's work is not so long, nor the anxiety so constant, as to wear out the whole stock of energy that a vigorous English nature can command. In Greece, the state which took its place at the head of literature and philosophy and art was noted for its encouragement of trade. The best products of Sicily and Italy, of Cyprus and Egypt, of Lydia and Pontus, and every other country, flowed, says Xenophon, into the markets of Athens, which ruled the sea. Hither, says Thucydides, come the products of all the earth; and Pericles and Alcibiades were not ashamed of superintending extensive manufactories which they owned. In Florence, the true Athens of modern times, many of the nobles were among the most conspicuous merchants. And when Holland took the place of Italy at the head of the commerce of Europe, art and science and learning walked in the noble train of liberty, and the University of Leyden, founded in memory of the heroic efforts of her citizens in their struggle for freedom, took its place, even in that little country, among the very foremost of the Universities of Christendom. We now speak with deserved respect and gratitude of the learned labours of Germany; but those who observe the German names and German firms which have established themselves in the commercial communities of England will readily understand that no country is making advances more marked than theirs in the path of enterprise. If, then, as I am persuaded there are, among you, my younger friends, those who, destined to the pursuits which have made this great emporium famous, have in tasting of the cup of knowledge acquired the desire for longer and deeper draughts; if one of you can say with Virgil of his Muses, "Quarum sacra fero ingenti percussus amore," there is no reason why he should regard the beginning of business as the end of culture; but let him rather resolve that, though it be but in fragments of his time, he will woo his studies with a life-long love. (Cheers.) And now forgive me if, using the melancholy privilege of age, and addressing some words specially to you who are still so young, I seem to assume that in youth you may learn more rapidly from others some lessons which you would acquire at greater cost and more slowly for yourselves. To each and all I would say that God hath sent no one of you into the world without a work ready for him to do, and faculties wherewith to do it. What this work is, reflection, or parental guidance, or a kind of instinct may have told you. If it has not yet been discovered in its specific form, you have only to follow this one rule—do your best, try to make the most of all your faculties; "whatsoever thy hand findeth to do," says the wise man, and in like manner whatsoever thy mind findeth to do, "do it with thy might." You would with justice think meanly of a boy, who did not, at cricket, or football, or any