

needed encouragement. You have spoken the language of dutiful students; of obedient sons educated in Catholic homes. You have voiced the sentiments of sons reared on the knees of noble-minded, pious and devoted mothers, who are and ever will remain, the pride of society and the bulwark of Holy Mother the Church.

Now obedient sons, such as you are and ever intend to be, deserve full well, a kind, zealous, just and square-minded father; and with the help of Him from whom all authority comes, such I will endeavour to be. You have a just claim on my devotedness and I may assure you that the best hours of my days are yours.

Look here, boys! Consider well my words! To-day, a bilateral contract is signed between you and me—a contract which might not receive much consideration in civil courts, but which, I trust and hope, is ratified at the very moment in the Supreme Court of Heaven. Here you stand the most willing contractees; and I, the most earnest contractor. From now, until the hand that placed me at the head of this Institution relieves me of the gilded burden, our relations will stand thus: God's holy will it is that I should command; God's holy will, again, that you should obey!

Now obedience is of paramount importance in the world. It is the golden key that unlocks the secret caskets of harmony in life. Where harmony fails, disorder prevails; where disorder abides, there is no peace, and where peace dwells not, unhappiness holds supreme and nefarious sway. I am not, I feel sure, nursing a false contention when I maintain that everyone here present wishes vehemently to be happy—you have a natural right to it. But to be happy one must necessarily climb a very rugged hill, reach and pass through the gate of Duty. You have, therefore, everything to gain and nothing to lose in doing your very best, in putting out your best effort to spend peaceful and useful days while at College. I need not develop this thought any further; I leave it to your upright judgement to draw a salutary conclusion.

Obedience, alas! is not always congenial to one's likings and fancies. Nay, it is often galling to nature. Though young in years, experience, that stern teacher of mankind, has taught you that lesson many a time already. Why, even at home under the eyes of loving parents, obedience often comes to you wearing sable garments! Yes, obedience is not always smiling; and allow me to say that I am to-day a living example in flesh and blood. Now, I don't want you to infer from this, that I assume charge