

MR. CHAIRMAN,

Gentlemen,

I have spent nearly forty years of my life with the young. I found my happiness in sacrificing my life for them and I did my best to give them a good intellectual and moral formation which I know to be as profitable to them as it would be beneficial to our beautiful and beloved country.

Those years were for me most happy ones; for I knew that these young men would later on give to others in proportion to what they had received, and that, if I had helped them, if I had devoted myself to them with my whole heart, their fruitful works would be partly mine, that a bond would always unite us, and that when I had passed away, my tomb would still speak on the earth, whilst my soul would enter on eternal rest.

I always tried to make them understand that they should not regard life as a theatre in which one has only to amuse oneself, that their youth was the seed time of life, the period during which habits are contracted which will last for ever, and that if they did not wish to be later on lost in the indifferent and forgotten crowd, if they wished to mark their place among their fellow citizens to make this place distinguished and predominant, they should accustom themselves to fulfill their duties, to acclimatize effort and sacrifice in their youth, so that these might bring forth every variety of fruit in their mature age.

Nothing will ever make me lose the remembrance of these laborious years, whose image is ever present to my mind, dearer than ever now that the day of life is declining.