

which are ever and anon at work to disturb calculations, which would have been accurate enough for quiet times, but which are insufficient for others.—(Loud cheers.) I think, therefore, that I have established the truth of the proposition, that men who aspire to exercise a directing and controlling influence in any pursuit or business, should be distinguished by a knowledge of principles and general laws. But it is in the acquisition of this knowledge, and more especially in its application to the occurrences of daily life, that the chief necessity arises for the exercise of those high moral qualities, with the importance of which I have endeavoured, in these brief remarks, to impress you.—(Cheers.) Allow me, therefore, in closing them, to offer you one word of advice and warning, and accept it as coming from a friend.—(Loud cheers.) Never forget that as you ascend, your responsibilities to yourselves and to society increase; that the higher you soar into that region of freedom of mind—the beauties and delights of which have been set forth with so much effect by the Rev. Gentleman behind me—the more necessary is it that your principles should be sound, your researches indefatigable, your judgment unclouded, and your affections pure. Nor need we be ashamed to borrow in this matter a lesson and example from the processes of vegetable life: for just in proportion as the tree rises from the earth, as it extends its branches and multiplies its leaves, as it enters into freer communion with the gale of heaven, and drinks in larger measure the dews of the morning and the rays of the noon-day sun; just in that proportion does it strike its roots deeper into the earth, and cling more tenaciously to the soil from which it derives the principles of life and vigour. For be assured that if it were otherwise, its elevation, how fair soever the show that accompanied it, would but prove the prelude to its fall.

