

it looks mainly for its prosperity. Remember that the very best School or College education can only fit you to make a practical use of your talents, and that in reality the work of education is never ended. Having completed your "course of study" here, you have only learned to use the powers of your mind to advantage.

Never, never suffer these intellectual and moral faculties; with which God has kindly endowed you for the noblest of purposes, to remain inactive; but after you have passed from school to the active duties of life, continue faithfully and systematically to use them for the advancement of yourself and for the benefit of society. Most of you I hope to meet again after a short vacation, and I expect to find you determined to succeed still better in your studies, and believe me that nothing shall be wanting on my part to render the time you may spend here pleasant, agreeable, and profitable.

To the young men that are now preparing for matriculation at the University, I would say that I admire your resolution, and heartily commend your choice, and I cannot help thinking that you will distinguish yourselves by your close attention to your studies and by your thorough mastery of the different branches of a College education; that your deep sense of moral and religious obligation will raise you high above the allurements of vice; and even after you have entered the duties of professional life you will not forget the moral and intellectual lessons which you have learned at the Colborne Grammar School. Years of hard toil, days and nights of deep anxiety are still before you; buckle on, therefore, manfully the student's armor, and never give up the glorious and ennobling contest till you have fully accomplished your object.

To you who intend to devote yourselves to the profession of teaching, I would say, never rest satisfied with inferior qualifications: labor hard both day and night till you gain honor and distinction as scholars and as original and vigorous thinkers.

Let the law of kindness regulate all your intercourse with your pupils; respect their rights and they will certainly respect you; and though you may fail at first, be not discouraged, but faithfully persevere in your course, and you may rest assured that abundant success will crown all your efforts. I know that you will pardon an allusion to myself. For the few years during which I have presided over the

operations of this Grammar School, I have not inflicted corporal punishment on a single student under my charge. But in my first attempts to govern, I signally failed, and no wonder, for I relied mainly on *physical force*. By repeated experiments I find that there is a higher force by which to govern than the one to which I have just alluded, namely, an *intellectual and moral one*, and by this alone should you attempt to govern your schools. Remember that the road to success ever lies through repeated failures, that with failure we learn to succeed better in our next attempts, and that what we do at first only very imperfectly we learn by and by to do well and without any my apparent effort.

In regard to all of you, I entertain high hopes and feel fully satisfied that Providence has destined you to take no mean position. I never have been better satisfied than I am with the progress made by you, and it is with pride and pleasure that I point you to the many useful, studious and excellent teachers who were once students of this Grammar School. In going away they have carried with them the spirit and principles which are so highly applauded in the address to which I have just listened, and when I consider that the students of 1860 are in every respect better qualified than those of any previous year, am I not justified in predicting that you will be eminently successful? That you may be as successful in performing the duties of your office, as you have been in your course as students is my fondest hope—my deepest and most earnest prayer.

Be assured that all your thoughts and actions shape your characters, mould your inmost souls, give a hue to all your feelings, tinge the operations of your intellects, and communicate themselves to the students under your charge, not merely during the fleeting years of an earthly existence, but through the countless cycles of eternity. Never under any circumstances lose sight of the interests of those who are entrusted to your care, but with all honesty and faithfulness, teach them to think deeply and systematically, to act nobly, and to endure bravely.

And now in conclusion, I would humbly and sincerely hope that a kind Providence may ever guide every one of you; watch over your destiny; keep you in the way of high and noble actions; impress upon you the absolute necessity of culti-

vating your noblest powers; make you an honor to your country and a blessing to the world; and at last after the joys and sorrows are at an end, translate you to that purer and holier land which it baffles all our powers to describe.

JAMES B. DIXON.

Colborne Grammar School, }  
December, 1860. }

THE COMET.

The new comet, which has been for some time in the vicinity of the northern celestial pole, is now rapidly descending to the ecliptic, traversing the arctic constellations lying northward of Leo and Cancer. It is readily discernible by the naked eye, and is distinguishable at present by its nebulous aspect. A telescope of moderate power reveals the existence of a tail of several degrees length. The following parabolic elements of its orbit, computed by Mr. Safford, of the Cambridge Observatory, give important information of its future career while it remains visible in our skies:—

Perihelion passage June 4, at noon, Washington.

Perihelion distance 0.9235 of the earth's mean distance from the sun.

Longitude of Perihelion.....242 deg. 30 min.  
" Asc. Node....29 " 15."  
Inclination.....8 " 14."

According to these elements it will reach the ecliptic about the 12th inst., crossing the same in the heliocentric longitude occupied by the earth on the 19th of April, and at a distance from the sun equal to that of the earth at that date. It will continue to approach the earth for a few weeks longer, and will reach its perihelion on the 4th of June. These circumstances are favorable for its becoming quite a brilliant object in the evening sky before it disappears. So far as is now known, the priority of its discovery belongs to the American astronomer, Mr. Thatcher, of New York.

THE NEW CREATION.—Every Spring God works countless wonders. (We do not call them miracles, because we see them every Spring.) Out of a little bud, he brings a branch with leaves, and flowers, and fruits. From a tiny seed he evolves a whole plant, with its system of roots and branches. And more wonderful still, we see springing into life a new generation of insects and creeping things, and birds and beasts. "In wisdom hast Thou made them all."