

tion,—the keen edge of the finely-tempered steel.

“But, after all, to use Walt Whitman’s rugged phrase, ‘That which enables a man to stand with aplomb before his fellow-men is character.’

“The pre-eminent note of Sir William’s character was, to my mind, his singleness of purpose, his simplicity. How incredibly far-off all meanness and baseness seemed from him. You might disagree with him, or think him masterful, but, as well grasp the poles and draw them together, as try to associate pettiness or self-seeking with him. In the pursuit of objects he thought worthy, he disdained no task, however trivial,—spared no sacrifice. And was there really anything in which Sir William was not interested? He seemed to catch the full zest of life as it passed, and let nothing find him blunted or dull, or weary. In Pater’s beautiful words:—‘To burn always with this hard, gem-like flame, to maintain this ecstasy, is success in life.’

“In one word, he was fit to be the example of the thousands of young men who frequent a university. That is a word of solemn import, to us who are set in posts of authority,