

broad, deep chest, and a stomach of whose existence he shall never know anything.' I should be well content with the prospects of a fellow so endowed.

"The other point which I wish to impress upon you is, that competitive examination, useful and excellent as it is for some purposes, is only a very partial test of what the winners will be worth in practical life. There are people who are neither very clever nor very industrious, nor very strong, and who would probably be nowhere in an examination, and who yet exert a great influence in virtue of what is called force of character. They may not know much, but they take care that what they do know they know well. They may not be very quick, but the knowledge they acquire sticks. They may not even be particularly industrious or enduring, but they are strong of will and firm of purpose, undaunted by fear of responsibility, single minded and trustworthy. In practical life a man of this sort is worth any number of merely clever and learned people. Of course I do not mean to imply for the moment that success in examination is incompatible with the possession of character such as I have just defined it, but failure in examination is no evidence of the want of such character.

"And this leads me to administer, from my point of view, the crumb of comfort which on these occasions is ordinarily offered to those whose names do not appear upon the prize-list. It is quite true that practical life is a kind of long competitive examination, conducted by that severe pedagogue, Professor Circumstance. But my experience leads me to conclude that his marks are given much more for character than for cleverness. Hence, though I have no doubt that those boys who have received prizes to-day have already given rise to a fair hope that the future may see them prominent, perhaps brilliantly-distinguished members of society, yet neither do I think it at all unlikely that among the undistinguished crowd there may lie the making of some simple soldier whose practical sense and indomitable courage may save an army led by characterless cleverness to the brink of destruction, or

some plain man of business, who by dint of sheer honesty and firmness may slowly and surely rise to prosperity and honour, when his more brilliant compeers, for lack of character, have gone down, with all who trusted them, to hopeless ruin. Such things do happen. Hence let none of you be discouraged. Those who have won prizes have made a good beginning; those who have not, may yet make that good ending which is better than a good beginning. No life is wasted unless it ends in sloth, dishonesty, or cowardice. No success is worthy of the name unless it is won by honest industry and brave breasting of the waves of fortune. Unless at the end of life some exhalation of the dawn still hangs about the palpable and the familiar; unless there is some transformation of the real into the best dreams of youth, dependent upon it whatever outward success may have gathered round a man, he is but an elaborate and a mischievous failure."

MR. GLADSTONE AT WELLINGTON COLLEGE.

Recently Mr. Gladstone, while on a visit to his son-in-law Mr. D. J. Medley, Head Master of Wellington College, Hants, was made the recipient of an address dwelling upon the interest with which his family connection with the school would be remembered in its history, and claiming his sympathy, as a friend of learning and education, for one of the youngest of English public schools.

Mr. Gladstone in reply said—"Mr. Medley and gentlemen, you have been pleased to say that this day is a day of great interest to you. I can assure you in return, with equal sincerity and truth, that it is, and is of necessity, a day of great interest to me. There are few, if any, days of greater interest, or of pleasure, and satisfaction, or days that one would more readily multiply, if opportunity permitted, than days in which those who have run their career, and that in my case a somewhat long career, are permitted to come into company and close contact with the young among their countrymen, with those who are passing through the same stage of