

great deal to do and to suffer ere the time arrives when "glory shall dwell in our land." You, my young friends, are the heralds of that generation. You will bequeath to it, as from father to son, your own opinions and your own practices. Many of you are not yet committed to the ways of the present age, and are not yet involved in its troubles and perplexities. You have no lee way to make up; you have no steps to retrace; you have not yet lost your vantage ground. Consider, then, the words I have spoken to-night, as being more particularly directed to you. I feel desirous now to address a few parting remarks to you, on something of far more importance than the things which perish with the using. I shall come short of my desires if I succeed only in bringing you to reflect on worldly matters—on time without reference to eternity—on means without reference to an end. Somehow or other I feel impressed with the responsibility of the situation in which I have voluntarily placed myself; and as it is not likely that I shall ever have such an opportunity again, I am desirous that my parting words may leave some permanent impression behind them. Recollect then, that you have all one great Creditor, to whom you are all indebted, whom you cannot defraud, and who will one day require from you his own with usury. The talents which He has committed to your care are various and numerous. Some of them are splendid talents indeed, comparable to fine gold. There is the talent of Reflection, by means of which we prove all things. Be not deceived by the maxims of the world—try them and see what they are made of. The delicate sieve of a reflecting mind, guided by the standard of God's holy word, will sift these maxims through and through, and as it parts with the offspring of the weed and the thistle, will preserve nothing but the precious grain. If on calm and sober reflection, you find these maxims to be good, then hold them fast, lay them up in the treasury of a faithful and believing heart—practise them in the daily business of an honest vocation. If on the contrary, you find these maxims nothing but chaff, then let the wind drive them away. And then there is the talent of Moral Firmness, which will enable you to hold fast the things proved to be good; and this talent, put into the hands of Perseverance, will bring you safely through many a dark and troubled day. There are the talents of Benevolence and Generosity, twin sisters of the rarest beauty. Let these be kept ever active by a Love which recognises every man as a brother, and let all be guided by the hand of a wise Discrimination. There is the talent of Temperance, which, alas! is now so often hid in the earth.