

A WORD TO STUDENTS.

I would wish, in conclusion, to address a few words to the students of the university, and especially to the young men, and to say these, not in any spirit of monition or of mere authority, but as a student speaking to students. And first I would say that I am no pessimist. I have a lively and often painful sense of the evils and troubles that beset educational work, and of the manifold imperfections of the work itself. But I believe in its ultimate success, and in the final prevalence of good, and I am very sure that the times in which we live are better than those which have preceded them. Least of all am I disposed to indulge in any gloomy anticipations as to the future of this country. I know what Canada would be if it could be put back into the condition in which it was fifty years ago, when I was as young as the youngest among you; and reasoning from that I can scarcely imagine how far it may be in advance when you shall have attained to my age. I made in the summer of 1883 a little excursion along the Pacific railway as far as Calgary, and became aware that a region which we used to call the "fur countries" and the "Hudson's Bay territory," and which we used to regard as an inhospitable abode of wild Indians and wild beasts, had become a part of the civilized world, a home for future nations and one of the great food-producing regions of the earth. Next year I may take, if I feel so

disposed, a pleasure trip to the Pacific, nay more I shall be able to go around the whole world, without the necessity of passing from under the British flag, or of being where the English language is not spoken. And this will be a result of Canadian enterprise, and a mere beginning of a greater growth and progress. The young men of to-day may truly be congratulated on the circumstances in which they enter on the active work of life, and on the wider and greater world which belongs to them, as compared with that which was open to us, their predecessors. You have also vastly greater educational advantages. When I was a young man I had to go abroad for a scientific training far less perfect than that which you now enjoy at home. But the wider sphere open to you requires a broader and deeper culture. The battle of life will not be less severe because its area is greater and its progress swifter. The young men of to-day require a better training than that of the generation now passing away, while they need as earnest purpose, as strong determination and as true hearts. May God grant that all these requirements may be realized in your present training and your future work for your own good and that of your country.

At the conclusion of the address Rev. Dr. Cornish rose, and on behalf of the university made a few remarks expressive of the great value of the lecture, and concluded by moving a vote of thanks to Sir William Dawson, which was carried amid much applause. The gathering then dispersed.

