

will scarcely find one of these names which did not early in life give a prophecy of the greatness now universally recognised. Yes, great is the honour God puts on young men, and therefore I head this chapter by the inquiry, "How a young man can prepare for the opportunities of the age."

Rich opportunities there are. Society is favourably disposed towards young men. The bar, the senate, the pulpit, the place of power in commerce, are open to young men as they never were before. Without the patronage which other days demanded, character and acquirements will secure the highest civil positions. In business and professional life society will entrust the most important interests to the hands of young men, when it is believed they will be safe there. This is a new and grand feature of our age. There is, however, scarcely one man in ten who makes the most of himself for the purpose for which he was created. What noble youths come out of schools and colleges! How few afterwards make their lives noble! With what prospects do many enter upon business and professions, and afterwards sink into the grave with scarcely a trace to indicate that they ever lived! There have been thousands who could have rivalled the patriotism of Hampden, or the humanity of Howard, or the eloquence of Chatham, and who have left behind them no one memorial of their