

REV. DR. J. L. MURRAY'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,—It is with pleasure, and yet with diffidence, that I venture to address a few words to you on this interesting occasion. The occasion itself is eloquent with pathetic suggestions, and your hearts are now deeply stirred with them. You view the close of your college life with mingled feelings of regret and hope. It is with deep emotion you contemplate your separation from each other and from this distinguished college, with its happy and hallowed associations ; and especially from your gifted, cultured, Christian professors, whom you have learned to love and revere.

In looking back on the happy years which you have spent together here, you see many causes for joy and gratitude, and, perhaps, some causes for regret. Most of all, from the consciousness, perhaps, that you did not take full advantage of your opportunities for the deepening of your own spiritual life and that of your fellow-students. In future you will see more clearly than you now do what a spiritual power one signally consecrated young man may become among his companions.

Enough about regrets. The past is past ; and it is irreparable. The future is before you ; and you rightly look forward to your life work with the ardent hopes of devoted Christian young men. May such hopes be realized in full measure.

The department of service in the church of God to which you feel you are called is of the highest importance. A commission from God to preach the gospel of salvation is the greatest charge received by man. It is from the highest source, and it is related to the highest interests—God's message of mercy to man. There, in the broadest sense, it is the privilege of all to receive the message, and it is the privilege of all to carry the message to others. "Let him that heareth say, come." Yet the history of the Church clearly proves that all who receive the message are not to take the responsibility of publicly preaching it. It has been the will of God from the