

LORD STRATHEONA

dressing young men, in whom he always had a deep interest, and his speeches ring the changes on a few simple practical counsels. The following are examples:—

“Be content with your lot, but always be fitting yourself for something higher.”

He had no sympathy with that theory of life which regarded a man's condition as fixed and unchangeable. A man should be content in whatever place it had pleased God to put him, but he should not be content to stay in it if he could fit himself for something higher and better. The contentment which destroys a legitimate ambition is fatal to success. A classification of society that ignored merit, and the bounds of which could not be broken, would have no support from Lord Stratheona. Each place might be the training school for a higher place, and while it was all right to be cheerful and content in it yet one must not overlook the possibility of advance and earn it by the faithful and conscientious discharge of its duties. There is no better way. There are some examples, it is true, of men being advanced by favor and influence and “pull” but these are the exceptions. The rule in the practical world where things have to be done is to give positions to those men who have proved that they can do them. “Fit yourself for something higher”—that is the sound advice. He practised that himself. In the humble position in which he first found himself he won recognition by the way he did things. He made no great leap to the top. He had no friends at