

time to better the condition and gladden the heart of some loving parent, has obviously such high aims and pure motives, that he will not be cowed by difficulties, or appalled by ordinary disappointments in the prosecution of his studies. But, gentlemen, be your aims in life what they may, you cannot dispense now with the all-efficient motives of religion. For rest in this, that no mere literary enthusiasm or worldly ambition, family pride or parental encouragement, will minister such succors to the student struggling under difficulties as he will find in the principles of piety, when these have taken fast hold of his understanding and conscience. When young men fail under difficulties in College, the failure oftener arises from a want of high principles to fall back on in the evil day than from a want of other resources.

No one can be required to overcome impossibilities; difficulties not impossibilities, are what labor and patience can overcome. Yet sloth or cowardice often mistakes the former for the latter. The mistake is every way mischievous, for in what is possible and rationally feasible, pious men should not be afraid of failure, or be perplexed in their work by the apprehension of defeat. They go to their work in God's name, engage in it for His glory, conscience approves what they do, and they can ever look to Heaven for a blessing. Yet such men will not pray that they may have no difficulties; their prayer will be for strength to overcome them. The old monks had a saying, that to labor is to pray. The sentiment needs correction; yet, assuredly, he who prays to be freed from all labor and difficulties, has a faith as questionable as his practice will be futile. Pray for strength, not only to overcome your difficulties, but pray that these very difficulties may be made subservient to an increase of moral and intellectual strength. I take leave to say, that he that flings up his task, when difficulties appear, will not labor well in this place, and will prove but a poor laborer in any place. Such men are ill qualified for the work that has to be done in a world of toils and confusion; and I must add, not well qualified, I fear, for doing work in any world. It should be broadly stated that the workmen that the church and the world need, are men who do not ask, when a noble task is to be done, what are its difficulties, but simply what are its duties. Such men look to God for His blessing, go earnestly to work, and leaving consequences with Him, they generally find that as their day is, so is their strength. And when the day closes, they find they have done work that will bear to be looked at.

I have thus, gentlemen, endeavored to illustrate the prin-