

fore, with feelings of high satisfaction that I now contemplate your return, after your labours here, to the bosom of that peaceful home where the loving and the beloved are expecting you, and which is associated in your minds with so much that is beautiful and tender. The season you are to spend there, let me remind you, is a precious one—precious in many ways, but precious above all for the opportunity of reviving and cultivating those domestic feelings and affections which it is so delightful to indulge, and which communicate to the character a nobleness and grace which nothing else can impart. Let me trust that you are now leaving us with a deep sense of the high privilege of having a home of love to revisit; and that when you again meet father and mother, and brothers and sisters, in that home, it will be your earnest concern to add to its joys by all those untiring expressions of interest in its scenes, and of affection to its inmates, which give a charm to home which makes it unlike all other places on earth. Go, and draw closer yet the solemn and tender bonds of domestic love. Go, and render a more cordial obedience than you have ever yet rendered to the precept, "Honour thy father and thy mother." They who, some months ago, sent you forth from them with anxious hearts, will be delighted to receive you back, grown in wisdom, but it will delight them more to observe that you have grown in goodness. There may be some distinctions which you are cut off from acquiring; but here is one you may all aspire after and attain—that of being a dutiful son. It is a noble one. It is recommended to us by the most touching of all examples. Among the few things recorded of the youth of Our Lord is his dutiful affection to his parents: "He went down to Nazareth, and was subject to them."

You are now looking forward to the scenes to which I have referred, eagerly looking forward to them; I should sympathise with you if you could not, and if for you there were no happy home to receive you. You are naturally looking forward with many a delightful anticipation; but let us look back for a little upon the course of College life and activity you have just passed through. The retrospect will awaken different feelings in different individuals. There is a high happiness attendant on the diligent discharge of duty; there is a corresponding misery accompanying the neglect of duty. Those of you who, seconding the efforts of your Professors, and regarding the wishes of your parents, have zealously devoted yourselves to the prosecution of your studies, and made large advances in learning and science during the past months, are now reaping a high reward in the consciousness of well-doing; to you the retrospect of the session is attended with elevation and pleasure. But with you who have neglected the proper work of this place, and frittered away your precious hours and opportunities in idleness and folly, how different is the case. Your residence here has been anything but agreeable; and now the review of it, unless you are lost to a sense of everything noble, is stinging you with regret, and covering you with shame. To both classes a word of counsel may at this time have its use. Let not those of you who have laboured strenuously and successfully during the session be lulled asleep, at this point in your career, by the satisfaction you feel in the attainments you have made. If you feel pleasure, as you rightly do, in having done well, let this be an incitement to you to do better. Count not as though you had already attained, but press on after new acquisitions in those paths which you have already found so inviting, and which you will find the more inviting the farther you proceed; for here we can never know the sadness of feeling that we have nothing more to acquire—here the higher we climb, the grander and more beautiful the objects that reveal themselves to the eye.

"Hills peep o'er hills, and Alps o'er Alps arise.

And let not those of you who are smarting under the consciousness of having failed in the duties of this place, and who now see your-

selves outstripped in the race where you, too, might have run well, think that because much has been lost, all has been lost. It is not so; there is no cause for your being thus hopeless. Yet seek not to drown those accusing thoughts which are now rising in your minds. Painful as they may be, welcome their presence and continuance. They may thus, by the blessing of God, be ministers of good to you. They may break the chains of those frivolous and slothful habits which are destroying you, and we may yet see you recovering the advantages you have lost, and giving promise of being as much a credit to your College as you now threaten to be its reproach. God is speaking to you in those accusing thoughts, but not as he will one day speak to you if you shall continue to disregard his warnings. Remember that to the slothful, there at length comes a time when it is too late to repair the mistakes they have committed, and all that remains is bitter and unavailing regret. Be thankful if this time has not yet come to you, and shew that you are thankful for this mercy by hastening to repair the evil which is now giving you pain, lest a worse thing befall you—lest the die with you be cast, and your prospects of usefulness and happiness be forever darkened.

Your Professors have pointed out the new studies that should engage you during the summer recess, but let it also be one part of your employment in that season, to review with care the acquisitions you have made during the past winter. This you will find most important to you. It may look like a staying of your progress, but it is not so; it is the way to ensure and accelerate your progress. It is not by the amount of what we do in any science, but by the amount of what we do well in it, that we are to estimate our proficiency. It is thus our wisdom to go back again and again upon first principles, nor once to think that we do well in proceeding onwards, until we are sure that there is nothing on the ground we have already passed over which we have not comprehended and stored up for ready use. To build high, we must dig deep; and when we have laid our foundations well, we must carry up the edifice with equal care, laying no new course until we have ascertained that all is solid and compact beneath our hand. Even such is the way in which we must proceed with our studies; and while our progress may appear to be less rapid, it will be more real, while it will communicate that spring and animation to our minds which we always feel when we know that we are working to purpose, not labouring in vain, or spending our strength for nought.

When you look around you, and see that the great majority of mankind must be contented to pass their life in comparative ignorance, being debarred by their circumstances from intermeddling with those high and ennobling pursuits in which it is your very calling to engage, you must surely feel that the lines are fallen to you in pleasant places—that you have a goodly heritage. Whether you thus appreciate your lot or not, it is a truly favoured one. If regard be had to that development of character which is the accompaniment of the education you are now receiving, to that expansion and invigoration of the intellectual faculties which it secures, and to the stores of literary and scientific wealth to which it gives access, it seems impossible to over-estimate the advantages that are placed within your reach. To the importance of a University education, as preparing you for entering with advantage upon the prosecution of those honorable professions to which you purpose to devote yourselves, it is unnecessary to refer; but I may be allowed on an occasion of this kind, to glance at its importance in some other points of view. You are familiar with the philosophical maxim, that "knowledge is power." The sound knowledge, the solid learning, which you here acquire, will be power to you, supplying you with a constant and inexhaustible fund of pure and elevated enjoyment, enlarging your means of doing good, protecting you from many evils, and especially preparing you to grapple with the great practical

questions of those perilous times in which our lot has been cast. The motto of our University is, "Sapientia et doctrina stabilitas," and like all the sayings of that book from which it is taken, it contains a most important truth, a truth which those occupying prominent stations in public life would do well, at this crisis in our history, deeply to ponder. In wisdom and learning—I mean as including what is sacred as well as what is secular—in this wisdom and learning is stability; they alone afford us firm and unyielding footing; they alone support our hearts, gentlemen, and they will afford you this footing, nor shall that rash and reckless empiricism, by which so many are now suffering themselves to be carried away, they know not whither, have any power to unsettle you. The discrimination which true wisdom and learning impart, the calmness and sobriety of mind which they produce, will enable you to disentangle the confusions, to see your way through the mists, of that confident and blind empiricism; and while you may be unable, in the dark and cloudy day of its strength, to save others from drifting from their moorings and being lost, yet fixing your own anchor in the firm ground of everlasting truth, you shall yourselves ride out the tempest, nor suffer disaster from its violence, until He who sitteth upon the floods, who sitteth King for ever, shall rebuke it down, and give His own peace to a vexed and agitated earth.

Looking at these benefits of the education you are receiving here, I cannot conceive a happier course than that upon which you have entered. Shall I then speak to you in vain, while I now urge you in conclusion to prosecute it with unwavering ardour and decision? It is by such ardour and decision that you have made that progress, of which we have just had such pleasing evidence; let the whole of your future course be marked by the same ardour and decision. Be assured that the cold and indifferent must ever lose ground; that the unstable cannot excel; that the prizes that are here placed before you can only be grasped by the hands of the firm and decided student.

Let your decision be evinced in the diligence and perseverance with which you set yourselves to overcome the difficulties you meet with. There is no royal road to learning; learned you cannot be without being laborious. But you may be so by being laborious. The biographies of all those who have risen to eminence in literature or science teach you how much perseverance can effect; your own experience has taught you the same thing—has taught you that there are no limits to the conquest which real industry may achieve. Let your whole course testify of you that you have learned this lesson effectually. Difficulties you must meet with in the path you travel; if you did not, if it were all easy and smooth, it would lose its interest and its advantage to you. But do not let your fears make these difficulties greater than they are; do not suppose that they are invincible by you. Go on, toil up the steep acclivity; and, sooner than you think, will you stand on the hill-top, rejoicing in the rich and sunny prospect it has to reveal.

Let your decision be shewn in the systematic redemption of time. Time is a thing too precious not to be turned to the very best account; but this cannot be done by those who live at random, and without system and arrangement. Of any given day we are safe in saying, that it will just be lost if we surrender it up to be spent extempore, and in obedience to the suggestion of the moment. We must have a plan distributing its hours among the various subjects, to which we give ourselves, according to their relative importance, and especially securing our making the most of its best hours, that is, its early ones, when the mind is most vigorous, and we are least liable to external interruption. Here then be resolute. Have a plan for laying out your time—a plan formed under a sense of your responsibility for its use to Him who gives it; and having such a plan, adhere to it. Away with all desultoriness. Be up in the early morning; and when up, give each hour its appointed task, departing from your ar-