

## FOR THE SCHOOLS.

*From remarks of Colonel Lowry, 47th Regiment, at the presentation of Gold Medals at Dr. Curren's School.*

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 21, 1867.

Addressing myself to the young lads who are students here, I would say that never perhaps in after life will you be able to do more for others than here at school. I know that it is often suggested to your minds that it is not so; that in after life you may hope to do something for others, but that you are too young to do it now.

Believe me it is not so. Your contact with others is now so close, and their characters as yet so unformed that your opportunities of influencing each other are great indeed. See—I pray you—that they be exercised for good. See that each one of you so lives his life at school, that he become a help, and not a hindrance to others; that each one of you prove himself high principled, true-hearted, brave—not a trifle, or insincere.

In after life, when you leave school, your fellows will have assumed their own characters, and your influence upon them will be less. Here, therefore, in the crisis of their life, you may affect for good or evil, those around you in a month more than you can do hereafter in a year.

I press upon you, therefore, the importance of your daily life and studies, for there is being formed in each one of you, day by day, little by little, a character which will endure for ever. Remember too, that, to a great extent, your conduct now, and your success hereafter, give a character to this place, and to your master.

I urge upon you to strive to become good classical and scientific scholars, to make yourself as conversant as possible with modern languages, but above all to live and work for the honest, thorough unwearied discharge of duty. It may not, doubtless it will not—be given to all of you whom I see before me to attain the highest positions, but it is in the power of every one of you to be honored and revered by the good around you, and to possess the respect of his own conscience.

Keep in mind also that self culture is the essence of all education; that however able and painstaking your instructor, you must, in the main, educate yourselves by co-operating with him.

Examinations such as you have undergone are the proper test of what has been taught, of how it has been taught, and of how it has been received, but the great examination after all, is *what the youth does in the world that is before him*. That is the abiding test.

Whilst, however, in after life is the true, and great examination, I would have you bear in mind that, when that examination takes place, it is too late—so far as youth is concerned—to mend the progress.

You can't send the man back to be re-fashioned at school! It is true you may partially repair deficiencies in later life, but it will be at the expense of toil and labour, such as need not have been expended if the right season—your season—had been rightly used. I press these things earnestly because convinced of their importance, because your faces interest me, and because the presence amongst you of my own dear boy stirs me deeply. Don't allow yourselves to fancy that you are done with examinations. Every public duty you may have to perform will be another. I am being examined as I stand before you this afternoon, and rather a trying ordeal I find it, I assure you: I dare say, by and by, you will be criticizing the effort pretty freely.