

subjects of which I have charge. They have been made, moreover, against my strenuous opposition. But the very fact that they are my own special subjects makes me unwilling to discuss them here. Moreover, and this is more important, the changes as they at present stand are not intended to be permanent. They are rather of a tentative character, and their unfortunate effect on the study of natural philosophy has arisen from no want of appreciation of the value of that subject. This will no doubt be remedied. In these days no university that desires to be respected can afford to allow a single graduate to pass out of its halls without an adequate knowledge of physical science. As for the study of mathematics, to which no popular road can be found now any more than a royal road two thousand years ago, there is no necessity for defending it. Those who cannot appreciate their value in producing a sustained power of attention and an accuracy of reasoning which no other subject can supply, can see all their practical importance. Their value in a money sense is increasing from day to day with the progress of physical science, of which an example may be seen in the rise of a new profession within the last two or three years, that of Electrical Engineering. The progress of the electric light has given this a great impulse. In this profession mathematical knowledge is essential, and for want of it many men now engaged as electricians will undoubtedly be displaced in a few years by younger men who are being placed in the schools of Electrical Engineering which are now springing up in all directions. (Parenthetically I may be allowed to remark that I heartily wish that we who have already a good basis for such a school could have such an addition to our staff and building as would enable us to establish one.) Most assuredly, therefore, I do not depreciate the sciences in showing the value of classical studies. I desire only to present before you a most unexpected proof of the value of a complete education which takes in both literature and science, and more especially those languages which, as being what are called "dead," are looked on by so many as worthless. In so doing it is hardly necessary to point out the difference between the education you have received, i. e. the development of your mental powers, and the knowledge you have acquired. A great deal of the knowledge will certainly pass away with the lapse of time. But the latter will be a permanent possession, as long as you have work for the mind to do. In conclusion, gentlemen, I have only to express on my own part, and on behalf of the professors of the faculty, the great satisfaction which your conduct, your industry and your progress as students has given me. We shall hear with great pleasure of whatever future success may attend you and we wish you heartily God-speed in your journey through life.