

College Chapel. From the first he felt strongly attracted by Maurice's combination of intense Christian earnestness with universal sympathy, and although he sometimes thought that the new teacher was apt to travesty the popular theology in trying to delineate it, he had a deep respect for what was positive in his doctrine. At this time his religious views were greatly deepened and strengthened. "I have the capacity," said he, "of being more wicked than any example that man could set me; and if I escape, it is only by God's grace helping me to get rid of myself, partially in science, more completely in society—but not perfectly except by committing myself to God as the instrument of His will, not doubtfully, but in the certain hope that that will be plain enough at the proper time."

His tutor, William Hopkins, said of him, that he was unquestionably the most extraordinary man he had met with in the whole range of his experience; "it appears impossible for him to think incorrectly on physical subjects; in analysis, however, he is more deficient." "Hopkins looks upon him as a general genius, with all its eccentricities, and prophesies that one day he will shine as a light in physical science; a prophecy in which all his fellow-students strenuously unite." So wrote in his diary Mr. W. N. Lawson, of the Equity Bar. Another contemporary, the Rev. G. W. H. Taylor, has thus recorded his impressions of Maxwell at this period: "This acute mathematician, so addicted even then to original research, was among his friends simply the most genial and amusing of companions, the propounder of many a strange theory, the composer of not a few poetic *jeux d'esprit*. Grave and hard-reading students shook their heads at his discursive talk and reading, and hinted that this kind of pursuits would never pay in the long run in the Mathematical Tripos."

Nevertheless, in January, 1854, at the age of twenty-two, he came out Second Wrangler (Routh First), and equal Smith's Prizeman with Routh. It is said that "he succeeded by sheer strength of intellect, though with the very minimum of knowledge how to use it with advantage under the conditions of examination." Edinburgh friends were naturally