

more likely than another to arouse the indolent, to abash the trifle, to restrain the irregular, to encourage the diffident, to stimulate the ardent, it should be such a prospect—manhood voluntarily placing itself under the ferule, and labouring by the voluntary cultivation of the intellect to make itself more useful, more trustworthy, more respected. If there be anything more than another more likely to instil into your young men that reverential feeling towards their parents, and to cherish a due regard for the feelings, the wishes, and the affections of their seniors, without which virtues whatever be the material wealth of the country it will not be fit to live in—it is this; if there be anything more likely than another to make them sensible of the wisdom of your strictness and the justness of your severity—it is this. Better for them that our young men should be warned betimes of their inaptitude for the profession they seek to join, by reason of want of capacity, or power of sustained attention which is to qualify them, so that they may fit themselves for some more congenial occupation, than that they should be permitted to lounge through your school empowered to practice on public credulity under the colour of your certificate.

When Napoleon I. decreed that a university should be established, he proclaimed, "The Emperor wants a body whose teaching may be free from the influence of the passing gusts of fashion—a body that may be kept moving even though the Government be lethargic." It is not for us in the modesty of our humble efforts to promulgate such a manifesto; but we may remind ourselves that all who feel an interest in the success of this school, and look forward hopefully to its sending out in fullness of time a band of well-educated professional men, expect that the standard of proficiency once established will not be lowered without substantial reason; also, that such improvements in the system as may be suggested by the intelligence of others, or dictated by our own experience, be adopted without delay. The cautions reiterated on this head by many persons competent to offer unprejudiced comments have been numerous; to multiply quotations would be superfluous, when the principles accord so completely with common sense. It is right, therefore, at the outset, to dispel any expectation which may be entertained by the pupils that the standard of qualification is to fluctuate according to the scale of their shortcomings. The announcement will be the best means of inspiring them to do what is demanded of them.

It is well also to remember that in cases of imperfect training under a system tolerated by supine administration and weak concessions, the discredit will not fall exclusively on the pupil: much will be expected from our teachers, much must be left to our examiners, in whose firmness and discrimination faith must be reposed—a faith which ought not to be lightly shaken. Much will depend on the council of directors you proceed to elect to-night. If it be not unbecoming me to say so, the assurance given by the ability with which the provisional administration has been conducted, justifies me in expressing a belief that the gentlemen who are to become the objects of your choice will enter office convinced of their responsibility, and determined to do their duty.

If, then, these precautions being taken, our efforts be crowned by the success we invoke—to the reputation for enterprise and energy in acquiring wealth, as well as for liberality in applying it to the worthiest uses, which was won by your Maiden City before the recently-conferred honours were bestowed upon her, you will add the credit of founding an institution calculated to meet a peculiar want of the country and of the age. You will thus elevate her to the level of those venerable seats of learning which, though wanting in many of the natural sources of material prosperity which exist on the surface of the soil around us, and altogether destitute of those found in the earth beneath our feet, are rescued from geographical insignificance and obscurity, and deserve an honourable pre-eminence by reason of the encouragement they afford to literature and to arts of that becoming order which lend a grace to life.

