

LECTURES

TO

YOUNG MEN.

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in conscious dignity among your fellow men, and by the blessing of God benefit the world. You may pass through life beloved of men, and approved of God. And when called to leave the world, you can look back upon a life well spent, and feel that you have not lived in vain. And as others come after you, and reap the blessed fruits of your labors, they will rise up and call you blessed, and you may be had in everlasting remembrance.

I close this lecture by recommending to your favorable notice some remarks, reported to have been recently made, at a religious meeting, by our present excellent Governor Briggs.

Says he, "an opinion belongs to perverse human nature, that religion is not fitted to youth. They are fitted for nothing without it; and nothing is so fitting for a young man as religion. It restrains him from nothing in this world, which is not injurious, and enhances the enjoyment of every thing that is valuable. It regulates all the duties of life. Without it worldly prosperity tends to sear the heart." Such are the views of one high in office, whose moral and religious character commands universal respect.

LECTURE VIII.

AMUSEMENTS.

ECCLESIASTES 2: 1.—I said in my heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure; and, behold, this also is vanity.

SOME diversity of opinion is found to exist in almost every community, with regard to the propriety, and the morality of amusements, for the young. Some affirm that a foundation is laid for them in the human constitution, that they are salutary in their influence, and truly desirable, if not as absolutely necessary to happiness, as food is to the continuance of bodily existence. On this as the basis, a labored argument is constructed, in their favor.

Others affirm, that no such provision is made in the human constitution; that all amusements are not only unnecessary, but pernicious in their effects, if they be not absolutely sinful in themselves. And hence with this view they argue, that all such things should be frowned upon, and