



The Milton Address

A fitting birthday party

THE Milton Address was introduced in 1972 as an appropriate way for a distinguished school to celebrate its birthday but it was also an attempt to provide an essential element in education which can be all too easily overlooked in the routine of school life. The headmaster explained it in these words at the time.

"We need periodically to have presented to us the challenge of the times as seen through the eyes of someone of stature within the community. There is a need for a school to reappraise its function and its goal, to re-examine what is truly worthwhile and what is worth striving after, and for an opportunity to be provided for members to be encouraged to accept some personal responsibility for the duties of the future."

It was intended that the Milton Address should combine the functions of challenge and celebration and so, on the anniversary of the opening of the school, there is a lecture whose primary

purpose is to examine those foundations on which the school — and presumably, therefore, life as well — should be erected.

Sir Henry McDowal delivered the first Milton Address, an erudite, eloquent and memorable disquisition on the school's Greek motto, "Andrizes the" — or "Quit You Like Men" — and he concluded with these words:

"Milton's motto is calling us all — male and female, young and old — to play the man, in saying that each of us must use his or her intelligence, tuned to as fine a pitch as we can manage, to set for ourselves the highest standards we can conceive in all we do, or all we say and think, and also that we must let nothing inside us, and nothing outside us, divert us from applying our standards in doing what we think is right. In this way we shall truly "be men"; this is the way which your motto calls on us to live. It is a splendid message for a great school to pass on to its pupils."

In subsequent years the Address has taken many

different paths: Professor Robert Craig spoke eloquently on "Today's Builders of the Future", R. S. Walker considered the "the ability to reason without fear" and the Bishop of Matabeleland pondered upon the question of conscience. More recently Professor Tony Hawkins has used the Address for a succinct and challenging analysis of Zimbabwe's economy and Councillor Mike Constandinos has taken an equally honest and provocative look at the Government's education policies.

Over the years, too, the format of the evening has varied — there has been an informal buffet supper followed by a move to the Beit Hall for the Address and, latterly, a formal dinner with the Address delivered at its conclusion. This year will be rather different as befits the very special birthday it marks: There will be a formal dinner for 250, including the school's staff, prefects and upper sixth as well as leaders of the community and many friends of the school (including old boys going back to 1910), at

the conclusion of which Ron Gracie, a former headmaster, will propose a toast to the school and the present head, Harry Fincham, will reply.

The Address itself will be given in the Beit Hall and another 200 members of the school and friends will be added to the audience; it will be delivered by Senator the Hon R. S. Garfield Todd, a former Prime Minister and a man who, perhaps more than most, embodies the Government's policy of reconciliation.

There will also be reminiscences of the early days at Milton from two distinguished old boys — Ben Barco and Trevor Wright — and the speeches will be concluded by the Hon. A. E. Abrahamson, old boy and long-serving chairman of the School Council under three headmasters.

All in all, it will be a fitting birthday party that is worthy of Milton's great traditions.