

hopes so, for Whytehead certainly possessed that deeply serious attitude to life which without humour would have been unbearable. Even in writing to his sister and family he warns against bowing down to 'the World's *Trinity*, riches, honours, pleasures' and affirms his own preference for death in a workhouse rather than preoccupation with worldly ambition. It is heartening to find, after the gravity of many family letters, that his friends can speak of his 'tendency to high spirits' and levity. It was possibly this more human attribute which brought him the affection of an anonymous lady who feared that his efforts to gain the Bell Scholarship were too single-minded, and in a comic valentine complained

I state dear Whytehead ('tis your due)  
The preference I feel for you.  
Like other maidens 'tis my lot  
That all my charms should be forgot,  
While all my numerous friends hold dear  
Is fame and fifty pounds a year.

Although Whytehead never married, Sarah Selwyn discloses that it had been his intention to marry the sister of his close friend William Bolland, had she lived, and it seems plausible that his tender poem 'In Memoriam' was for her:

Oh! still my spirit clings to thee,  
And feels thee at my side;  
Like a green ivy, when the tree  
Its shoots had clasped so lovingly  
Within its arms hath died.

And ever round that lifeless thing  
Where first their clusters grew,  
Close as while yet it lived they cling,  
And shrine it in a second spring  
Of lustre dark and new.<sup>15</sup>

Quite clearly, Whytehead relished university life and its intellectual pursuits, although he found a tension and difficulty in 'being diligent without secularity and ambition' while still 'doing all to the glory of God'. He was enthusiastic over the competitive element in academic life since he saw that it produced real discipline. To undertake 'general reading', or, more speciously, 'theology', was a soft option if one had the ability to read for honours, and he asserted that an honours course provided a safeguard for a student's intellectual and religious character: 'The stern necessity which lies on a "reading man" of husbanding time, keeping regular hours, eschewing gossip, and, in fact, disciplining himself, is one of the greatest blessings which can befall him'.<sup>16</sup> Whytehead did not mind being thought 'a bigot' for his loyalty to St John's, believing that its superiority consisted in its high standard