

interesting to literature, to the general affairs of the province, and to you, I should be wanting in duty, did I not direct your gratitude to those public spirited individuals, by whose pecuniary aid this seminary has arrived at its present state ; and particularly to those, who, in its difficulties, have stood by it ; in public and private stations, fought its battles ; and employed their reputation and influence to make it respectable. You, also, owe much to those ladies of this place who have formed themselves into a society for the beneficent purpose of enlarging the library of the institution. Already, the fruits of their generosity constitute its principal ornament ; and their persevering activity will soon render their donations, a noble monument of the patriotic and enlightened views.

In connexion with these remarks let me farther remind you, that, to your present situation, there is attached a solemn responsibility. This institution is partly an experiment of the value of literature : friends and foes are waiting for the result with anxiety ; and much depends upon your improvement and conduct. The approbation of your best friends, the honour of this seminary, your reputation, your prospects in life, are at stake. What an honourable field for activity is here presented ! Should these motives, arousing exertion, conduct you to excellence, how noble the result !

But it is not merely improvement in knowledge that I would wish you to acquire. Intellectual endowments, even in the eyes of society, do not compensate for the want of goodness of heart and rectitude of conduct. There is also a higher tribunal at which your character must soon be weighed ; and there the heart purified by the wisdom from above, and full of mercy and good fruits, alone is approved. It must, therefore, be your daily study, to blend religious improvement with literary acquisitions. By these means and by these only, you will become truly respectable, do honour to this institution, and be prepared to fulfil the duties of important stations : and permit me to add, that to see you, by a course of steady integrity, arriving at these stations and honouring them by your talents and virtues, will prove to me a principal consolation of life.

THE END.