

and priceless gems, and hence ardently desire to secure the key of interpretation that shall lay open to you their contents: equally interesting will you find a minute examination of the foundations on which these temples rest—the materials of which they have been formed—the manner in which they have been built. Study the various orders of architecture employed therein—the different ages in which the several courses successively rose to the cope-stone—and the causes and processes of decay as well. Even though the literature embodied in these languages had been as poor as it is rich—as meagre as it is full; yet a knowledge of the origin, history, and development of these would well repay the years devoted to this branch of Collegiate Education. Note how a word grows from a simple root of three letters to polysyllabic dimensions. Trace from stem to limb, and from branch to branch, the connection between the primary meaning of a word in its ante-classic period, the rich outgrowth of ideas into which it has developed in its classic maturity, and the remote significations grafted on it in the post-classic ages of its decay. To observe the Greek genius in the different dialects of word-building is as interesting and instructive as to dwell on their taste in the several orders of architecture that mark their temples, monuments, and theatres.

In the third place, set yourselves to acquire and confirm correct habits of study. The habits, here formed and strengthened, whether good or bad, shall cleave to you, when a knowledge of these tongues has perhaps faded from your memories, or the reading of Cicero *ad libri aperturam* has become a thing of the past. Therefore is it of eternal consequence that these habits be such as become true students. Above all things, be accurate. Master whatever you undertake. Touch nothing, unless you resolve to do it well. Thoroughness is the great requisite of a successful