

perfection of which they had not been previously conceived to be susceptible. When I add, that these observations are applicable to almost every active employment of man, it will afford you an extensive view of the vast utility of a liberal education.

The preceding details will suggest to you, how literature tends to the improvement and happiness of the social state. Viewing society as composed of parts, it is evident, that, as these individually are guided by principles of sound intelligence, they add to the general amount of duty, and consequently to the means of enjoyment.

But beside the consideration of public utility, a liberal education is attended by many other consequences which render it a desirable attainment. The acquisition of knowledge is not without pain ; but this is more than counterbalanced by those numerous sources of enjoyment which it unfolds to the mind : and intellectual pleasure is a species of gratification which few who feel, are willing to resign. Nor ought it to be overlooked, that intelligence, by enlarging the sphere of usefulness, amplifies also the pleasure of doing good. Besides, education communicates a dignity to the human character, which neither rank nor wealth is sufficient to purchase ; and it may be farther observed, that, in this province, it presents prospects well calculated to concentrate the energies of your minds upon literary studies. The present state of the learned professions affords extensive scope to men of talents and literature. Various causes have as yet combined to impede the progress of education ; and these offices have not been always filled by persons qualified to occupy stations so important. But this province now exhibits many proofs of a desire for literary improvement ; and very soon, in this as in other countries, ignorance will find its own station ; and natural abilities cultivated by literary studies, raise their possessors to the first rank in society and to the principal offices of honour and profit.

In placing before you these cheering prospects, let me remind you also to whom you owe them. The generosity of the public has provided for you means of instruction, which the infant state of society in this province had withheld from themselves ; and upon an occasion so