

their inspiration from the Acropolis and the Academy was entrusted the working out of this redemptive process. The command of Providence to them was to this effect: "By wisdom seek to know God—wisdom of consummate power and perfect refinement you shall have—no ordinary weapons shall be furnished you for the attempt—with the most exalted mental gifts you shall be endowed; so that, if it be within the range of possibility for human wisdom to see and know the only True God, your efforts shall be crowned with success." Giants though they were, they failed to scale the heavens: but the very essays which they made to do so prove them to have been possessed of Titanic minds. The mountains of thought which they piled together for this purpose lie scattered around, betokening melancholy failure; but the Cyclopean massiveness of the remains evidences the calibre of intellect required to compose them. When exploring these precious repositories of thought and learning, let not your ambition be, to run over a large number of books—merely dipping into their contents, satisfying yourselves with those golden veins that appear upon the surface. That object was much prized of old, when the literature, and the literature alone formed the sole subject of study. Now, however, make yourselves masters of a few productions—be at home with a dozen select authors—show yourselves capable of exploring their darkest recesses, and render yourselves familiar with their most perplexing peculiarities. Better a small number of intimate friends than a large circle of superficial acquaintances.

Secondly, pursue a study of the Greek and Latin languages for their own sake—as a goal as well as a path—not merely as a mean but an end. While you regard these tongues as heathen temples, containing enshrined within them rich treasures