

you would know how to use your knowledge. But you will not make less progress; you will make more. Change of labor is rest; and your specialty itself will gain, not lose. Beyond all utilitarian advantages is the enormous gain of acquiring, what such studies will surely give, a love of English letters, a love which will grow with use, and will secure to you the cheapest and most satisfying, the highest and most enduring, of earthly pleasures and consolations. So that, whether we look to success or to enjoyment, we find one course chalked out.

I have at hand a letter from a fellow-graduate, an eminent specialist, who writes from his experience, both as a student here, and in later life as an employer of other specialists in his own important work. For himself, he says that while he was here he found he could give two hours a day to French and English, to history and biography, and yet go further in his specialty than when he confined himself to it alone. For those under him, he says his difficulty is that these keen and able specialists have not developed the faculty of clear, expository and controversial statement of their views and thoughts; in a word, they are unskilled in English composition; and thus, strong in their thoughts, they are weak in the presentation of them. Let me, then, press on all students, and from all points of view, the mastery of English letters.

And now I turn to that sad event which has left us homeless, which obliges us to meet to-day on a grassy floor, under a canvas roof, hard by those walls, "all roofless and storm-broken," which were at once our shelter and our pride. In a few short hours the stately pile we loved so much, round which so many pleasant memories clung, the principal home and seat of learning in this Dominion, the chief glory of this city, was left the ruin we deplore. The authorities of the University were called to deal on the instant with questions of the greatest moment. Early the next morning the able and devoted President, the most active figure during the conflagration, had assembled the Faculty, and, by the kindly co-operation of kindred institutions, was enabled to arrange for the uninterrupted prosecution of the work of the University.