

will not, this night, on leaving the Institute, feel himself a more rational, better, and perhaps a happier member of society than he was before.

Though our Course of Lectures have not been fully completed, owing to the late period of their commencement; yet, you will now be able to judge for yourselves of the propriety of the system on which they were arranged. And the younger members will perceive the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of success, in any of the arts and sciences, without a previous knowledge of Arithmetic and the Mathematics. For what are called the pure sciences, including arithmetic, geometry and algebra, are the first steps towards the mixed sciences, and are as necessary to be understood by those who follow the latter, as arithmetic and book-keeping are to those who are engaged in the ordinary speculations of mercantile business. No discoveries can be made without them; nor, can the descriptions which are given in the works devoted to them, be intelligible without a knowledge of their nature and properties. In fact, they are the fundamental sciences upon which rest the basis of the most accurate and demonstrable evidences of human discovery. Some of the most exalted genius' would have been nothing without them. Being deprived of his knowledge of the pure sciences, what would the genius of Newton have been—or that of Davy—or of Watt—or of any other philosophic benefactor of his race? They would never have had existence—nor could they have comprehended even the evidence of mathematical truths when laid before them in the simplest forms of calculation. Never, therefore, let us lose sight of these invaluable sciences, because they may be trite and dry. If they require a little labour to acquire them, it will be amply repaid by the relish which they afterwards impart for the splendid discoveries to which they have led, and which will be for ever the renown and glory of the present age. For myself I feel no hesitation in declaring the pride which I feel in the rising character of the Institute; and as its President, I only regret that I am not better acquainted with the broad field of Science, that I might accelerate its advancement, and in a more satisfactory manner fulfil the profound duties of my office. By and by however, by continuing the course which we now pursue, there will arise men better able to lead you through the deep and intricate paths of modern knowledge—who will demonstrate to you in a more regular form the results of philosophic research—spread around them a finer taste and warmer zeal for the arts and sciences—and who will guide you to experience more fully than now, that there are no pleasures like those that flow from the mind, and no gratification so lasting and durable as that which emanates from the cultivation of sound and useful knowledge.

And in closing this address permit me to say, that the respectable footing upon which you have placed the character of the Institute, entitles you to the aid of the best talents which the town can afford;—for no conduct on your part could better merit their assistance. The able powers of the gentleman who has this night devoted himself to our instruction, are, I hope an earnest of what will follow—and that his example will lead others,