

his nature, the improvement of his mind, the enlargement of his knowledge, the pleasure of social intercourse and of benevolent exertion, would receive a competent portion of his regard ; and jealously would he resist any abridgement of the hours allotted to these engagements. Regarding *every thing* as *beautiful in its season*, he would assign to business and to recreation their just and equitable portions ; and, by this agreeable interchange of employments, at once promote his cheerfulness and health, and check that tendency to avarice which an exclusive pursuit of gain never fails to produce. Holding thus the balance even, wisely dividing his attention, repelling extravagant desires, seeking only the practicable and the safe, studying *whatsoever things are honest, true, and of good report*, he would most effectually secure his own interest and peace of mind, while he displayed an example which, if universally imitated, would equally advance the general good.

Happily, this is not altogether a hypothetical portrait, or a solitary instance of worth ; numerous examples of it exist on both sides of the Atlantic ; but they are too rare. Had they been general, instead of partial,—forming the rule rather than the exception,—wild speculation, reckless adventure, unprincipled rapacity would never have risen to so fearful a predominance, and the greater part of the calamities that have recently overtaken us would have been unheard of and unknown. Fewer rapid fortunes might have been made, but the general prosperity of nations would have been placed on a firmer basis.