

revolting, the remarks just made may be deemed neither unseasonable nor superfluous.

You will readily infer, gentlemen, from what I have just said, that I desire your physical training should be made subservient to, and as a means for, your mental improvement. A valuable writer of the last century quaintly remarks: "While the man of body takes the greatest care to set out and adorn the part for which he thinks himself the most valuable, the man of mind will bestow most pains in improving that mind." To this let me add, that the law for improving the mind and maintaining it in its healthy state is, just as with our physical being, to exercise constantly and successively every one of its faculties. Now, I cannot suppose that you see no further use for these exercises; or, in other words, that henceforth you regard your education as complete. Gentlemen, you have only gathered a few of its materials, and acquired merely the elements of that discipline which is indispensable to the improvement of your progressive nature. If you are to be known for enlarged views, sound thinking, and just principles, you must determine ever to regard yourselves as mere students; ever to remember that your college training has been merely introductory to the course of study requisite to fit you for permanent usefulness, and that manhood, like youth, has its appropriate course of study which it cannot afford to slight or set aside, under penalty of inferiority or humiliation. Whatever tends, then, to withdraw you from the advanced studies you undertake, should be avoided as evil and injurious. So should you regard those greatest enemies of mental and moral progress—bad books and bad associates. While you remained under the safe guidance of the College, while your time was mainly occupied with the healthy exercises it imposed, there was not any great danger of your tasting other than that proper nourishment, as much required by the mind as by the body to secure healthy development. —"*Animi cultus quasi quidam humanitatis cibus.*" But now that you go forth finally from these halls, you become more exposed to the pestilential influence of such writings as tend, by their dangerous and seducing sentiments, by the fascination of their style, to weaken your character; to relax the firmness of your moral nature; to taint, if not thoroughly corrupt, your heart; to engender low and debasing tastes and appetites; and to make the laws of nature and virtue appear but as light things in your eyes. These I exhort you to avoid; to touch not, however slightly; for as poison is to the body so are these to the mind. Avoid them for the healthy and the good. It