

terms ; and, consequently, ignorance of scientific terms behaved to increase their perplexity. But to obviate these difficulties, the arrangements of a liberal education are such, that the previous parts confer both a species of knowledge and a degree of intelligence, which constitute a useful introduction to those that succeed. It is not necessary that I illustrate this remark by particular examples. You have only to consider what knowledge a learned profession requires, and by what means it may be most easily attained ; and you will perceive that the introductory parts of a liberal education are of essential importance for the improvement of the mind, and also for the acquisition of that knowledge which bears upon the business of life.

In the preceding observations I have considered literature, chiefly in its relations to professional men. It embraces, however, a much more extensive range. There are comparatively few transactions in life which it does not affect ; and it may be farther observed that a gradual disclosure of its value, is every day extending its influence. As an illustration of this fact, I may refer you to the surprising rapidity with which the arts of life have of late years advanced toward perfection. Formerly, wherever learning was cultivated, its influence upon the affairs of society, was also experienced ; but, through mistaken views, its operation was much circumscribed. It had been generally supposed that the person designed for a mechanical employment, could derive little advantage from a liberal education. Progress in the arts of civilized life was thus left to that part of society, who, whatever mechanical habits of ingenuity they might acquire, possessed least of that intelligence which is the true basis of improvement ; and thus the subserviency of science to art, was in general overlooked. Every avocation in life, however, may be traced to general principles ; and perfection requires that these be observed. Correct views upon this point have at length produced an extensive enlargement of the bounds of science, and a corresponding abridgment of human labour. Men of science, by investigating the principles which regulate art, have illustrated the influence of knowledge upon mechanical operations, and communicated to the arts of life a degree of