

to minister. Even in the common occupations of life, more extensive knowledge, more refined tastes, and a better trained and exercised understanding readily make themselves felt—and give influence and authority to those who possess them. And in the higher walks of life amidst the labours of those professions in which learning is not only graceful, but necessary, eminent attainment and eminent usefulness generally go together. It was a favorite saying of Dr. Chalmers, that the most learned of the Apostles was also the most successful.

Nor in urging to intellectual exertion, need there be left out of view, the most powerful motives, which can be brought to bear on the nature of man, whether of sacred duty or of wise expediency. Rightly to employ the noble powers, with which our nature has been endowed, is both a duty which we owe to the Giver of them, and a befitting expression of gratitude for the gift. And if we regard man's life here, and in that future state, of which reason gives indication, and religion assurance, as one whole, of which death is only a momentary interruption, and does only introduce into a change of circumstances, without effecting any essential change, in the moral tastes or intellectual capacities of the soul—and this is all in conformity with what we know and have been taught, then every advance we make in wisdom or virtue, in intellectual or moral excellence, is a step in advance for eternity,—places us forward in that high path, in which, from the progressive capacities of our nature, we may conclude, that we shall be ever travelling,—ever, as we advance learning more of the ways, and the working of God, and rendering to his adorable