

friends in the prosecution of your professional studies, to improve upon these three advantages, which you have in a great measure acquired,—be patient, diligent, and methodical, and you will make rapid and profitable progress. It is to the want of a systematic education, to a confused method of thinking, early acquired, but never thoroughly removed, that we must attribute those numerous inconsistencies, and confusion of ideas, which we find so general among those we converse with. The opinions of persons of credit are frequently taken up by such without examination, or deduced from principles in themselves erroneous, because they have never given themselves the trouble of sifting them to the bottom. How contemptible rash opinions, unsupported by solid reasons, must appear to an accurate thinker, though delivered with fluency or even elegance of language, it is easy to imagine: it is not by flying from subject to subject, and skimming the surface of science, that much knowledge is gained, but by proceeding slowly and correctly—never leaving any subject till it be thoroughly understood. By encouraging you to think accurately, and to exercise industry and application, we have endeavoured to protect you from this rock, and to give solidity to all your future acquisitions. It is only the man who is not afraid to decide for himself that can discharge any office he may hold with probity and honour.

While you are qualifying yourselves to discharge with dignity the duty of your professions, you must not forget that something more is necessary to render business pleasant. In order to do this, you must behave in a kind, affectionate manner to all who have intercourse with you;—a mildness of treatment, a condescension to inferiors, a ready obedience to the just commands of superiors, contribute in a remarkable degree to make a man content and useful in society. These qualities make us amiable;—we may be correct in our dealings;