

by inheritance, or by letters patent. It is the meed or patient and long continued toil. When the sentiment prevails among our people, that the attainment of a high order of education by a large proportion of the aggregate of society, is necessary to meet the exigencies of the age in which we live, our collegiate institutions will thrive; until this state of things is induced, their support will be meagre and their prosperity rather in hope than realization. The progress, however, although slow will be real. The influence which they are enabled to exert upon society as from year to year they send forth more or less of educated men will be reciprocally beneficial to themselves. The advantage which a thoroughly educated man in any sphere of life, has over the man of limited attainments is very soon seen and felt by those around him. The facilities which a disciplined mind gives its possessor for the investigation of any subject and for the expression of his ideas, necessarily give to him a commanding influence. There have been many self-taught men who have left their mark upon society, but they are the rare exceptions. Because they are exceptions they are pointed at, and their fame in many instances exceeds their merits. The existence of self-educated men who distinguish themselves, proves the necessity, not the futility of colleges and universities. We do not draw our inferences from exceptional cases, but from the rule which gives rise to the exceptions. Because some two or three geniuses in an age astonish the world with the brilliancy of their powers and a fund of knowledge obtained almost by intuition, we are not to infer that all our children will be geniuses. If a person has power to discipline his own mind, he is a great man; he is one of ten thousand. How many students are there, who if deprived of the daily routine of studies, the incitements of ambition, and the stimulus which the method of the lecture room and recitation room affords, would voluntarily progress from day to day, and educate themselves? There is no physical impossibility in the way. Books of science, literature and art are open before them and invite their attention, but the mind naturally shrinks from the task. There is an inertia to be overcome by the wholesome discipline of the school. There must be a constraint put upon the student to work. There are