

ended, and you are looking to an unknown future, with the indefinite, sanguine feelings which belong to your age and circumstances. At this moment, I know you would welcome important and exciting action; you feel yourselves harnessed for the battle of life, and are sure that whatever others may have done, you will make duty not pleasure, your aim. But it may be, that the calm tenor of the life at home will offer so few opportunities for the exercise of your powers, that the novelty of your liberty worn off, you will fancy your talents thrown away, and sigh for something more congenial to your youthful vivacity; and that your desire may be gratified will fling yourselves into gaiety and dissipation, bestowing upon the frivolities which invite you on every hand, that energy which is the more valuable, that it becomes less with every year of your life. O my children, if my last words are dear to you, if you value my parting advice, let me urge you to lay this to heart;—let no consideration of pleasure or change induce you to leave off for a moment, the work of self-education. Seek to listen to improving conversation, or read well-written books, that you may exercise and strengthen your judgment. Your own mistresses now, beware of becoming indolent, untidy and selfish. Exercise the talents you may have for the gratification of your friends. The young lady who does not like to sing or play when asked, is not simply nervous; she who cannot write the note of invitation, nor answer the friendly letter to save, may be, a mother's more valuable time, is not only diffident; these persons are selfish and idle; nervous they may be, inexperienced they may be, but they will not strive, for the sake of those who love them best, to overcome the weakness of self. Do not tell us, either, that you have nothing to do; what, do we send you from this place such finished musicians, such incomparable artists, such accomplished linguists, that you have nothing to do, even should there be no households awaiting your anxio