

with advantage at a much earlier age than is generally supposed. We made a mystery of nothing—on the contrary, we entered minutely into every particular, and patiently explained by what progressive steps certain results were obtained. It has ever been my custom, before sending a class to their seats to ask myself whether they had learned any thing; and I was always exceedingly mortified if I had not the agreeable conviction that they had made some improvement. Let none of you, however, suppose that what you have learned here is sufficient—on the contrary, you are to remember that we have laid only the foundation—the superstructure must be raised by yourselves. The time allowed at school in a new country like this, is scarcely sufficient to sow the most necessary seed: very great progress is not therefore to be expected. If the principles are properly engrafted, we have done well. The Mathematical studies in which you have been engaged will in a great measure produce that correctness of thinking which we reckon so great a step towards mental improvement. A mass of information on a variety of subjects, huddled up in a mind not accustomed to correctness of thinking, is of little use. When the possessor is called upon to put this intellectual wealth into current coin, he stands confused—he knows not how to begin; a thousand different plans offer themselves to his fancy, all equally defective; he sees nothing clearly; and if he be forced to attempt any thing, it is miserably executed. A man with half his knowledge, well arranged, can turn it easily into immediate use: such a person performs without embarrassment what the occasion requires; he has been accustomed to study accurately the subject he professes to know, and can never therefore be taken at unawares; he requires no tedious preparation, no painful attention, to separate what thoughts he wants from the chaos, which surrounds them in the heads of less accurate students. Be careful then my young