

The conviction of this truth prompts the utterance of sentiments on this occasion, that many may regard as far fetched and premature—but which, after long and painfully revolving our present condition and future prospects, I feel it my duty to express. And something tells me, that although from the feeble manner in which they are urged, these views and opinions may now be held in slight esteem, a time shall come, when they will, with the genius and ability of a riper and more cultivated age, be infused into the minds of my countrymen, and stimulate them in their love of knowledge, and their pursuit of an honorable name.

We constantly see Individuals, of good natural capacity, and superior opportunities and advantages, outstripped in the pursuit of influence and distinction, by those who, viewing the point from which they started, would appear to have had, in the paths of emulation, hardly any chance. We see the poor, but persevering and industrious man, accumulate wealth, and purchase extensive domains, while, by the idle and the dissolute, the most ample fortunes are wasted; and these examples are seldom lost on those by whom they are carefully observed. Though an accident may bring wealth or reduce us to poverty, we know, by a comparison of many facts, that in nine cases out of ten these result from the possession of certain qualities, and the exercise or neglect of peculiar powers. Hence the poor and the wise man derives lessons of encouragement; and if the estate of the rich landlord spreads its countless acres beyond his narrow field, or if the spacious palace overtops his humble store, his spirit is not depressed, but borrows strength and energy from the view of that affluence he determines to attain.

Compare the advantages of Burke and Sheridan, Canning and Mansfield, Curran and Erskine, with those of the thousands of wealthy youths poured out from the ancient Colleges of Britain, whose command of masters, well stored libraries, and leisure for foreign travel and domestic study and reflection, would