



Spencer Library

ADDRESS.

It is an opinion somewhat widely diffused in this country that the higher education, which it is the special object of such an institution as this to give, is only useful to those who are about to enter upon a professional career. It may be of importance to those who are to be placed in a sphere of life which demands at least a moderate amount of scholarship, to spend a number of years at a university, but for those who are to be engaged in the practical work of life such a training is unnecessary; it ranks at best no higher than a graceful accomplishment, and may therefore—perhaps advantageously—be dispensed with. It may be fit and proper that the clergy should have a classical education, so that they may be enabled to avail themselves of whatever new light the original documents shed upon the scriptures, and to consult those early Christian writers who made the Latin tongue the vehicle of their thoughts; it may be advisable for students of law to study that wonderful system of jurisprudence, which was won for us by the experience and sagacity of ancient Rome, in the language in which it was written; medical men may find it of advantage to have a tolerable acquaintance with Latin, and some knowledge of Botany and Chemistry, as well as of those subjects which are more directly connected with their common duties; but for non-professional men, who have to deal with the practical affairs of life, such a training is quite superfluous. A good commercial education, in fine—such an education as is supplied by the public schools—is the best preparation for an active life