

Even our social and commercial institutions have their obligations to Mathematics. Bankers are glad to have recourse to logarithms in calculating compound interest; and every Insurance Society employs an actuary who is a skilful mathematician.

But while stating the practical objects which have been attained through the aid of Mathematics, I must protest against the spirit which meets all liberal studies with the question *cui bono?* in a sense nearly equivalent to "*what money will it make?*" There is too much disposition in this busy commercial age to exalt material advantages, forgetting that man has a mind to cultivate as well as a body to feed,—that there are mental gratifications superior both in kind and in duration to bodily enjoyments,—that it is the business of man not only to rule the brute creation and eat the fruits of the earth, but also to glorify the Creator by studying His works, and by raising to its highest pitch of culture that most glorious of all His works—the intelligent mind.

