

the regulation of your future conduct; and you will value it as the promoter of that decent and steady command of temper, so very essential to happiness, and so useful in our intercourse with mankind.

Next to the due regulation of the passions, and meliorations of the temper, which we very justly reckon one of the most important advantages resulting from a well conducted education, we place those habits of diligence and application to which you have been accustomed in the prosecution of your studies. Those habits are of the greatest use at every age; but if they are not acquired in youth, they are very seldom attained. They are certainly the foundation of all future excellence: for how can any person advance in his professional studies, or transact business with correctness and dispatch, unless he be accustomed to application. Never did any one gain pre-eminence without exertion. The memorable example of Demosthenes has become trite, because so frequently mentioned: but read the private history of any of those men who have risen above their fellows, and you will find that they commonly obtained this distinction by vigorous application.

In conducting your education, one of my principal objects has always been to fit you for discharging with credit the duties of any office to which you may hereafter be called. To accomplish this, it was necessary for you to be accustomed frequently to depend upon and think for yourselves: accordingly, I have always encouraged this disposition, which, when preserved within due bounds, is one of the greatest benefits that can possibly be acquired. To enable you to think with advantage, I not only regulated your tasks in such a manner as to exercise your judgment, but extended your views beyond that meagre routine of study usually adopted in schools; for in my opinion, several branches of science may be taught