

Chap. 2.) History abounds with examples in proof that men of the greatest learning, are the best disposed and fitted for the most active scenes and the most important stations of public life. Hipparchus, the Sage, was deeply learned,—governed Athens with the assistance of learned men; and his administration was called a revival of the golden age. Demetrius Phalereus, who presided over Athens for many years with the greatest dignity, and the illustrious Pericles, and Phocion, and Aristides, and Ephialtes, and Longinus, —remarkable for their abilities, and industry, and practical skill—were all deeply versed in the learning and philosophy of their times. So was Lycurgus, the celebrated Lacedemonian legislator; and the philosophers Zaleucus, Charondas, Archytas, Solon, Bias, Thales, Chilo, Pittacus, and Cleobulus, who reformed the governments and manners of several states, and the immortal Alfred, were the most literary characters of their age. Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell—the two ablest and most practical and industrious Statesmen in England, if not in the world, were the ornaments and pride of the respective Universities at which they were educated—the former at Oxford, and the latter in the Glasgow University. The lamented Lord Sydenham was the most literary man that ever governed Canada, and the most industrious, the most practical, and the most successful one. The present Chief Justice of Upper Canada is equally remarkable for his industry, his talents, and attainments, though his early literary advantages were confined to our common public schools. These and many kindred facts justify the opinion of Plato, that nations would never be well regulated until philosophers were governors, or governors were philosophers. Every branch of science contributes to make men wise, skilful and practical. “Histories (says Lord Bacon) make men wise; the mathematics, subtle; natural philosophy, deep; moral, grave; logic and rhetoric, able to contend.”

Having offered these summary hints as to the most essential elements of a useful education—such as is contemplated by this Institution—permit me, my young friends, to offer you a few words of advice, for your consideration and assistance in the prosecution of your studies.

1. Be deeply impressed with the *unspeakable value of a proper Education*, as a source of happiness, a means of usefulness, honour and distinction. Sir William Jones has quoted a noble sentiment of the Hindoos, that “knowledge attained by a man of low degree, ranks him with princes.” The Spectator has truly and forcibly observed, that “the philosopher, or the hero, the wise, the good, or the great man, very often lie hid and concealed in a plebeian, which a proper education might have disinterred, and have brought to light.” In acquiring, then, a solid education, you are securing an assemblage of innumerable blessings in one. An abiding conviction of this, will alleviate the toils, and sweeten the labours of severe duty.

2. Highly value your present opportunities. If misimproved, sighs and tears will not recover them—they are lost forever. Upon many of you, these

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