

Madison remained in Princeton a year after his graduation for the express purpose of making himself proficient in Hebrew. It is said that his studies in theology predisposed his mind to the support of Jefferson's measures for religious tolerance in Virginia. Jefferson, himself, was an ardent student. The curriculum which he framed for himself and his friends was so exacting that Hamerton ("Intellectual Life") doubted that the human mind could stand such a strain. One of his granddaughters said of him that he read Homer, Virgil, Dante, Corneille and Cervantes with as much facility as he did Shakespeare. It is also related of him that he disliked Scott's novels and Hume's history, and cordially hated Blackstone's Commentaries—the latter being a matter in which he has our lively sympathy. Then there is that fine old pedant John Randolph of Roanoke, who soundly rated his doctor on his death-bed because the latter unhappily tripped in his orthoepy. What a way for the boasted descendant of Pocahontas to treat his medicine-man on the eve of his departure for the happy hunting-grounds! Randolph is said to have rambled through every field of English literature. John Quincy Adams was a "monster of erudition." He left behind him a library of 12,000 volumes, and a chest of manuscripts of original and translated matter. He was a veritable *heluo librorum*, having devoured Rollin's Ancient History at ten years of age. John C. Calhoun was another American statesman of broad scholarship. Nor was his learning confined to the humanities; on one occasion he disgusted a naval officer, and on another charmed a celebrated photographer by demonstrating that he knew more than either of them concerning their respective avocations. Benjamin Franklin played chess under a penalty in case of defeat of making a translation from some Italian author. He reversed the usual order of progression in the study of languages by learning French, Italian and Spanish first, and thereafter acquiring a knowledge of Greek and Latin. We cannot exclaim in this particular: *Transeat in exemplum!* William Pinkney was another statesman of wide erudition and culture. Chief Justice Marshall said of him that he was the greatest man he had ever seen in a court of justice. In his forensic addresses, by the universality of his knowledge and the tribute he adroitly levied upon every department of intellectual achievement when occasion demanded or justified it, he exemplified the truth of Burke's saying that the sparks of all the sciences are to be