

Many men of admirable disposition and character have existed, who, without learning, by the almost divine instinct of merely their own nature, have been moderate and wise men. I even add to this, that very often nature without learning has had more to do with leading men to honour and to virtue, than learning when not assisted by a good natural disposition. I also contend, that when to an admirable and excellent natural disposition there is added a certain systematic educational training, then from that combination arises an extraordinary perfection of character. Moreover, even if there were no such great advantage to be reaped from it, still I think you would consider it a most reasonable and liberal employment of the mind. For other occupations are not suitable for every time, nor for every age or place; but these studies are the food of youth, the delight of old age; the ornament of prosperity, the refuge and comfort of adversity; a pleasure at home, and no hindrance abroad; they are companions by night, in travel, and in the country.

CICERO—*Pro Archia.*