

their utility as constituting a part of the knowledge necessary to be acquired by youth. Languages I have considered apart from their necessity in social intercourse; Latin and Greek without regarding their utility as preparatory to the learned professions; Arithmetic apart from its importance in the commercial world; Mathematics without paying regard to the part they occupy in the whole science of inorganic philosophy. I have taken no account of the importance of the study of the physical laws as governing modern invention. I explained mental philosophy as a mere instrument of training without showing how it stands at the very foundation of all sciences. These considerations might afford a rich source for many discourses; but it suffices for my present purpose that I have shown how these studies, independently of their relative usefulness, conduce to mental development.

A system of preparatory education, based upon the principles here laid down, can scarcely fail of success. Its object being to improve the mind, it renders it capable of applying itself indifferently to any pursuit; for it finds in all that common bond of union and that species of natural affinity, which, as Cicero remarks, connect together all those arts that have relation to liberal knowledge. Whatever, then, may be the future career of a youth thus trained, it will be marked with a manly discharge of duty, directed by the dictates of reason and judgment fully developed. His early education will impress itself as a seal upon whatever calling an enlightened intelligence may point out to him. I do not, however, deny that a man gifted with ordinary talent, after a painful and laborious apprenticeship, can, unaided by this systematic training, arrive at an honorary profession and practice it with some degree of success; but his ideas and knowledge of relative duties will ever remain as contracted as his mental faculties are undeveloped.

The influence of this system is not limited to the individual, it extends also to society. From enlarged views an interest for the common welfare always results. A spirit of self-reliance is fostered by cultivated reason, and all the members of society are taught that they are not passive agents in their country's progress, that to aggrandize it is in their power. It is on the acting