

er principle or power in such state can long withstand. It is therefore highly necessary that public opinion be judiciously correct; this will ever be the case with an enlightened people. It is education and virtue that will preserve an oppressed nation, that will elevate her character and sustain her honor, her rights and privileges, against external encroachments, or internal enemies,—and will at the same time induce her to extend peace, justice and equal rights to all mankind.

In a social point of view how necessary is education! Take it into consideration in its various stages and degrees, and it must be admitted to be the basis of human happiness. It is true that all classes in any society are not expected to, nor is it practicable that they should attain, that high degree of learning or refinement which an exclusive attention to literary pursuits alone will produce. But by diligence and attention, enough may be obtained by almost all classes to stamp with a new deportment the character, conduct and manners of the individual possessing its advantages. The rough and protuberant qualities of the human character are obliterated by its influence; it promotes cheerfulness and civility; qualifies its subjects to maintain rational and interesting conversation; and finally, in the social or family circle promotes kindness and affection, politeness and good humour.

How essential is education in the promotion and perfection of religious character! It requires little argument to prove that education is essential in preparing the human mind for any high attainment in religious life. It is not the intention of the writer to assert that a very ignorant person cannot be the subject of Christian impressions, or that such persons may not cultivate the Christian virtues to an extent that may be necessary to their future well being in the world to come; but that education and improvement of mind will enable any person to relish, in a much higher degree, the sublime doctrines of our holy religion than can possibly be obtained without these advantages. Where is the person to be found in a state of ignorance capable of justly appreciating the merits of St. Paul's eloquent and sublime address and defence of himself before the Roman Governor.

On the whole survey of the subject, my friends, you cannot but be satisfied that it is your duty to attend to this all important subject; not only to think of it as important, but to act with energy, and not to rest until you have began to fulfil your duty by establishing a good school in each neighborhood where it is practicable, and if not, are you possibly able to hire private tutors? do so, or send your children from home, for those advantages.

In improving your natural advantages for agriculture and commerce, much may be done, if a proper spirit of enterprize should by any means attach itself to the population of Canada. It can hardly be expected that the most liberal exertions of the government, with the circumscribed means it possesses, will readily effect such an improvement in the internal communications of the country, as is most necessary, without the exertions of the people, and particularly of the mercantile part of community. If a due proportion of the capital of the monied interest of Canada were employed in opening important roads and canals, under reasonable and proper encouragement from the government, I believe that the profits of that capital would soon be realized to its owners, and much advantage accrue to other parts of the population.

When we consider the relative situation of this Province as connected with Great Britain, that its trade with that commercial country, from mo-

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