

Or that medical practitioner, who limits his thoughts and occupations to prescriptions of medicine, surgical operations, and collection of fees? Or that farmer, trader, or mechanic, whose world is self, and whose earthly existence is one long sigh for gain? Nay, such vultures are devourers of the public weal; such examples are a pestilence to the community; and superstitious ignorance itself is a less evil than educated selfishness. There may be some allowance for the untaught man aiming at nothing higher than present and personal comfort, heedless as to whether the world grows better or worse—satisfied himself with mere animal enjoyments; but for those to whom the state has extended the facilities of education, to requite its generosity by preying upon its vitals, is a double shame and a double crime. It is not supposed, indeed, that every clergyman can be a LUTHER, a FENELON, an USSHER, a WESLEY, or a CHALMERS, or an OBERLIN; but every clergyman can imbibe the spirit of those great and good men; and that spirit, aided by the peculiar facilities of his office, will find a thousand openings of practical and useful development. Nor do we expect that every physician will be a BOERHAAVE, a HALLER, or a MASON GOOD; but what a treasure of useful knowledge is embraced in the Physiology and Chemistry of his profession, which he might, in a variety of ways, impart and facilitate the communication of to others, without entrenching upon his professional engagements, or in the least interfering with his laborious studies of the structure of the human frame with a view to expel its diseases and prolong its life. Nor do we imagine that every lawyer can become a Lord BROUGHAM or a DANIEL WEBSTER—both distinguished benefactors of popular education and general knowledge in their respective countries;—but of all educated men in any country, it appears to me that the lawyer is under especial obligations to contribute to the general sum of its intellectual improvement. The history of all free governments shows that the highest prizes in a country's gift are usually awarded to the gentlemen of the bar; their professional studies involve the history of all human institutions; their professional practice makes them personally acquainted with most of the social evils that afflict society—among not the least of which is ignorance, with its unnumbered progeny of vices and crimes; and who, as a general rule, can be more competent than the lawyer, or under greater obligations than he, to be an active, animating, patriotic spirit in his neighbourhood, in unlocking the treasures of knowledge to the mass of the labouring people, and uplifting the lowest classes to a consciousness of intellectual existence and a taste for intellectual enjoyments! Here is a wide and a glorious field of usefulness, independent of the loftier and more imposing efforts to simplify the laws, to enlarge the commerce, and to advance the government of the country—efforts requiring mental qualities and qualifications which are not the common lot of professional men any more than of the generality of mankind. Finally we do not presume that every educated scholar, or merchant, or agriculturalist, or shopkeeper, or mechanic, may hope to be a PESTALOZZI, or a DE FELLEBERG, or a PRINSEN; but every man of these classes can assist by example, by effort, by influence, to confer upon others advantages which they have received themselves, and they can severally impart and perpetuate an impulse which will reach to every particle of the social mass.

Now were all these professions and classes to fulfil their natural, their legitimate, their grateful obligations as constituent members of society, what an intellectual, a moral, a social transformation would ensue! What an increase