ON FOREIGN LANGUAGES

and, in humble gratitude and acceptableness to God, duly render loyal service, you will each one of you for his own part, and with a good conscience, and not to your own honour and worldly advantage, see that in the Government, Christian as much as Civil, the oxen of Cyprus, and the hogs of Acarnania, that is, most brutish men, shall not assume the administration of affairs, but that always the most virtuous and learned, and only those who have received the most liberal education shall be deemed capable of admission to public offices, and that their measures shall be attended with a happy issue. Wherefore, I beseech you, as far as you can, strive with all your might, with sails and with steeds, and in a direct course, towards the true glory of learning, which is hidden in the study of languages, neglecting the clamours of I care not whom; treat with equanimity, spurn, regard as nought the labour of such a short space of time as you have to spend here; so prepare yourselves, that not only from this trifling exertion, which must be borne, you may rather live happy and honoured in future ages, than in return for a short and fleeting pleasure, which most falsely think consists in base ease and sloth, ever wretched, be deservedly laughed at by the learned, despised, held in no esteem, and compelled, as it were, to be plunged in perpetual regret, but also, which is the chief point, be able to feel glad and rejoice

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