

barrier to the elysian fields of learning? it damps the energies, corrodes the enthusiastic heart, and sprinkles the fire of genius with drops from the abhorred styx; can any carry this fearful "old man of the mountain," and yet attain to the distant and bright shining table land? Yes surely,—and instead of taking up our narrow space by numerous examples we will give one or two illustrative pictures from the book before us.

"Cleanthes, another of the Stoics, was brought up to the profession of a pugilist, and used to exhibit himself in that character at the public games: till, longing to study philosophy, he betook himself for that purpose to Athens: where he arrived with only three drachms (about three shillings and sixpence) in his pocket. In these circumstances he was obliged, for his support, to employ himself in drawing water, carrying burdens, and other such humble and laborious occupations. He contrived, however to proceed with his studies at the same time, bringing his fee of an obolus, or penny, every day to his master, Zeno, with great punctuality. On the death of Zeno, he succeeded him in his school, but still continued his menial labours as usual. 'I draw water,' he was wont to say, 'and do any other sort of work which presents itself, that I may give myself up to philosophy, without being a burthen to any one.'"

"When Erasmus was a poor student at Paris, he was indeed very anxious to be a little richer; but, almost in rags as he was, it was not fine or even comfortable raiment after which he principally longed. 'As soon as I get money,' says he, in a letter to a friend, 'I will buy first Greek books, and then clothes.' 'It is the mind,' says Shakespeare, 'that makes the body rich;' and so the young scholar felt. Of his two contemplated purchases it was not the clothes, he knew, but the Greek books, that were to bring him any thing permanent, in the way either of enjoyment or distinction."

"Sebastian Castalio, whose elegant Latin version of the Scriptures we have mentioned in a former chapter, was for many years of his life so poor, that, having a wife and family to support, he was obliged to employ the whole day in labouring in the fields, and could afford only the earlier part of the morning for study. Yet, even in these circumstances, literature was the great consolation of his life. Calvin, with whom he had quarrelled, having, in the heat of controversy, and in the same spirit of cruelty with which he hunted Servetus to death, allowed himself directly to charge him with theft, because he was in the habit of occasionally bringing home with him a little wood to serve for fuel, was answered by Castalio in a mild but dignified remonstrance, in which he admits that, as he dwelt on the banks of the Rhine, he had indeed been sometimes accustomed to employ himself, at leisure hours, in catching with a hook the floating wood which it