

one of the most gifted and eloquent men the world has ever produced, and of whom Scotland may well be proud, was also one of the greatest mathematicians.

Natural science in its various departments spreads before us everything in the wide realm of nature, from the drop of water or atom of matter to the ponderous world which sweeps through space. Man's conquest over nature, (we speak reverently,—we do not mean the God of nature) is all but complete. The bravest spirits from the time of Bacon to the present have attacked her in every vulnerable point, and notwithstanding repeated defeats, they have been the victors. Superstition and witchcraft have received their death-blow,—many of the mighty forces of nature have been tamed and utilized to purposes of labor and locomotion,—the transmission of thought over the fathomless ocean or spreading continent is the work of a few seconds,—much of the vast unknown has been explored,—and mind has asserted its supreme power over matter.

Geology tells us what animals lived on our pre-Adamite earth, and what luxuriant vegetation waved in breezes which fanned not mortal brow. Astronomy measures the heavenly world,—calculates their times and distances, and predicts eclipses, and meteoric showers too—with hairbreadth accuracy. The sciences of common things—Chemistry and Natural Philosophy applied—reveal every-day mysteries, tell us what it is we see or handle, why it is so, what it does, and what can be done with it.

Only the torturing of truth and facts the most palpable can make any disparity appear between the works and the word of God. The power which established the everlasting hills, which gave bounds to the ocean and framed the mighty universe, is the same that indited the pages of revelation. And if a chance one who deciphers from the embedded strata the past history of our globe, regards with stoical and unenlightened soul the metamorphoses effected by time as the work of pure chance or innate law, not subordinate to the will of Heaven, that is no reason why the spirit of investigation should be repudiated, or the claims of revelation ignored. The more extensive our acquaintance with the nature and operations of material creation, the wider the range of our observation, the deeper the investigation, and the more minute the analysis, the more exalted will be our conceptions of the power, wisdom, and benevolence of the Great Creator, and the more beautiful will appear the harmony between nature and revelation.

The province of moral philosophy is the classification and explanation of moral law. Based on a belief in the existence of a Great First Cause it leads to a consideration of His nature and attributes, and of our relation to Him as our Creator and Preserver, and to each other as children of a common parent, inhabitants of the same world and beings of an eternal destiny.

Mental science or psychology explores the realm of mind. In this field the wisest and most profound thinkers have long been engaged. The result of their assiduous labors is a well digested system based on facts and long continued observation, by which the various laws and operations of the human mind have been classified. An intimate acquaintance with these is essential for the lawyer, the physician, the teacher, the divine.

In the outer world we deal with facts, with visible objects: the mental world within us is unseen, but of immeasurable capacity and governed by laws as fixed as is the realm of matter. The mind,—what a mystery it is!—prying into every department of creation, roaming alike through time present, eternity past and eternity to come, calling up ages which have long slumbered with their freight of event and interest, peering into the unknown future, and giving "to airy nothing a local habitation and a name." Its expansive capacity has never on earth reached its utmost limit, and through the long hereafter it will be drinking in fresh truth, understanding new principles and mysteries, and becoming through successive ages more closely assimilated to the great eternal essence Himself:

"What guides man in high pursuit,
Opens, illumines and cheers his way,
Discerns the mortal from the brute,
God's image from the face of clay?
'Tis knowledge;—knowledge to the soul
In power and liberty and peace;
And while eternal ages roll,
The joys of knowledge shall increase."

History presents a true representation of human character and

a faithful record of human experience. What a treasure it is!—Without it whence our knowledge of the nameless millions who have peopled our world since Paradise received its Heaven-born tenants? With no knowledge of Assyria or Egypt, of Greece or Rome, of Moses or Solomon, of Homer or Hannibal, of the actors of the past, of their habits and tastes, of the story of their wrongs and their struggles for the right, of the growth of principles, except what might perchance be transmitted by traditionary or legendary fable, what a wild world ours would be! With no directing ray from centuries of toil and experience how sad would be our case. History points out to us the shoals on which others have foundered and warns. It holds up to view the wise, the good and the great of immortal memory, and those too who are remembered only to be despised and scorned. Sacred history, the outlines of ancient and especially that part of modern history which refers to our own nation, should be thoroughly mastered by every student who aspires even to mediocrity in literary attainment.

Our own language in its flexibility, copiousness, and richness is admirably adapted for the highest purposes of the historian, orator and poet. It combines the force and strength of the Latin with the spirit of the modern French, and if it is inferior to the mellifluous language of Demosthenes, in smoothness and compass, it equals, and perhaps rivals it in precision. And our English literature furnishes an extensive field for study and enjoyment, and is rich in the highest productions of genius. From these, in our researches here, we will seek to cull the choicest flowers, and study their varied and surpassing beauties.

Love of the beautiful in nature and in art has an ennobling effect. The cultivation of taste and a leading to an appreciation of beauty and fitness constitute no unimportant part in the careful training of the young. While the ornamental should by no means take the place of the useful studies, we think that drawing, painting and music should be studied when at all practicable, not only on account of their being delightful sources of recreation, but also for their educative value.

We should aim, in the work of education, at inspiring our sons with a sacred regard for our institutions and laws, love for our country and anxiety for her prosperity. For years back the rush of material prosperity in the neighbouring republic has drawn but too many of our young men—the pride and strength of our provinces—away from their homes. The imbibing of republican principles by them has been the result. British America stretching from the iron-bound Atlantic coast to shores laved by the Pacific, and from the 43rd parallel of latitude to where the frost-kings holds eternal sway, embracing an area of 34 millions of square miles, in its extent, condition, resources and prospects, presents an inviting field for the most ambitious spirit. This vast territory having its eastern peninsula rich in inexhaustible coal and iron mines, with its broad lumber forests, with its majestic rivers and seas, with its noble harbors, with its fertile land and marshes, with its untold treasures of the deep, with its field of auriferous dust rivaling Ophir and Eldorado,—this is the country in which we want our young men to dwell—this is the country which is ours to possess and ours to develop. I say ours, for while Nova Scotia is peculiarly ours, wherever the British flag floats there may every loyal Briton claim protection and find a welcome home.

Our climate is such as the history of mankind has proved to be the most conducive to the healthiest, and most vigorous, physical and intellectual development.

Who can predict what the future of British America will be? Our progress has been rapid. In less than half a century the face of nature has been changed. The Indian wigwam is now seen only as the relic of a by-gone day. A more active and a more vigorous race has supplanted the red man. The bustle and hum of civilization everywhere greet the ear. Its blessings are widely diffused. Comfortable, farm-houses, thriving villages, towns and cities, seats of learning and temples of the Most High everywhere adorn the land.

The manner in which many of our Provincialists have acquitted themselves in the world's broad field of action, ay, and on the field of mortal strife, amid the din of battle and clang of arms, proves that we are not unworthy descendants of the men who fixed our language and modelled our constitution, or of those who victoriously fought at Agincourt, Louisbourg, Quebec and Waterloo. The inherent energy of the population of these Provinces will