

eyes to prevent your being vain of what you already know. Besides reading and studying directly on this subject, you will insensibly improve by reading voyages and travels, which impart much practical information. For, after all you may read and learn of poles and meridians, and latitudes and longitudes, the nature and influence of climate, &c., and though you may see their imaginary lines and circles exhibited upon an artificial globe, you will find more pleasure, and acquire better ideas of these things, by accompanying some of our celebrated circumnavigators round the globe, or in penetrating the interior parts of different nations and kingdoms with travellers who have hazarded their lives to bring instruction and entertainment to your firesides.* Indeed, without some little acquaintance with geography, you cannot well understand a common newspaper, and will find yourselves at a loss in well-informed society, when the conversation turns on subjects above the level of common chat.

Needlework, in all its branches, is generally required by all females in our own highly-favoured country. Be as accurate and as excellent as you can in plain work: this is in request in every family. But ornamental needlework, however pretty it may be considered as the product of fancy and ingenuity, ought not to engross the best hours, and the best eyes, and the best time of life. I must confess I never could see the wisdom of consuming days, weeks, and months over a muslin apron, or a child's cap. I think, however, that the present day is wise enough to discard such elegant trifling, and to prefer works of freer design and slighter execution. It is to be lamented that, in most nations, refinement has produced effeminacy and false delicacy: hence the education of daughters is, at present, much too sedentary. The original and valuable art of spinning, which the Princesses of ancient days, and even some of our British dames, did not despise, would form a beneficial exercise, after close attention either to books or the needle.

But there is yet one accomplishment, without which all the others would fail of being such; and this is *that habit of mind and manner which is the result of dignity, affability, and gracefulness blended together*. This is to character, what the best polish is to a piece of fine workmanship. It is widely different

* The transcriber of these "Letters" cannot but take this opportunity earnestly recommending to the readers of them the regular perusal and attentive study of the Missionary intelligence supplied by our own and hundred Missionary Societies. Here are "voyages and travels" of unalloyed interest and indisputable truth.