

what so much as to the progress of mental energy ; to the gradual triumph of mind over the ignorance in which it is involved, over the passions by which it is possessed, and the prejudices to which it is unhappily prone. It is to education that we must look for the cure of all those evils, to that culture of mind which dissipates the mists and acerbities of prejudice, which lays open to contemplation the experience of past ages, which affords a taste of the pleasure that attends the discovery of truth, and its superior attractions above those which attend the indulgence of the fiercer passions.

For we are really engaged in the work of education : we are educating the public mind. Our endeavour is, to do what is most essential to promote that object ; to disseminate a taste for the possession of it, to exemplify the advantages that spring from it, and the pleasures which form its invariable result. If we resolve zealously and unremittingly, to discharge our duties as members of this Society, it need not be doubted, that our example will be followed by many, that our advice will be taken by not a few, that the path we mark out will be traced by numerous steps, and, what forms the highest pleasure of a benevolent mind, multitudes will become happier and more virtuous through the influence of our exertions.