

domestics with tales that if true should not be read, and the less since they are false." The habit of novel reading must inevitably enervate our manhood;—it relaxes the mind that wants hardening—dissolves the heart that wants fortifying—stirs the imagination that wants quieting, and irritates the passions which want calming. It disqualifies for active virtues and spiritual exercises and leads to crimes which once would have been abhorred.

There are also publications which dis sever all connexion between science and literature and religion. Now, we know that the human heart, without any positively evil influence brought to bear upon it, will wander far enough away from God and the cross of Christ, if the gospel can only be excluded. Therefore while we rejoice in the diffusion of knowledge, we cannot but feel concerned, lest the means of moral improvement should not keep pace with the intellectual. For the history of the world goes to prove that knowledge so far from being necessarily associated with man's moral and religious improvement, may tend to make him a giant in depravity—mighty in wickedness.

I have no doubt that the present educational movement will do much by the blessing of God towards the elevation of this country. Of all the blessings which it pleases Providence to allow a people to cultivate, there are but few that breathe a purer fragrance or bear a more heavenly aspect than does Education. To its possessor it is a companion which no misfortune can depress, no enemy alienate—in solitude a solace, in society an ornament. But it is not the principal thing. There are some who place unbounded confidence in it. Education is the balm for every grievance—the emollient for every wound. It is to shed peace and prosperity over the land. It is the one thing needful. In their estimation everything else dwindles into insignificance.—Sir, we regard education as a powerful lever for raising the masses of society; but we dare not think it the only or the principal one. It has a powerful claim upon our support, for we know that because of the ignorance of the masses a vast amount of christian labour, is, comparatively speaking, thrown away. But it will prove a fatal mistake if we conclude that intellectual discipline and acquisition can prove a real and permanent blessing without the influence of godliness. A man may ascend the heights of science, and literature may lay her most costly offerings at his feet, but all this cannot instate him in sovereignty over his own

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