

whose continual bounty to us excites our most lively gratitude and joy.

These affections, which I hope you have all diligently cultivated, and which must render you so estimable as sons and brothers, should be extended to all mankind. In cherishing such we may certainly look for contentment, since our most solid felicity must forever flow from the virtuous affections which interest the heart. True enjoyment is seldom found in exterior grandeur or in the exercise of power; it is not to be purchased with riches, with learning or abilities, but proceeds from the exercise of the domestic and social virtues, in that active benevolence which God has assigned as a remedy to mitigate the numerous afflictions of this transient state. By impressing this upon your minds, you will shun every avenue to vice: indeed the instruction you have already received induces me to cherish the hope that you will become worthy members of society; for the well informed man cannot so easily become vicious as the ignorant,—he cannot always extinguish the light by which he is surrounded, nor shut his eyes against the deformity of sin. If then he becomes wicked, it is after many a struggle, after a long and painful warfare, which is frequently renewed; he feels dissatisfied with himself; he is degraded in his own eyes; and while he loses his own esteem, he is sensible that he no longer deserves the respect of others.

Before I conclude, allow me to recommend the cultivation of friendship. The connections formed at school frequently continue during life. This union, if founded on virtue and nourished by similarity of disposition and congenial souls, will be the delight of your future lives. With what fondness do we recollect the companions of our early years? With what emotions do we look back to those mutual endearments which