

necessary for you to select as your vocation one department of human learning or industry, and devote yourselves almost exclusively thereto. And it is even so. At a public meeting held in behalf of this University, a reverend speaker* said "he believed in some sectional love;—not in bigotry and prejudice that put down everything not one's own, and could see no beauty outside one's own door, but in a hearty identification of ourselves with our home." I would apply these enlightened words to the special department to which you may devote yourselves. Do not become so infatuated with it that you can see no beauty, no good outside of it, or you may now and again be as guilty of injustice as Alcibiades, who, it is said, boxed the ears of an unfortunate rhetorician because he did not possess the works of Homer. And let this toleration widen out and extend to a more sacred domain; and do you respect every man's religious convictions, while you enjoy your own. Be so that no one will intentionally impose on himself in matters appertaining to his salvation; and freely accord to all, the rights and immunities which in this regard, you would desire for yourselves. Carry to you, gentlemen, the noble lesson taught by your Alma Mater, who receives into her fostering bosom every race, nationality and creed. And be assured that if this example were more generally followed abroad, and if men would as assiduously seek points of agreement as they seek points of difference, much of the acrimony, uncharitableness and ill-will that now array God's children against each other, would soon disappear, and prepare this earth for that universal diffusion of brotherhood, peace and happiness, so earnestly desired by the wise and the good.

Besides the improvement of your mental powers, another result of thoroughness of acquirement is a refined taste:

"Say what is taste, but the internal powers,
Active and strong, and feelingly alive,
To each fine impulse? a discerning sense
Of decent and sublime, with quick disgust
From things deform'd."

Now, although, as the poet teaches, a natural sensibility is essential to taste, still may it become improved by due cultivation of the perceptive powers, by comparison and experience. And I would bid you not to overlook its influence. For from the dress of our persons, the furniture of our dwellings, up to our sculpture, poetry, eloquence, music

* The Rev. Dr. Wilkes.