

student, it becomes the more important for him to master it. This results from the very defect in the uncultivated mind that it is intended to remedy. Its object is to give a man a control over his mind, the sovereign power over his intellectives, by enabling him to fix his attention exclusively upon whatever object of observation, or subject of conversation or meditation, he may desire. It may seem an idiosyncrasy, the result of hopeless pedantry, for a man to assert that the mathematics are essential to the due development of mind, when there are other subjects inclosed within books that require the exercise of reason. If the different paragraphs of other departments of science were so inseparably connected that each one depended entirely for its truth upon one or more of those preceding such an opinion, would be well grounded.

But such is not the case. In every other science and in every department of literature the different chapters, sections or parts are comparatively so loosely connected that a man may understand any portion of them without being conversant fully with what precedes. Then when the student applies himself to them, he is not compelled to master anything but that which may be very interesting, or suited to the peculiar structure of his mind. He then does not school himself to make investigations where his curiosity is not brought into play, or where no novelty strikes his fancy. He makes great apparent progress; he amasses great knowledge of a certain kind. He passes through some classes of men as a wiseacre, an oracle, a Solomon, who has succeeded to the control of wisdom. And as long as common topics, common questions, are brought before him, he may rejoice in the reputation acquired by ease and application to pleasant and extremely interesting themes. But every voyager of life must meet his tempests, his breakers and shipwreck. The pathway of life will not always be overspread by flowers of praise, nourished by an indulgent community, who spare him the pain of dealing in uninteresting subjects and wrestling with insurmountable opposition. The time will come in every man's life when he will have to study, observe and unceasingly medi-