The study of the sciences necessary for professional excellence.

The study of the sciences has a general and a particular application to the professions. Among the sciences there is a pleasing variety. Some are adapted to strengthen the mind, some to expand others to elevate, enrich and adorn; but all are necessary to prepare it for efficient and successful action.

The science of Mathematics is calculated to give strength, solidity and system to the mind. The indispensible importance of the study has already become, as it were, an axiom. Astronomy and Natural Philosophy, serve to clear the mind and furnish it with thoughts that wander through immensity.

None are entitled to the honor of great minds till they can banish the illusion that this small globe is the centre of the Universe and the sun and the moon merely its appendages. Impressions fit only for the nursery soon will be eradicated, when men and schools shall be suitably appreciated and generally established.

Those who habitually realize that the earth is all the stars that glitter on the mantle of night are comprehending but a mathematical point, that remainder of the universe proportionably occupied by splendid worlds where all around yore, a system—system—system—system harmoniously revolve. man is said to possess minds vast and elevated.

The foundations laid deep and strong in demonstrations, the frame pointing to the beams, the sciences of Chemistry, Math., History, Mineralogy, Botany & Geology stand ready to complete the fabric, raise the pillars which support literature intended to endure.
Chemistry is the avenue to a vast depoitory of knowledge which can be derived from no other source, a depoitory as extensive as the three kingdoms of nature. This is a study which, above all others, requires the most patient calculation and strictest precaution for the Chemist will know from the elemental state of others and often from hidden things how far in the hands of their author may be the elements with which he is conversant, it becomes him to stand at a noble distance. Let him, in its application to the professions that is little danger of appreciating too highly. For men of each profession are concerned with principles upon the right direction of which the interest and safety of individuals and society are essentially dependent, as the life of the Chemist on his skill and precaution, when experimenting upon that minutest vessel, or the essence of Thunder.

As a Subject it is a study in its relation to the point to be established, suffice it to say that in no other it is the study of the schools by which men rise to perfection, and there are no people with more exact or better regulated minds than the tradesmen. Pliny as was a Scholar.

Botany, says a distinguished author, is not merely an amusement a motive for taking air and exercise, or an assistance to many other arts to sciences, but a school for the mental powers.

As to Geology, the possession of geological series, the fossils, animal and vegetable, the minerals, the phenomena of every kind connected with our planet, are the analogues of chemical formation, by the aid of which the highest powers of the mind are to be exercised upon the widest of all earthly subjects, the order and design of Creation. Combined with those sciences, we have the most profound education. In no instance is language employed with great accuracy than in Botanical description. Wholesome profession to scholars, black, and allusion to this science may be highly introduced.
Great thoughts, says Lord Bacon, make great minds, and it is equally true that great minds produce great thoughts. Great, if good thoughts, well arranged and at ready command, reflect glory to their possessor. This is as true for eminence in any sphere, as the experience of thousands, morally demonstrates; that it is the direct tendency of the study of the sciences to furnish ideas the most profound and sublime.

But the study of these sciences had its particular application to the professions. With a mind thus exalted, the civilian despises the meaning of the mere profiteer, and clings to the永久 wisdom, to be found in the whole of legislation or the Cabinet, he feels a pride and an honour to his country, a guardian of her rights, and from the rules of Nature and God, derives sound form man. Chief Justice Parsons to De Witt Clinton, for example, stands as imperishable monuments of the utility of scientific study to excellence in the department of law. Yes, they doubtly owe their legal eminence to the successful cultivation of science.

In Europe, such was the fondness of the former, determined, in part of the law, for the abstracter studies, says Judge Tucker, that he had known him after the exercise of the day, divest himself with some difficulty, mathematical problem. Says the Ecologist of De Witt Clinton, he was particularly conversant with several of the physical sciences, such as zoology, Botany, Mineralogy.

The science of Chemistry contributes much to success in the medical art. Conjectures have been made, even of the recent remarkable discovery of Dr. Botrel of Paris, favours the opinion that the astonishing longevity in the Millennium when there shall be no more an infant of days. The child shall live an hundred years old, will be effected in part by the perfection of this science. There is a prospect that the true nature of life itself, tho the pre remarkably to give the world to God alone may yet be developed.
In the medical department, Benjamin Rush had stood prominent among men of science, and produced in physics. It is justly asserted, that there had been too great a disunion between natural and revealed religion. But whilst one class has been excessively guarded against the light of nature, another class has fallen into the opposite extreme. They are for the most part in vain, except the latter. It was designed to obscure the former, not that former to supersede the latter.

The Saviour frequently introduced allusions to objects of Nat. History to illustrate his doctrine, and often gave proof of the soundness of his Philosophy. The Christian minister may consider the candid mind of the master of Christianity, by the plain declarations of the Bible, and not so the infidel atheist. They are held to deny all precepts deduced from this source. And although they may maintain the disputed ground, it is often convenient to attack them on their own ground. In natural philosophy, he holds them there, the triumph is conclusive. This is essentially the course pursued by Dr. Chalmers in his triumphant exposition of the infrequency of Paine. He adds, that had he not been an adept in the science of Astronomy, he must have lend importance to his Reid. 1

Geology & Nat. History are of almost indispensable importance to the Divine, the former indispensably employed to disprove the authenticity of the Mosaic History; but the Christian geologist is able to prove that wherever they go, the very stones cry out against them.

What further arguments are requisite to convince the importance of scientific studies to the clergyman? Let such refer to Dr. Chalmers & Hume, Martin & the Bishops, Hooke & Butler, to the works of Edwards & Dwight, Paley & Pusey & then say, how thin a claim of Jesus Christ is deprived their knowledge of science would that any have proved the existence of God, maintained his rule, & presented the Divine perfections in such glorious light.

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