

4 directed in their future researches.

The effects of Belles Lettres on the mind, as imparted by school books & the limited instruction of professors, is only disciplinary. It furnishes the rules by which personal & mental graces are to be acquired, & by which the proper use of language is to be learned. It does not provide materials for practice; but, in the general, supplies the rules by which those materials are to be used.

The advantages derivable from Mathematicks are manifold & obvious. The rigid discipline to which the mind becomes reduced in the course of numerous demonstrations, qualifies it for the most abstract & theoretical discussion. It acquires an acuteness of perception, & a habit of following the links & tracing all the dependences that exist between premises & conclusions, that will enable it to thread the mazes of abstruse science with promptitude & precision. But this degree of improvement can ~~not be attained~~ not be attained during a short period; & especially, while the mind continues in a state of immaturity. — Thus, I think, I have fully demonstrated to you, that the time, & the branches of knowledge which are usually allotted for academic instruction, are insufficient to constitute the immediate substratum of successful practice in life.

As your peculiar study is that of Law; & as the circle of the sciences, & most of human learning, are as indispensably required in aid of the Lawyer, as the individual of any other profession, it would be proper to take him as the example, by which the impropriety of too early an introduction into practical life, may be illustrated. Of all the sciences, none perhaps, has been more neglected, in regard to the acquisition of adequate knowledge as a foundation, than that of Law, by the map of practitioners in the United States. — The Physician is taught the first principles of his profession, & in the progress of his course, is gradually introduced into the arcana of the science, by the regular development of diseases, with their caus-

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