

of life which claims their chief earthly attention. Some are privileged to enjoy a good measure of evening hours: let them not neglect the gift which the benignity of Providence thus confers upon them. Their leisure is a talent too precious, and its responsibility is a weight too awful, to be treated lightly. The cultivation of Natural History and the Sciences will be a dignified means of excluding those modes of abusing time which are the sin and disgrace of many young persons; vapid indolence, frivolous conversation, amusements which bring no good fruit to the mind or the heart, or such reading as only feasts the imagination while it enervates the judgment, and diminishes or annihilates the faculty of command over the thoughts and affections, a faculty whose healthy exercise is essential to real dignity of character.

But, there are many of the most estimable men who cannot enjoy this advantage. The connexions and claims, whether of business or of professional life, leave them scarcely any leisure; and, at the close of each day, both the mind and the body are wearied to exhaustion. Yet let them not be discouraged. Let them take unceasing pains to cultivate the habit of close observation and exact attention. Let them make up by repetition what they lack in continuity. Small portions of time, linked together by constancy of return and closeness of succession, will form, in months and years, a noble amount of improvement.

May I then be permitted to advise my young friends to select that department of solid knowledge, for which each may possess the best means and opportunities? Let this one thing be the body of the building. "This one thing, do."* You will see the necessity of obtaining

* Not till after the composition of these lectures was I made acquainted with a circumstance, full of hope and promise; and which presents a motive for determining, among objects that may seem equally inviting,