

many men have faithfully preached the gospel, and been instrumental of the conversion of great numbers, who were ignorant of classical literature. So there have been surgeons and physicians unacquainted with anatomy, physiology, and chemistry; and they may have performed many skilful operations and effected many cures, and thus done much good. But other things being equal, no one would feel as safe in the hands of such practitioners as in those familiar with the structure of the human system, and with the laws that govern it, and with the chemical nature and action of medicines. In difficult cases such practitioners would shrink from prescriptions and operations; or if they rashly attempted them, would be very likely to tie the omo-hyoid muscle instead of the carotid artery; or to administer nitric acid in connection with mercury; or by some analogous blunder, to put the patient's life in jeopardy. And mistakes alike dangerous, sometimes infinitely more so, because they involve the loss of the soul, must he be liable to make, who engages in the ministerial office ignorant of the original languages in which the Scriptures were written. And if one such fatal mistake should result from his ignorance, what a terrible drawback would it be upon a whole life of devoted usefulness!

In modern times human learning has become so prodigiously expanded, and so many new branches have been established, that it is difficult to discourse intelligibly concerning it without defining the terms which we employ. In France and Germany, the word *literature* embraces the whole circle of written knowledge; and with many English writers it has the same wide signification. But often the meaning is restricted to those branches which treat of the social, moral, and intellectual relations of man. Polite literature, or belles-lettres, is still more limited in its meaning; embracing poetry, ora-