

I would not undervalue other sources of happiness, which are mercifully provided for us in this world. I only wish to show that the pursuit of science, as a means of happiness, has strong claims upon the attention ; that it does not interfere with any other innocent enjoyment ; that it is able effectually to overcome that appetite for artificial excitement and dissipation which makes so many miserable ; that it furnishes in youth a rich fund of happiness ; to the man in middle life, a delightful relaxation from business and professional duties ; and that, unlike most other sources of enjoyment, the relish for it grows stronger by age, so that in advanced life, when the common objects of life cease to interest, those of science still possess the charm of novelty.

Let me not, however, be understood to imply that there are not pursuits and pleasures of a more noble and satisfying character than even those of science. I would not bring them into competition with the results of active benevolence and piety. But the two pursuits are not inconsistent with each other ; and he who chooses can make the pleasures of both his own. Such a man has reached the highest point of earthly happiness. For every wonder of science now becomes invested with the double interest of being beautiful in itself and an exhibition of divine wisdom. And then, what delightful anticipations crowd upon his mind ! He soon learns that even the veteran in science can obtain but little more than a glimpse of nature in this world, and that much cloud and darkness rest upon the brightest spots. Yet he knows that the works of the Deity will form objects of study in a future state, where nothing intercepts the pure rays of truth, and that those works are vast enough to fill and feast the soul through the round of eternal ages. Such hopes as these constitute the true nobility of man : —