

channels of literature and science, to raise our country at once to the highest rank on the scale of knowledge. Did these periodical excitements prepare the mind to engage with greater ardor in literary pursuits, they ought not to be viewed as a waste of intellect; but their tendency is decidedly the reverse. No men are so little likely to become eminent in science or literature as strong political partisans. The organs of combativeness and self-esteem soon become so excessively developed as to stifle the reflective faculties. In a few cases, indeed, these electioneering battles must be fought to save the liberties of the country; but, in general, an impartial and uncommitted man will see that there is scarcely any thing to choose between the rival candidates as to general character. And when he perceives how sharp and furious the contest becomes between the partisans, he will be reminded of Dean Swift's couplet respecting disputes about music:—

“Strange that such high disputes should be
 ’Twixt tweedle dum and tweedle dee.”

Notwithstanding the awful predictions by the defeated party of the loss of liberty and every thing else valuable, the government and the affairs of the country generally move on as usual, leaving the philosopher and the Christian, while they rejoice in the calm that has succeeded, to lament that such powerful interests and giant efforts should not be devoted to worthier objects.

In the strong passion for accumulating property which exists among men, and which is said to be eminently characteristic of Americans, we find another source of a waste of mind. In this country, students, like others, are usually obliged to build up their pecuniary, as well as literary, fortunes. The consequence is, that the love of money in too