

application and perseverance will alone explain their difference of success. The twelve had acquired, during their early days, an ardent love of knowledge, and a deep sense of their responsibilities to God and the world, and the result was, a strong determination to make use of the vantage ground which they had attained, for pushing their conquests still farther into the dominions of art and science. Having prepared themselves by an elementary acquaintance with the circle of knowledge, they selected some particular department, to which taste or duty invited, and concentrated their energies upon its thorough examination; being convinced that he who attempts to master all subjects, though he may become respectable in all, can be accurate and successful in none. Having chosen their field, they went about its exploration as a business for life. The morning's dawn and the evening's darkness found them still at their work. Those seasons which most men devote to relaxation witnessed in them little more than a change of objects, whereby their exhausted energies were recruited. Time they regarded as a treasure too rich to have any of it wasted; and therefore all its shreds and patches were carefully used. The difficulties which they encountered in their researches served only to awaken new effort, and every new conquest gave them an earnest of future victories. Feeble health may have retarded their progress; poverty's skeleton hand may often have been laid with a crushing weight upon their heads; the world may have passed them by in cold neglect, or cast upon them a contemptuous frown, while the discerning and liberal few may not have found them out. But the unconquerable spirit within them stood erect in spite of all these obstructions. The delight which every step of their progress afforded by opening new wonders before them; the increased power which each acquisition gave them to advance