

Journal and Remarks. [first page, Volume A].

Feb[ruar]y 27th -1807. I commence the practice of keeping an exact record of m[y] studies & employments, & of committing to writing such observations as m[ay] have occurred to me. I intend that the advantages of a common place book shall be combined in the plan, for every thing interesting & worthy of remembrance that I may meet with in reading, shall be entrusted to this deposit. A slight review to the beginning of the present year will be necessary in order clearly to set to view the ground on which I start. The principal part of the vacation was employed in the study of Juvenal. I went thro' all his satires & compared them with the translation of Gifford. I never repented the labor, I bestowed upon the original. I found it to contain many excellent observations on men & manners, no less applicable to the present day than to that in which ~~they were~~ ^{they were} written. The language is nervous, bold & elegant; he often neglects harmony for force, but he loses nothing by that negligence. He often rises into a real sublimity, & often touches the heart with all the force of pathos. This poet will I hope form the entertainment of many of my future hours; it was indeed my principal intention in reading him at this time, to enable myself whenever I chose to make his page the theme of my study & contemplation. It is thus that the Roman Classics should be read: a very small portion of their writings is sufficient to fill up advantageously a long period of time. - Before Juvenal I read that highly popular work, "the memoirs of Cumberland". It was indeed highly necessary to read it, as it formed one of the principal topics of conversation in every fashionable circle. It is an interesting work. There is no subject perhaps upon which we feel greater curiosity, than that of an authors sentiments with regard to his own writings. Cumberland appears to speak with perfect impartiality of his literary performances & his opinion generally agrees with that of the world. He describes with feeling every event in which he has had any concern; he gives an animated picture of the various characters then on the stage & you enter with the sentiments of an actor into the affairs then passing in the world. During this period I read too the "*man of feeling*" by [Henry] M^c Kenzie & [Edmund] Burke's Speech on ~~the~~ conciliation with America. Such were the employments of the winter vacation of ~~the~~ ^{my} Senior year. On ~~my~~ ^{my} return to Cambridge, I read "Gibbon's memoirs of his life & writings". It is a work of great interest to every scholar. It will fully repay a great attention in reading it. Shall I say, it was that which first gave me the idea of undertaking this book? To imitate men of eminence is surely laudable, however we may despair, or even not attempt, to bring ourselves to a general resemblance of them. I was much pleased with a practice which Gibbon reports himself to have followed in his studies. Whenever he was to commence any new book, which he had never before read, it was his custom previously in some lonely walk, to examine what knowledge he already pos-

sessed, & what opinions he had already formed upon the same subject. He could thus exactly calculate what addition had been made to his stock by his new labor. - I read too at this time "*Thalaba*" by [Robert] Southey. It pleased me - I shall read it again with more attention. I am now engaged on "that first of ancient or modern Romances", *Tom Jones*. I intend to take a monthly review of all my studies. *Tom Jones* will fall under that of March.

Upon considering my present studies, I perceive that they want a body; a systematic pursuit of something, solid & valuable; some main article to which the others should be only appurtenances or embellishments. General literature should not occupy the whole time of a scholar. As well might a racer devote his whole attention to cultivate the beauty & graceful motion of his limbs, without the least regard to their strength. Of collegiate exercises I am indeed not negligent, but they are of little import; something more must be done. I am therefore resolved to devote the hours ~~from~~ not employed on collegiate studies, to the acquirement of a more competent knowledge in mathematics, as introductory to astronomy. The ~~Doctrine~~^{principles} ~~of square roots~~^{of roots & powers}, algebra & trigonometry in Euclid first require my attention - I shall then be prepared to attempt a complete system of Astronomy. - My reasoning powers too must be improved by an attention to metaphysics & controversial writings. [John] Locke I will review. Hume's essays I will read & meditate. - To these pursuits every hour to be spared from required exercises, shall be devoted, with the reserve of a few for general & ornamental literature, at most convenient seasons, as after meals, before retiring to repose in the evening &c. All Friday I will devote to classical literature. *The Georgics* (poem by Virgil) demand my next perusal. Such are my designs - if I shall ever be able to make these pages the record of their success, as they are of their formation, I shall be happy - "*Dimidium facti, qui cæpit, habet*" (Juvenal: "he who begins has half done").