

62
or so far insufficient to carry off the Load as that they
are seen to glow & sparkle. But all the Benefit of the
Surface in case of a great Charge is lost by its being covered
with the hardened Oil in painting. So that altho' I will
not undertake to pronounce such Rods good for nothing,
yet this I will venture to affirm that they are not to be
depended upon. — H

Let Young Men be really modest, & not affect it. The
Insolence of over bearing Pride is hard to endure in Old Men,
but in Youth it is intolerable & bars the way to future greatness,
not only as it prevents improvement in the Load that labour
under the Tympany, but it greatly disgusts his Country men.

But Vanity never appears more disgusting than under
the Cloak of affected Humility. In vain you imitate some
ancient Models by letting fall your Countenance & pretending
to palpitate at the Beginning of an Oration, if insufferable
Vanity swells thro' the whole, bends the left arm into a Himbo
& fixes the right foot forward (The Attitude of Mr Burke in
Parliament) if you have not real Modesty, however well
you may support the Appearance for a while, yet in some
unlucky moments you will be off your Guard & be surprised
in offering Incense at your own Shrine. Such was the Case
with Poluphloisbois. He happened to please the Mob at =

Creopagus; he heard them praise him on the Steps.

He went & boasted of it over a Bottle. It disgusted his Companions. But what did his Business was his boast in full House that his Abilities to which they were so partial should always be at their Service. He sunk at Athens altho' he had Genius. The more Merit you have, the less seem to know it.

The more Genius, the more jealous be of yourself. Genius chastened by Modesty Application & Years rises irresistibly.

But Genius ruins these Young Men where it raises me. It too often produces impatience of Labor, impatience of Contradiction, & contempt of others. Dulness with application is preferable to Genius with Vanity. If by Chance at any time you get the Suffrage of your Country (a single Sentence sometimes may bring it) be not fly blown with it, but by great Modesty, infinite Caution, & faithfulness try to preserve it. The more conspicuous chance has made you, the more entire will be the Contempt you suffer if they find you do not merit it. When a young Man rises let him be received for Years, to let his Country ^{know} his Merits by Experience. Let him not be foremost in every Council, nor affect to have the first & the last Word in every Debate.

We excuse a little forwardness in Youth as its fault: but more than a certain Degree of it becomes a Nuisance. Never consider your rash Affections as Demonstrations nor be surprised if Older Men are not convinced by them.

Let your Abilities be at the Service of your Country, but
Don't let it be seen that you think your Country will gain much
by them. Never be pompous in serious speeches, nor talk of
Laurels to adorn the Brow, is a plain relation about hens Eggs.

Be ambitious to get true Merit, & Don't think that the
Counterfeit will last long. Inflexible Honesty will secure it.

Be really Modest & not affect it, in order to this, appear
rather to retire from applause than to push for it, rather receive
than demand it as a tribute. If you count it, don't seem to do so.

Be not impatient of Contradiction, nor think the Man
your Enemy who differs from you in Judgement lest you make
him so. Don't attempt to force respect, & think you will
secure it by bullying those in your Opposition. Rather
conciliate than force, gain your Opponent rather than
eternally disgust him, if you can carry your point & secure
the Man who is your Enemy, you kill two Birds with one stone.

Boisterous threatnings only makes a Man despised, pulling
Noses won't help a Character. Don't appear against Men of
real & known worth. Don't beat your Head against a Mountain.
Never carry a Cause by dishonest Means, the Discovery
will leave you more than your Victory will bless you.

Lay the Foundation of your Glory in a thorough knowledge
of the Language Arts & Sciences. This will furnish you with
innumerable Ideas. This will fill your mind with a Treasure of

Sentiment; & under it a Magazine stand with all that is great
in Antiquity. This will save you from the Contempt of the
Wise who see thro' the thin Cobweb of empty prattle & easily
distinguish the Puffer from the Man of Stuff. This will make
you understand Language, & not use words which tho' they
please the Coxcomb, yet expose the nakedness of your Mind to
Men of Sense. A Meteor may blaze, but it is the Sun that
shines steadily. A Man may by accident rise high, but he cannot
stay there unless he has Merit to support him. Gilding wears off
by use; true Gold glistens the more. The best way to be always
thought a Good & a great Man is in reality to be so; then the
better you are known, the more you will be respected. In a
course of action the temper of the Man will out, & if you are
found attempting to carry even a good Cause by dishonest Means,
the Confidence of Good Men in you will be lost irrecoverably.

The above is a fragment of the Celebrated Longinus
who was killed at the Siege of Palmira, being a part of his
Lectures to young Lads who desired to rise in their Country.
Found among the Manuscripts of the Rev^d William Tennant.

Charleston July 3^d 1829—