and evince our gratitude to its founders, which cannot be more
eminently exhibited, than by preserving the sacred and precious
deposit, which they have entrusted us. It was from knowledge de-
ived from books, in connection with other circumstances, and by a com-
parison of the advantages and evils incident to other governments,
that our constitution was consolidated. Let it be our study then
to peruse such books, as well, by viewing as the principles on
which the government was founded, inspire us with such sentiments
and enable us to take such measures as will render it firm an un-
alterable. But reading is not only a clue to the labyrinths
and intricate modes of government but it is in fact, the study
of human nature. If in history we meet with characters, who
have distinguished themselves, we are naturally disposed to ex-
amine the motives, which actuated their conduct during life.
By frequent investigations of this sort, we become conversant
with human nature, the knowledge of which far transcends
any acquisition within the reach of human powers. Another
and, one by no means to be overlooked, is that reading fur-
ishes a rich and various store of ideas, on almost every subject
and leads the way to another more eminent advantage, the
ency of speech, and elegance of diction, and solidity of matter.
When ideas are clear and abundant, they can always be exp-
ressed by those who conceive them, in strong and energetic lan-
guage, and by reading chaste and elegant authors, we acquire
a chaste and copious style. Regard must be had, too, to the kin

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