

There is no chair of deportment in college, for the good reason that such a chair could only breed snobs and dandies; but the wise student will count among the incidentals that are well worthy of his consideration the acquisition of

CULTURED MANNERS.

Other things being equal, the man of cultured manners will outstrip his fellow in any and every walk of life. To ignore the fact that men, whether high-born or low-born, are impressed by cultured behaviour, or to inveigh against this general preference as a mark of fastidiousness or weakness which is not worth reckoning with, is sheer folly. As well inveigh against the love of harmony in music, or the appreciation of grace and symmetry in nature and art. One has only to heed the grateful impressions made upon his own mind by the cultured men he daily meets, to find the index of how all men feel towards a cultured man.

The root of good manners is to be found, of course, in personal character. Given pure and elevated thoughts, kindly feelings, genuine unselfishness, and the essence of the thing is already present. These noble traits and sentiments, however, may find simple, easy, natural, graceful expression, though the countenance, the voice, the carriage of the body, the alert and considerate bearing of the whole man with respect to the rights and preferences of others, or they may find only partial and uncouth expression through these same media. Cultured manners are possessed when awkwardness has given place to ease, and what is noble and refined within has found appropriate and free expression in the external deportment.

Happy he who has been nurtured in cultivated surroundings, and has caught his earliest conceptions of social interchange from those who are examples of courtesy and refinement! The man who has been less favorably circumstanced will find it necessary to discipline himself: to note the forms of deportment from which cultured people refrain; to note sympathetically the easy and natural modes of expression they find for their best thoughts and feelings; and to acquire mastery over his powers of mind and body, in order that his own thoughts and feelings may in like manner come to find free, happy, approved expression. To the student who is sensitive and responsive in respect to conduct, college days afford varied and unique opportunities for the improvement of life in this particular, opportunities which wisdom will not let slip.

Another acquisition which the incidental discipline of college life should secure to the student is the art of

CULTURED SPEECH.

That this is an art to be prized needs no urging. Its fascination is felt by the lettered and the unlettered, by the old and the young. He who possesses it may have a homely face, and many another