

mortalized do not deserve all the credit for it. The age made the men more than the men the age. Take away the Reformation and what is Luther? Blot out the Elizabethian era and Shakespeare is weak. The condition, the needs, and the problems of the mass of humanity surrounding them, not only made their grand thoughts possible, but suggested them, and they are merely the mouthpieces of the age and nation to which they belonged. The same is true to-day. Our great men are the leaders, not the originators of thought, for they gather up the ideas scattered through the minds of the people, and focus them on one point. No matter how wise a scholar may be he will be only a dunce of learning if he alienate himself from his fellows. What is learned in books and by independent investigation must be amplified and applied by the thought and life of the present, and the leaders of thought must be in living contact with the masses before they can powerfully influence their own or any age, for the historical setting of every great work must be taken into account before its principles can be valuable to people in different circumstances. Our poets, scientists, philosophers and theologians are complying with this re-

quirement, and are expressing the needs, the yearnings, the triumphs and aspirations of our people, and in the fact that they regard the mind of the nation as one grand unity, and forgetting themselves in the masses, seek to speak the thoughts and feelings of all, lies the secret of their success and power, and our hopes of our nation's future glory.

The purpose of most of the thought of to-day, however, is to confer practical benefit upon men. To give them right opinions is to lead them to right actions. In nothing is this more clearly seen than in political science. In our country there are two opposing schools of thought, and one is no sooner victorious than it puts its principles into practice, and the country is placed under a new policy. Similarly in every sphere of life, the thoughts of men determine their conduct, so that those who lead in thought and theory really lead in life. Thus all their attention is concentrated on the interests of the masses, for these are the subjects of their thought, and their whole lives are devoted to directing them in all their enterprises and reforms.

In the working out of these theories the leaders must be broad-minded educated men, before any movement can be successful. The Reformation