

Charles Francis Adams urges in the Address* to which I have alluded before, "it is well to prepare one's self for that specific work, and not to occupy one's time in acquiring information, no matter how innocent or elegant, or generally useful, which has no probable bearing on that work." If so, what possible use can our farmers and city merchants find for the smattering of Latin and Greek they may have acquired at school? Science in all its branches is very useful, Mathematics also up to a certain extent. French they must know, and everybody should be able to read and write English. Besides these bare necessities, should they intend, as many of our business men do, to take up any special branch of study, they will require to know German. And if they merely began the study of all these subjects, there would be no time for Greek and Latin. Now, as a matter of fact, you all know that the Academies do not attempt to teach them these subjects. At least when their work is tested, no knowledge of any branch of science is required, and German is only taught by the Dunham Ladies' College. We all know the cause of this state of things. The College authorities require a knowledge of Latin and Greek, and the school cannot give training in *these*, and at the same time in the subjects which men who do go to College, as well as those who do not, really require for the work of life. Mr. Adams finds the same fault with education among our neighbours. "One thing crowding another out," he says, "there does not exist, so far as I am able to learn, a single school in the country which will at the same time prepare my sons for college, and for what I, by long and hard experience, perfectly well know to be the life actually before them. The simple fact is that the College faculty tell me that I do not know what a man really needs to enable him to do the educated work of modern life well; and I, who for twenty years have been engaged in that work, can only reply that the members of the faculty are laboring under a serious misapprehension as to what life is. It is something made up, not of theories, but of facts,—and of confoundedly hard facts at that."

It is quite possible that some one will urge that Academies are not meant for farmers and business men, but simply for those

*A College Fetich.—An address delivered before the Harvard Chapter of the Fraternity of the Phi Beta Kappa, in Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, June 28, 1883.