

to point out defects, and appear not to think of having assumed any obligations, or that they are at all identified with its interests.

Another reason of the coldness and indifference with which literary effort is regarded by many among us, is that the greater number of our people are necessarily engaged in either commercial, mechanical, or agricultural pursuits, and are so absorbed in business cares as to possess little leisure to cultivate a taste for reading. There is no question that this operates unfavorably; yet back of it lie other and still more untoward influences, originating in the narrow and superficial views that prevail, to a great extent, respecting our intellectual wants. People think that because so many books are already written, further literary effort is unnecessary, and to encourage it is but a waste of time and money. This idea—as mistaken as it is common—completely ignores the fact that in all progress and improvement, books are the circulating medium through which mind communicates with mind, and are not only essential as records of all scientific discoveries, but of all progress in the arts; of all historical events; and, in short, of all permanent expression of thought. And as regards the superfluity of books complained of, those which are really unnecessary and unprofitable, would soon find the proper level, were an understanding and judicious discrimination cultivated and practiced among those who purchase and read.

The equally erroneous and wide-spread impression,