

if, reverently and sympathetically, he endeavours to preserve the freshness and ingenuousness of childhood, and, by the influence of his own example, while leading the pupil up the golden ladder of mental acquisition, he encourages the cultivation of those graces of life which are the best adornments of youth. Stepping out of the schools, we look expectantly to the professions for evidence of sympathy with culture, and for practical results in its promotion. As professions, we find, of course, the conventional admission of its claims, but few organized efforts in its behalf. In Law, perhaps from the fact that the social status of its members is more favourable to its unselfish pursuit, the recognition of culture is more general. The dignity and learning of the Bench fortunately, also, give it large countenance. The Clerical and Medical professions on the other hand, do not, as professions, give practical encouragement to its promotion. The former, in neither its professional curriculum, nor in its Church Assemblies, encourages that benignant breadth of tone favourable to its existence. As a class, moreover, "the peril of committing themselves" is too characteristic of the profession to give aid to its expression, while the asperities of religious controversy too often drive culture from their midst. Among ministers, as among doctors, culture has, individually, to look for that generous, eager, and ambitious life which woos it to a home, and for that student-temper which, in the circle of its influence, best promotes it.

That among the commercial classes, and the trading community of the country, little is done to advance public culture has always been a matter of reproach; and with that little there is the disposition still to do less. Years ago, in our cities and towns, and when the wealth of the community was not what it is to-day, there

was more *esprit* in this matter, and our social and civic life was more pronounced in favor of the public good. With wealth has come indifference to the weal of the community, and with comfortable circumstances that selfishness which felicitates itself in isolation. Formerly lectures, readings, literary and debating clubs, "socials" for mental improvement, and other schemes of an educating and improving character, were wont to be patronized, but of these one hears little now-a-days. It would seem as if we had retrograded greatly from these times, while the apathy that now reveals itself, in matters that concern the intellectual life and public culture, leads us almost to despair of a revival of interest.

Nor is the press, in the main, more helpful to culture, or influential in the formation of an elevating public taste. Politics have, unfortunately, become our only education, and the theme and burden of the utterance of every journal. No purely literary paper can find adequate support outside small circles of the educated class, and monthly periodicals, of any high character, have but a precarious existence. The journals, as newspapers merely, are the only enterprises that find eager and constant supporters; and these, with some few exceptions, make no original provision for the serious student. Literary excerpts, save of the most fluid character, find little representation in their pages; and literary criticism is almost unknown. Politics, controversy, trivial occurrences, and gossip, are the main items of their daily bill-of-fare; the first of these being served and reserved, with all their inconceivable littlenesses, the round of the year. Of course, so long as the general public is satisfied with the cheap performances of journalism, and craves no higher food than a hurried daily press is willing to give it, the quality will