

the picture we would present to the imagination, but on most occasions, if we succeed in creating a desire to realize perfectly, by after investigation, the effect of the masterpiece, if we can induce but a few to endeavor, by research and diligence, to make themselves acquainted with all the beauty and utility of any literary or scientific subject, the lecturer will have gained his object, though he himself admitted his audience but to a mere glimpse of its excellency. Allow me, therefore, to draw the attention of those who love to follow after knowledge, while I offer them a few words of encouragement to persist in their noble aspiration.

There is no truth more trite, no observation more common, than, "onward is the progress of the human mind," but too many are content to receive this axiom in all the faith of blind confidence in our destiny, without realizing the necessity of taking any part in this march of the human intellect; they rest satisfied with their position as units in the mixed multitude that are marching to the promised land of perfect knowledge and universal happiness, ignorant alike of the means which facilitate, or the impediments which check the mighty movement. They see that sufficient advance is now and then made to create a strong probability of the ultimate possession of the land, therefore, whatever the dangers, whatever the delays, the exulting declaration is still the same, "onward is the progress of the age," the spirit of improvement is irresistibly diffused. Now, just in proportion as these assertions are true, so precisely is the disgrace attaching to each individual who does not aid the progress of the human family, who does not imbibe the spirit of improvement so universally recognized; a just reproach adheres to every man who is conscious that vast strides are being taken by his fellow-men, and yet will make no effort to direct their steps aright, or to keep pace himself with the enlightenment of the times, but who loiters along, satisfied with occasionally asserting his belief in the final triumph of knowledge, and listlessly suffering himself to be distanced in the glorious struggle, an idle spectator, when he might be an aspiring competitor. Multitudes in society answer to this description, who make it their constant boast that they live in an era of extraordinary improvement, the boast implying that they have a knowledge of the past, because a certain amount of information is indispensable when we would trace the increasing knowledge and skill of mankind. To appreciate the wonders of our day, we must be able to contrast or compare