

win in the long run—the fruit of natural growth and maturity will fetch the best market prices in the end. But while such men as the writer noted before propound such questions as the following, and then seriously argue and discuss them as if there could possibly be any other than one answer to them, I see little chance of improvement. For example, “How much or how little of education is desirable?” or, “Does the man *need* a liberal education?” as if every creature under the sun, whatever his position may be, is not the better for being given a broad and liberal view of life and its duties.

It is the pernicious bread-and-butter theory pure and simple with them. It is always, Will it put dollars and cents into your pocket? if not pass it by and stick to that which will, as if that were the one aim and object of your children's training. To regard it in this light is but to take the basest and lowest view of education. If the training of our children means anything at all it means *preparing* them and *equipping* them with that by which they will be able to fulfil in life in the very best way they can the part Providence has given them to play—to help them to realize, as nothing else can, that heaven and earth is a great system of which they are integral parts, and in which they have some definite end to fulfil besides the making of money. It teaches them how to help forward the great destinies of their race; to bring about that which we all say we are seeking, viz.: National progression and prosperity; to turn chaos into order, to harmonize the discordant, and in the end to hand on to posterity—beautified and enriched by their

own efforts—that noble inheritance of ever-widening knowledge and discovery bequeathed to our times by successive generations.

Nor will all this, I venture to contend, unfit a youth in any way for the sterner, practical duties of life. He will be no less the thrifty, useful citizen—the competent man of business. Culture and practicality are not irreconcilable terms. But it will rob life of much of its bitterness and hateful meannesses, and transform the selfish, sordid view of it so many of us hold into something higher and nobler. It will set before us, both as individuals and as a nation, an elevating, ennobling ideal end to aim at, which shall enter into and control every action of our lives. But let it not be thought I plead for the culture of idealism simply. It is an education that will train, as nothing else can, every faculty and power of a man's whole nature—hand, head, eye, ear—so as to enable him to realize and work out the great aims and ends he has put before him, which I am advocating.

A little more of self-culture, a little less of money-making, a little more of love for the ennobling and the true, a little less of the glitter and the show, and what a change would come over us! What a delightful country this of ours would be, and what a glorious legacy should we hand on to posterity! If we could but establish the worship of Culture in the Temple of Wealth for a little while; if but one niche were given over to her votaries, how much of that which makes life so hateful at times would vanish; and little by little we should see the dreams of earth's noblest and best fulfilled before our eyes.