

I say "a portion," because I am well aware that only a moral stimulus is, or can be, a complete one. No set of circumstances that does not include a perfect enthusiasm of the soul for universal good, can ever enable men to overcome the slothfulness of their animal nature and do their human best.

Many will incline to doubt whether the placing of the manual arts on a level with the liberal arts, as branches of education, would alter the general feeling with regard to them and make them seem fit occupations for gentlemen. One thing, however, is certain, that unless it does, nothing will, and a condition of things must continue which is hostile to our institutions. Unless our democracy is a sham, the spirit of it demands that no social distinction shall be made between man and man, or class and class, on the ground of difference of occupations, so long as these are useful and honest; but that all shall be based upon worth, that is, the fidelity with which a man plays his part in life, whatever that may be. This spirit, by confining the term "gentleman" to its moral signification, and utterly dissociating it from wealth, idleness, soft hands, and supercilious manners, must give us the new, democratic type of gentleness. But, if we may judge from past experience, the raising of the mechanical arts to the level of the liberal arts, as branches of education, will have the effect I have indicated. We have seen how the literary education which we now consider so essential was regarded in old England. It is not so long since the physician or leech was, as Hallam says, "an inexhaustible theme of popular ridicule;" witness Molière's "*L'amour médecin*," "*Le médecin malgré lui*," "*Le malade imaginaire*," etc. The barber's pole, so common in our streets, recalls a time, not so long past, when the barber practised blood-letting and other medical arts. It is

within our own memory that the dentist stood on a level with the barber; indeed, the two were often the same person. How is it that all this is changed, that literature, medicine, and dentistry have become gentlemanly occupations? Simply, I think, because they are now taught scientifically, and institutions have been established for that purpose. It may be laid down as a general rule, that whatever is taught in school will soon become respectable and gentlemanly, while that which is picked up in the home or the workshop will always be regarded as menial.

That the public manual-training school and technical institute are what must replace the old private, family apprenticeship, is the opinion of nearly all persons who have studied the subject with care. Nor is this opinion a mere theory. It is based upon the experience of other countries in which such schools and institutes have been established — of England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Russia, etc. A mass of testimony to this effect may be found in the "Report of the British Royal Commissioners on Technical Instruction" (5 vols. 8vo.), a report admirably summarized in one of the "Circulars of Information" of the Washington Bureau of Education (No. 3—1885).

My conclusion is, that unless we wish to keep manual labour in a position of degradation, to close an important field of activity against our own citizens, and to belie our democratic principles, we must elevate mechanical art to the level of the liberal arts, by establishing in every city and town in the United States schools for the imparting of manual training to every boy and girl, and technical schools for thorough instruction in all the industrial arts.

I am well aware that such a proposition savours of socialism; but what of it? Our entire system of