

of one of these famed explorers carried in costly ovations through the country, greeted with the profoundest respect by thousands of people as it passed on to its final resting place in the tomb. And this too made us sad; not because Elisha Kent Kane and his followers were not real noble heroes, worthy of great praise, but we felt sad because there were men who had been on better expeditions and had accomplished vastly more for the human race, yet of whom the world thought very little. There are men who have explored the mysteries of the human body, who have carefully determined the character of its structure and the laws that govern its use; who have by years of toil found out the conditions of health and disease, and have then freely given all these valuable truths to mankind, only to be cried out at as bone-pickers and grave-diggers. What is the value of an open polar sea or a north-west passage compared with some fact that shall alleviate pain, prolong existence, and add to the happiness and value of human life?

We could easily get a thousand hearers to a discussion of some political question, while we would be puzzled to get a corporal's guard out to hear a lecture on digestion; yet who can measure the difference of relation these things bear to the welfare of the people. Men are not apt to be long blind to their own interests; still, who can say why theology in the pulpit and politics on the rostrum should continue to sway their scepter over the masses, while medical questions are excluded from "good society." If theology can boast that she preaches a free salvation, if the great political doctrine of the age claims to make all men equal before the law, what better are they than medicine, whose richest boon is bestowed alike on beggars and kings. Who of us believes that the church through its priests holds exclusive power over the people in all spiritual matters? Who of us believes that our political rights are delegated to a privileged class who are to govern and care for us? Yet here is a subject holding the most important relations to human society, penetrating in its applications every public and private human interest; a subject addressing itself alike to the consciences and understandings of men, yet left by them almost wholly in the hands of a privileged few, and these few the doctors who hold, or pretend to hold, a mortgage on our bodies, just as the devil held a claim on the soul of Faustus. And the result is just as fatal to the welfare of the people as is their loss of political power and religious knowledge. Wily despots, design-