

## Study of Modern Languages.

WHAT the study of modern languages is a necessary part of a liberal education, is a proposition which few intelligent persons will at this day dispute.

The records of thought and knowledge are many-tongued.

Familiarity with languages liberalizes the mind in the same way as travel.

The Emperor Charles V. once said that to learn a new language was to acquire a new soul.

The person who is familiar only with the writings of his native tongue is in danger of supposing that manners and customs, tastes and habits of thought, which belong only to his own age and country, are inseparable from the nature of man. He finds that opinions which he had thought to be universal, and feelings which he had supposed instinctive, have been unknown to millions. He thus loses that Chinese cast of mind, that contempt for everything outside of his own narrow circle which was a foe to all self-knowledge and to all self-improvement.

Then the study of languages is a means of great intellectual culture for it gives us ability to think, presents ideas in condensed form and develops and strengthens many important faculties.

It is also true that one's knowledge of English is made more broad and accurate by an understanding of any tongue that has contributed to its development.

We are not blind to the fact, that the acquisition of any language is a 'big job,' but even if we fall short of acquiring it with any degree of perfection, yet we will find even a slight knowledge of languages is of great practical and educational value.

In travelling through a country, if we are altogether ignorant of its native language we may as well go through it with our eyes shut or stay at home as far as getting an insight into the tastes, interests and aspirations of the people.

Englishmen, French and Germans deem a knowledge of modern languages not only useful but even vital to their

worldly success. There is hardly a commercial house of any note that does not sell goods to Germany, France, Sweden or Russia; hence, every such house must have employees to conduct their correspondence, and a knowledge of foreign tongues is, therefore, one of the best recommendations with which a young man seeking a clerkship can be armed. In our large cities, there are so many foreigners too who cannot speak English.

## ✧ Charity. ✧

ARTHUR SYMONS.

A beggar died last night, his soul

Went up to God, and said :

• I come uncalled ; forgive it, Lord ;

I died for want of bread."

Then answered him the Lord of heaven :

"Son, how can this thing be?

Are not My saints on earth? and they

Had surely succored thee."

"Thy saints, O Lord," the beggar said.

"Live holy lives of prayer ;

How shall they know of such as we?

We perish unaware.

"They strive to save our wicked souls,

And fit them for the sky ;

Meanwhile, not having bread to eat,

(Forgive !) our bodies die."

Then the Lord God spake out of heaven

In wrath and angry pain :

"O men, for whom My Son hath died,

My son hath lived in vain !"

## ✧ God Still the Same. ✧

[BY ARCHBISHOP FRENCH.]

Not Thou from us, O Lord, but we  
Withdraw ourselves from Thee.

When we are dark and dead,  
And Thou art covered with a cloud,  
Hanging before Thee like a shroud,  
So that our prayer can find no way,  
O teach us that we do not say,  
"Where is Thy brightness fled?"

But that we search and try,  
What in ourselves has wrought this blame,  
For 'Thou remainest still the same ;  
But earth's own vapors earth may fill  
With darkness and thick clouds, while still  
The sun is in the sky.