

detects artificial hypocrisy, and turns away disgusted from it : while what flows freely from the human mind and heart is true and good and acceptable, even though it be not of an eminently exalted grade of power.

And again, Mr. President, in the tone of thought, that is unconsciously spread among those, who frequent our meetings, there is a valuable end gained. For, when we have attended to those pressing and daily calls, which every man must give heed to, if he would be comfortable and happy ;—and which no man can neglect without sorrow and disgrace, and consequent misery ;—I allude to the daily calls of our business or profession, of whatever kind it be :—there are those gracious hours of heart-felt tranquillity, which the indolent can never know, (for the very repose is the natural reward of toil and fatigue and honest industry ;)—which keep the mind in that happy state, that, the demands of this life being satisfied, we may then honestly provide for our immortal part. Then arises that curiosity, or rather natural thirst for knowledge, which Cicero so nobly pictures ; the desire to see or to hear of that, which is pleasing, or strange, or wonderful ; the travels and voyages of wanderers over the earth and sea ;—the perils and escapes of the suffering sailor or soldier ; the reasonings of the wise and good, on the condition of mankind, and what may be hoped for them hereafter ; the strange discoveries of those, who closely track, and search into, the deep secrets of nature ;—in short, all that lies within the range of the human understanding and heart ; or has been discovered by persevering effort, during the successive generations of mankind. This appetite, we find, grows with our habitual application, and burns and lives on, even to our extremest age ; is a source of never-ending joy, of an enduring pleasure, that injures no one ;—nay, rather is the secret fountain of all beneficial conversation, of all discourse, that is really interesting, and improving, and inspiring. For, the man becomes, unknown to himself, tinged with the mode of thinking, of those noble master-spirits of the world, to whose works he devotes his attentive and earnest mind ; just as,—to use a homely simile, much employed by the poets, the hand of the dyer becomes stained with that peculiar tinge,—which he is accustomed to give to the imbibing cloth. And thus again, even with respect to those, who benefit least, by what they hear, there is a practical sense given to them, of