

A man may admire a deep thought, may praise it and be subdued by it, but only a deep intellect can receive a great deep thought. We really receive no new thought except by struggle and conflict we fashion our minds according to the pattern of the new thought, making it part and parcel of our existence, living and walking on in its inspiration. Thought cannot be communicated to minds that do not think. The power of old sages, at whose mistakes and crudities we laugh, may be a far-off thing to us. It is their power, rather than their knowledge, we are to covet.

Therefore we find the professions, and our Colleges and Seminaries, abundantly supplied with paupers who, halt and lame and blind in intellect, depend on the bounties, the helps which richer, nobler minds have stored; persons "incompetent to get their own mental living." So a characteristic of the times is a strong tendency to imitate. The preacher in his study works over and adapts to his own use the products of others, more royal souls; in his pulpit he ventures from no path which he has not explored with safe guidance by a stronger, bolder hand. The painter becomes a copyist of Rubens and Claude. The teacher finds scraps of knowledge which he asserts and distributes according to his personal tastes, and calls the product "his system."

"Humano capiti cervicem pictor equinam
Jungere si velit, et varias inducere plumas
Undique collatis membris, et turpiter atrum
Desinat in piscem mulier formosa superne,
Spectatum admissi risum teneatis, amici?"

Conceit makes a show of capacity at the bar and on the bench. The scholar develops in the recitation room imitative faculties at the expense of competent mental vigour. The last thought is the greatest to such minds, because room must be made for it at the expense of all that has preceded it. The last argument to which they have listened is the only one which sways them; like the Hibernian who, hearing the counsel for the plaintiff, declared, "surely he has won the case." and then, after the plea of the defendant's counsel, was glowingly sure that "he has won the case."

As among men in working circles there are many who seem only