

can graduate with little or no knowledge of classics ; the time formerly given to this department being now given to other subjects that are considered more practical. This may perhaps be an advantage to some, but for any student who is preparing himself for a profession in which public speaking is required, it would be a mistake to take a university course of which a thorough training in classics does not form a part. There are speakers who, without any classical training, can, in one or two brilliant orations, surpass others that are well versed in those languages, but the latter will show their resources by their persistent superior productions.

When the study of classics is pursued in a proper manner, it gives the student a grasp of language not otherwise attainable, a broader view and an intellectual training not acquired by any other branch of study.

It may perhaps be said that we can explore all the mines of classical lore by means of translations, but this is impossible as no translation can fully convey the fine shades of thought, the beauties of imagination and feeling of the original. These languages open up to us a very extensive field of literature unrivalled in any other era of the world. Like all highly synthetic languages they are remarkable for conciseness, precision, and beauty of form.

The Latin contains the most polished sentences and gives to us the thoughts of a race of men vastly different from the races of to-day—men who though heathen in religion, often gave expression to ideas infused with Christian sentiment ; men who were stirred by impulses now comparative-

ly unknown and who lived for objects that cannot now be appreciated ; and for all time their works will be regarded as examples of the highest perfection in composition.

And now we come to notice the Greeks, the greatest as well as the most intellectual people that have ever lived. Even after their political power was destroyed, they continued for many generations to be renowned at all centres of education as scholars, artists, and statesmen. This language is the key to one of the most astonishing and splendid regions of literature which has ever been laid open for the intellect to explore—a literature which embraces works not only of great interest but also of vast importance for the development of human thought. It is the language of the most distinguished poets, the greatest orators, the greatest historians and the most original philosophers the world has ever seen. It contains the records of laws and institutions that lie at the basis of all modern society ; and at the same time portrays those virtues and accomplishments in which modern society is most deficient. However exclusively or pedantically this language may be studied it will always remain, as a great writer wished it might remain, the basis of all higher culture. "Greek, the shrine and genius of the old world, as universal as our race, as individual as ourselves ; of infinite flexibility, of indefatigable strength ; speaking to the ear like Italian, speaking to the mind like English ; with words like pictures, with words like the gossamer film of summer ; is not fully exhausted by the variety and picturesqueness of Homer, by the intensity