

endowments will prove of doubtful utility if this is not attended to. Even genius cannot do its best work without culture. The greatest masterpieces of art, of architecture, of literature, of mechanics are not the productions of immaturity. Men and women may be born with remarkable gifts, with special and distinguishing aptitudes, but the best results are secured by taking what nature has affluently bestowed, and using every known means for its development. The sweetest voice needs to be trained, the keenest intellect needs to be disciplined, the most efflorescent imagination needs to be brought under careful culture before their best work is possible. The men and women who have swayed eager multitudes with their voice or pen have been, with very rare exceptions, those who diligently cultivated the gift that was in them. It was not a wild undisciplined genius that produced these creations of oratorical effectiveness or those soul-captivating harmonies that have commanded an undisputed place in the admiration of the ages. The speeches of Gladstone, by which the English speaking world was often led to change its front on momentous issues; the addresses of Beecher delivered in England during the war of the rebellion, when mighty audiences first execrated, then patiently listened and finally wildly cheered; the mellifluous sweetness of Adeline Patti's matchless voice when singing some simple song of love or home, all bear witness not merely to the possession of splendid natural gifts, but to the importance of the very highest culture. The tongue could never accomplish such feats of persuasive eloquence, nor the voice produce such irresistible harmonies, nor the intellect play so distinguished a part were it not for the rigid and thorough discipline to which they had been subjected. Soil does not more truly need cultivation to insure its productiveness than does the human soul. The strings of an instrument do not more absolutely demand skilful fingers to screw them into concert pitch than does the soul educative ministrics to fit it for high achievement.

I appreciate the inestimable value of a trained mind. I appreciate it all the more because the facilities were comparatively crude and meagre in my early days and in my little country. Blessed are ye young men and maidens of this land and century, for the fairest avenues of intellectual acquisition