

what is called the life of the people. This view is higher than that of mere utilitarianism which would ask for what contributes to the lowest elements of life. This spirit looks upon truth as related to human souls; it desires the knowledge that is power, but a power that is in every way helpful, enlarging, uplifting.

This current of thinking which has grown especially since the days of Kant, will, it would appear, be the determining force in education. Studies will be cherished not for their age but for the food they can furnish to the millions perishing for lack of knowledge. It is this element of life in our thought that gives perennial interest and permanent place to philosophy and to literature. In addition to whatever value they possess as means of mental discipline they have this great claim that they seek to explain the meaning of life and to contribute directly to it; the thoughts of the poets and philosophers "enrich the life-blood of the world." We shall look into these subjects for a few moments to see how each helps the other. We shall thereby see, also, how both add to man's welfare.

Let us note:

I. *The Study of Literature as helpful to the Study of Philosophy*, and

II. *The Study of Literature as helped by the Study of Philosophy*.

Before these points can be discussed we must briefly indicate the nature and scope of literature and of philosophy. Literature is variously defined, but it will be enough for our purpose to consider it as "the artistic presentation of the fruits of reflection on some of the more obvious problems of the world and of human life." It sets these problems before us in the greatest variety. It leads us into them in the most subtle and charming ways, it shows what they are and stimulates the feelings that arise therefrom. The artistic element is a source of power in presenting the great facts of suffering and enjoyment. From Homer to Chaucer and from Chaucer to Tennyson what a presentation of the heights and depths of human experience; what pictures of the passions, the hates and loves, the struggles and aspirations, the concords and conflicts of nations, of tribes, of individual souls! What nearness to the supernatural is depicted and what depths of the brute; what fierce questioning of nature, what demands for the divine; what a search into the mystery of human life!

All this we have portrayed in this literature of the ages,