

built cities, railways and telegraphs ; we have invented all kinds of machines to do all kinds of work ; we have established a school and newspaper in every hamlet ; our wealth is incalculable ; our population is counted by tens of millions, and yet, in spite of all this, we are a disappointment to ourselves and to the world because we have failed in the supreme end of human effort—the making man a wiser, nobler, diviner being. We have uttered no thoughts which have illumined the nations ; we have not felt the thrill of immortal loves ; we are not buoyed by a faith and hope which are as firm-rooted as the rock ribbed mountains. * * * We have trusted to matter as the most real thing ; we have lived on the surface, amid show, and our souls have not drunk of the deep infinite source of life. Our religion and our education are cherished for the practical ends which they serve for the support they give to our political institutions. * * * The people have become less disinterested, less high minded, less really intelligent, and among their leaders it is rare to find one who is distinguished either by strength and cultivation of mind or by purity and integrity of character. Are we destined to become the most prodigious example of failure, as of success, recorded by history ?”

Do we wish to have a picture of ourselves such as that, or to have an education which was not only intended to give you solid and substantial knowledge, but to make you well informed, well mannered, courteous, truthful, honorable—in a word, to make you educated gentlemen ? To your teachers let me say :

Socrates, at one time a sculptor, chiselled the statue of the Graces and presented them to the gods. But, although pleased with their beauty, he recognized, with pain, that his right hand could not execute what his mind conceived. The old man in the Temple at Athens gave to Socrates this counsel : “Learn to know the divine germ which lies in thee, and in every human heart cherish it and thou shalt produce the godlike within and without thyself.”

Socrates now turned his thoughts to the instruction of youth, and the world, for all time, has been enriched with his embodied thoughts.