

Abreast of the Times

surface appearances, and get at the heart of reality. The "very latest thing" should be judged on its merits, since mere newness affords no criterion of intrinsic value. But however learned one may be, he need not disdain to judge it, whether it pleases him or not. Pedants can never be efficient guides. The men who will prove most useful in this busy age are not those who look askance upon it, and sigh either for "the good old times" or for a vague Utopia that floats in cloudland before them, but those who feel a genuine interest in what is going on in the world now, and are able to read the phenomena of the present in the light of truths that are eternal. It is impossible to seize the fleeting day, save in a spirit of selfish and unproductive Epicureanism, unless we discern both its perils and its opportunities. And in order to do this, we must feel the tremendous force of those underlying laws that govern all noble living, and be swayed by an in-