

anything else that is worth having. There is no royal road to learning ; but there is a broad high-way open to all, and that will bring all who are willing to endure the heat and the dust, and to plod bravely on, though foot sore and weary, to their journey's end.

You all know the story of Benjamin Franklin and the manner of his education. There is much in the man that I cannot commend ; but his energetic pursuit of mental culture is worthy of all imitation. The story is a little thread-bare perhaps, but it is none the worse for that. Things become trite, only because they are true. I will point your attention however to an example of self-education more fresh, and more entirely of to-day.

Let me ask you to take in hand, and carefully read, from beginning to end, the not very thick octavo volume, which, under the significant title "My schools and schoolmasters," contains the history of the education of the late Hugh Miller, written by himself. There you will see portrayed the steps by which the poor Highland lad, often over worked and under-fed, drew from his barren opportunities the nutriment which sustained and developed his magnificent intellect. Successively, if I remember aright, a working man in the stone quarries—one of a gang living together, in a lone shanty—a clerk in a bank—and the editor of a newspaper—he was, he became, he made himself an adept in science, and a great master in the literary art. You will find in his writings, especially in the last great idea—the last grand conjecture—which he projected upon the field of speculation—you will find qualities and excellencies of style which you may look for elsewhere in vain. In all his writings, but more particularly in his "Testimony of the Rocks," we are compelled to acknowledge the presence of power. There is nothing spasmodic, but the intense heat of his imagination, controlled but not extinguished by his massive common sense, ever smouldering beneath the page, flashes through from time to time with an electric light, that reveals clusters of ideas, contingencies, and possibilities which it was never before given us to see,