

evil of cramming the mind with knowledge, consists in knowing only a subject at a few points. We thus have but a fragile hold of it, so that it soon passes from our recollection. A subject, on the contrary, with which we are in touch in a large rounded measure, enters into the very fibres of our own intellectual being, determining its texture and complexion. It is thus that a superior lawyer knows law ; a skilful physician, medicine ; a matured literateur, literature. The knowledge of these abides with them as a fountain of refreshing water and as a source of continuous power. They are living epistles of the intelligence which by their aptitude and prolonged industry, and discerning experience they have become qualified to impart. Every department of knowledge must like religion, be a life and not a mere theory would we thoroughly win it for ourselves and potentially impart it to others.

Tact is then the crown and glory of true culture, of the right relating of ourselves to any realm of truth in which we are called to occupy ourselves. We must therefore learn to be rich in receptiveness ere we can hope to be so in the impartation of knowledge. The term "tact" instead of suggesting to us, as it ought, ideas of industry, fidelity, truth, liberty, victorious achievement in the inner man, too often sets us thinking of dexterity exercised to supplement weakness of capacity or limited resources, shrewdness substituted for genuine ascendancy and power. Its possessor is apt to be considered as one who has the trick of making his journey by stealing a ride rather than by honest work or payment. Tact is liable to be construed as being rich, not in endowments but in expedients. Opposed to all this misconception of the term, let us not forget that a man of tact is a man of touch, of fine and vigorous discrimination, a man, therefore, holding the wide and all penetrating relations to truth which I have just endeavored to set forth. He is capable of touching others because touch-power has been highly and symmetrically developed in himself by prolonged, assiduous, and vigilant self-culture through the right relating of himself to the truth which it became his duty to investigate.

An exact and impressive picture of a landscape touched off for you by the sketcher is not done by mere instinct. By frequent contact with nature, and by unstinted toil to catch her forms and colors and proportions, has his eye been trained to discern her, and his hand disciplined to reproduce her. He is first receptive, and then reproductive. The same is true of every interpreter of truth, who holds up the mirror to Nature and enables us to read therein the Divine lessons meant for our profit, whether conveyed to us through "the moving accidents of flood and field," or the rules of grammar and logic.

Tact involves the idea of one's personality going into things as well as being developed through them. A rich personality wisely developed infuses life into all it touches. A good cook imparts something to the food she prepares which is lacking in that coming from incapable hands. A farmer of tact makes two blades of grass grow where an inferior one would fail to raise one. Michael Angelo's chisel owed its magic power to Angelo's personality.