

fellow : if he aspires to be their superior or leader—it has become the fashion to say, servant of the sovereign people,—he must prove that he is a giant intellectually and morally. He must lay down his platform, publish his program of action and convince people, before they will place him in a position of trust, that he knows how to promote their interests. The reason, doubtless, of so much change and disturbance is the little care and reverence held for old methods and ideas : everywhere the desire obtains to try new ways and new things. The public man must be able to stand the lime-light ; his utterances, exposed to a most searching scrutiny, must depend on their own merits. He must possess the power to present his opinions, by voice and pen, clearly, intelligently, forcibly. In fact the number of persons who undertake to serve the public and obtain its favor, in the pulpit, on the platform, through books, pamphlets and newspapers, is growing to an extent never seen before. There is indeed a no more noble task nor one of greater social importance ; and to qualify for it, a man must be in possession of ideas precise, correct, unassailable : in other words he must study.

Study is the business of a student, if the name means anything. The student must apply his mind energetically and wisely to the consideration of things and of questions. Nor is he to desist till he gets to the truth or reality of things. He must study how to think rightly. One of the complaints against our schools is that the scholars are not taught to think. The pupils for instance in a kindergarten, who were unable to get a sum in apples, which had been presented to them in no other denomination than that of oranges, were not able to think. Nor will weak people, like bookworms and walking encyclopedias, who lack mental enterprise, who take no grip on things, who cannot fashion their accumulated stores into new shapes, be of more account than chips carried on a current. The student, it is true, must not disdain the least thing in the old world of knowledge ; he must become familiar with every particle, every item of it. But also, it is his place to look beyond and discover, so to say, new continents. This does not mean that the student is to seek distinction in a vain quest of fanciful and obscure novelties to know which never