

ment is credited to that continent. Or, remaining in America, he succumbs to the environment, puts aside his creative ambition, and enters business. It is not for nothing that Americans are the most active people in the world. They pay the penalty in an atrophy of the faculties of reflexion and representation. America may have an Art, and a great Art; but it will be after she has accomplished a social transformation. Her Art has first to touch ground; and before it can do that, the ground must be fit for it to touch."

SECTION X. The comment upon culture will be found in the "Cambridge Review." Let it stand in its austerity: "For in America there is, broadly speaking, no culture. There is instruction; there is research; there is technical and professional training; there is specialisation in science and in industry; there is every possible application of life to purposes and ends; but there is no life for its own sake. Again, you will find, if you travel long in America, that you are suffering from a kind of atrophy. You will not, at first, realize what it means. But suddenly it will flash upon you that you are suffering from lack of conversation. You do not converse; you cannot; you can only talk. It is the rarest thing to meet a man who, when a subject is started, is willing or able to follow it into its ramifications, to play with it, to embroider it with pathos or with wit, to penetrate to its roots, to trace its connections and affinities. Question and answer, anecdote and jest are the staple of American conversation; and, above all, information. They have a hunger for positive facts. And you may hear them hour after hour rehearsing to one another their travels, their business transactions, their experiences in trains, in hotels, on steamers. An American, broadly speaking, never detaches himself from experience. His mind is embedded in it; it moves wedged in fact. His only escape is into humour; and even his humour is but a formula of exaggeration. It implies no imagination, no real envisaging of its object. It does not illuminate a subject, it extinguishes it, clamping upon every