

one, that one of Lessing's—"If the Almighty, seated on His throne, and holding in His right hand Truth, and in His left the Search for Truth, should offer me my choice, without hesitation, yet with all humility, I should choose the Search for Truth." What does it matter to Ulysses that the horizon to which he presses fades forever and forever as he moves? What to the Grammarian that, aiming at a million, he knows he will miss even a unit?

"He throws himself on God and unperplexed,
Seeking shall find Him."

And surely men seeking with unswerving and absolute devotion a high ideal—aspiring to behold the unveiled face of Truth—will, whatever the path down which their minds range in their search, find even in that search its own abundant recompense.

In conclusion, and again in apology, let me quote from Woodrow Wilson, "In these bad days, when it is thought more educationally useful to know the principle of the common pump than Keats' 'Ode on a Grecian Urn,' as Mr. Birrell says, we cannot afford to let one single precious sentence of 'mere literature' go by us unread or unpraised. If this free people to which we belong is to keep its fine spirit, its perfect temper amidst affairs, its high courage in the face of difficulties, its wide temperateness and wide-eyed hope, it must continue to drink deep and often from the wells of English undefiled, quaff the keen tonic of its best ideals, keep its blood warm with all the great utterances of exalted purpose and pure principle of which its matchless literature is full. The great spirits of the past must command us in the tasks of the future. Mere literature will keep us pure and keep us strong. Even though it puzzle or altogether escape scientific method, it may keep our horizon clear for us, and our eyes glad to look bravely forth upon the world."

In gratitude, then, to the masters who have in these poems delineated characters so heartening to a young man, who have bodied forth with such beauty and such power the ideals, vague and inchoate in his mind, I have endeavored to direct attention to these noble bits of literature, and to share with you their beauty and the power of their inspiring message.

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