

BENEFITS OF STUDY.

In this age of great mental activity, when it is in the power of all to obtain a liberal education, we are constrained to think that mental power is of greater value than mere physical energy. We fully believe that, by the cultivation of the mind, we will not only open up to ourselves new realms of enjoyment, but will also provide ourselves with the best means of future advancement. We look down with a sort of pity upon those who care not to develop their mental capabilities, but are content to wade heavily along the monotonous level of a merely corporal existence. As the range of our intellectual vision widens from day to day, and we realize that we are as yet merely on the outskirts of the Universe of mind, in which are vast regions yet to be explored, mysteries great and profound yet to be fathomed, we may feel discouraged at the immensity of the task we have undertaken, and shrink back from its performance. But the mind when once aroused to a sense of its own powers, and a realization of its capabilities for pure intellectual enjoyment, cannot sink back into the pursuit of mere animal pleasures. Thus it is, that, though often weary and disheartened, we still press along the rugged pathway, climb slowly and toilsomely upward, culling here and there a fragrant flower from amongst the thorns, ever and anon mounting some higher pinnacle and gazing gladsomely over an ever widening prospect, till we feel that we are fully repaid for all our labor.

To, feel that, independent of a ceaseless whirl of fleeting and unsatisfactory pleasures, that keep up a phantom dance before the eyes of many seekers after happiness, we have means of enjoyment pure and lasting; to realize from day to day that there are within our reach heights yet untrod, and that there are new and surpassing beauties yet to be revealed, is in itself a pleasurable emotion. Till we learn somewhat of the capabilities of our minds, we are dependent to a great extent upon those

around us. Physical pursuits and pleasures cannot well be enjoyed in solitude. Thus the company of others becomes essential, and as we go on in such a life, it falls upon us, flecter and flecter must the whirl of gayety and the glittering phantasm's of pleasure flit on, luring us to new disappointment. We say not that the life of a hermit or a recluse is desirable, for man's nature craves the society of kindred dispositions. But we should be able in and of ourselves, independent of all others, to enjoy life. This we contend can be only fully done by mind culture.

To go forth from toiling crowd and dusty streets into some forest glen, or upon the summit of some mountain peak, and there commune with nature; to stand upon some sea washed shore, and watch the onward march of the crested billows till they break in thunder, and are hurled back discomfited, to glide smoothly along some calm expanse of lake or river, flashing back as from a silver mirror bright rays from moon or twinkling star, while naught is heard save the flashing music of the oars: this is the poetry of life, and how much greater is the pleasure derived therefrom when the mind has been carefully trained and cultivated.

Then, indeed, is there a voice of melody in every sighing wind that causes the forest giants to bend in wierd obeisance, and a lesson in every tinted flower and delicate fern that deck our forest glades; then is there a grandeur in the roll and roar of the emerald surges as they hurl their mighty legions against the trembling cliffs; then, also, is there a sublimity in the calm stillness that broods over the moonlit tide, and music in the measured flashing of the oars.

And, to the student, weary and worn with ceaseless study and indoor life, it is a doubly-prized blessing to be able to spend hours of dreamy thought out in the pure sunlight, drinking in health and gladness. None can appreciate the pleasures of such hours more than he, and none can derive more profit as well as enjoyment therefrom. The open books of nature are often more