

## The Relation of the Study of Literature to the Study of Philosophy

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Among the subjects in our curriculum you will find Literature and Philosophy. These subjects, however, are more nearly related than the mere fact that they are thus associated would indicate. Their most interesting connection for us springs from their common relation to life. The unity of studies in the thought of the time comes more from their common relation to life than from any artificial standard or even from any speculative relation on the basis of cultivating what we call the faculties. In current thinking, man is not so much an orderly arrangement of separate qualities as he is a function, an activity, a force, a life. Whatever therefore comes into this activity to strengthen and complete it is of high value; and, as the life of the time is the collective force of these separate lives, whatever affects them will be proportionately valuable. So it comes to pass that a high estimate is placed on life and it becomes a determining standard of values. This estimate is due to many causes. The growth of science and its ameliorating effect on the conditions of livelihood; the increased means of transportation and communication making the race almost one family; the great power of modern democracy in which government is in the hands of all the people—all these have made the solidarity of the race so evident that each shares in the life of all and so values his own life the more. Then the influence of christian civilization tends to the same result. The power of medical science to relieve pain has made pain more intolerable and so, life more precious; the philanthropy of the age has shown how much may be made of the fragments of life, the waits and wrecks of humanity; and the spread of popular education has made each life capable of a wider range of enjoyment. Then the effort to distribute the best life by christian missions; the power of christianity to reveal the worth of man as man and what he may become, and the increasing conviction of the relation of this life to a life to come—all these have helped to increase the meaning of life and to broaden and deepen its currents. And so it comes to pass that studies like other things are prized, not for themselves alone, but for the degree to which they help us to solve the problems, to bear the burdens, to increase the power and sweetness of