

energies both of the Athenians and Romans, when not engaged in war, were directed to the pursuit of sensuous pleasures. The circus in Rome and the theater at Athens were the great resorts of their citizens. In these they satisfied the desire of their hearts; and by obtaining control of these, their statesmen swayed the people at will. If the policy of these statesmen were successful, the orators harangued the people about their national glory; they had a grand series of spectacles, and again subsided into their usual dreamy mode of life. If unsuccessful, the people bore the burdens, and the politicians were no losers, save, perhaps, the expense of another spectacle. In private concerns they were no better off. Selfishness ruled all. Every man lived for himself alone without a thought for the comfort of his fellow-beings. Poverty was the curse of the poor, and luxury the ruin of the wealthy. And thus they continued to live until their social fabric in all its rottenness toppled upon them, crushing out their national existence.

As we leave this picture of the social condition of the ancients, to contemplate that of the civilized nations of to-day, we are struck by the contrast as one who turns from looking at the pale moon setting in the west, to gaze upon the cloudy splendor of a rising sun. It is a principle of the age, that the education of the people is necessary

to all advancement. In every political system, the education of the youth of the country is one of the first things to be provided for. From infancy to manhood, there is furnished for the citizens of all civilized nations a course of mental training such as will best fit them to discharge the duties of life towards their country and mankind in general. Nor is this all. If we had only schools, we had little reason to boast our superiority over the ancients. But we have other and mightier means of diffusing knowledge and elevating the minds of the masses. Chief among these is the press; and who shall attempt to compute the immensity or scope of its power, as it goes on ministering to the comfort and happiness of the human race; as it lays daily before all men the cause and effect of every public action, that, profiting by the results of the past, they may advance with confidence in the paths of individual and national prosperity; as the bright rays of reason and truth which illumine its pages, go on dispelling the clouds of prejudice and error, that have hung so long on the world's mental horizon; as, most beautiful of all, it goes on teaching mankind that,

Not enjoyment and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to live, that each to-morrow
Finds us farther than to-day.