

the least—tend to promote thought of a correspondingly inaccurate nature.

Moreover, as Holmes says, "talk shapes our thoughts; the waves of conversation roll them as the surf rolls the pebbles on the shore." We all know how our own rough thoughts have been recast, refined and strengthened, in parley with those of another. We may exhibit narrow mindedness in writing; we may think in ruts; but when we *talk* unless we purpose to occupy the *entire* time, all hobbies must be laid aside. Our views must widen, that we may meet others on common ground. This transforming influence is the chief attribute of conversation, and forms the greatest reason why we should constantly endeavor to improve ourselves in it.

Those who aspire to a professional career, will have to do no little talking and writing in after life. The essays, during the college course, tend to prepare them for the latter duty and should make them at least in a measure, competent for the former. In other words they should *talk* about what they write. But the hesitation in regard to this, is indeed remarkable. There must be some reasons, now and forever deeply hidden from the vulgar ken of men, that operate in this connection, and in truth make their secret power widely felt. Be this as it may—as the case now stands—an evening or two is spent in "pensive thoughtfulness." The cycloid and cissoid are stood in the corner, and the remains of the torturously latin author are interred in the most tomblike apartment at hand. Slowly and laboriously the sentences grow, until at last a mysterious document is completed, and "the hand that has written it lays it away," with about as much solemnity, as if it were the last will and testament of the person interested; and perhaps in choice of words and elegance of diction, it may more nearly resemble this than a specimen of any other department of our literature. One remedy, and also—as has been before hinted—a step that will enable us to become better skilled in the art, under consideration, is to make these essays, at least to some extent, topics of daily conversation. Let our own ideas be brightened and beautified by contact with those of

others. They may be roughly treated—tempered in the fire of criticism, or hardened by a plunge into a cold bath of ridicule; but let them pass through the trial. The severer the annealing process the truer the metal. What stands the test will be pure and fine.

Nothing will stand in the stead of conversational ability. Thorough scholarship is of paramount importance; but it rather increases than diminishes the necessity of our being able to tell what we know. The power of the able talker to so diffuse his own learning, that he at once *teaches* and is *taught* is a power worth long years of toil. We may never *all* wield it as we would; yet, by persistent endeavor, we may make it our own to no small extent. Our ideal should be constantly before us, and though it never becomes a reality, every struggle, as we strive to make it so, renders us stronger, and the way, which leads to the desired end, is paved with pleasure and profit, that are in themselves a grand reward.

.QUASI.

REV. J. R. HUTCHINSON.

John R. Hutchinson, who recently received appointment to the Baptist Missionary Station at Chicacole, India, was lately one of our number; and for that reason, as well as the fact that interest attaches to the history of every man who dedicates his life to a philanthropic work involving severe self-sacrifice, we give a biographical sketch of his career thus far.

Mr. Hutchinson was born in Great Village, Colchester Co., on the 18th day of October, 1858. It will thus be seen that he enters upon mission work abroad at an earlier age than most men who have preceded him. As a boy he was a lover of books. When a mere child he read a small work on missions, which so wrought upon his mind and heart that the seeds of a missionary spirit were sown. When eighteen years of age he commenced to teach school, his first experience in this profession being had at Upper Economy. Subsequently he taught at Parrsboro' and Canso. His firmness, clearness of statement, and general thoroughness made him successful. While teaching at Parrsboro' he gave instructions to a Miss MacKinlay, a young lady who had just four days less experience of this world than himself. To this, or some other circumstance, is due the fact that their spirits proved congenial, and on the 18th day of October 1878, his 20th birthday, they twain were made one flesh.

In 1879 Mr. Hutchinson matriculated at Acadia College, taking the 2nd prize; and since his preparation, especially in Latin and Greek, had been got largely without the aid of an instructor, this was an uncommon success. During the Freshman year he took Honors in Classics, and ranked as one of the best