

## *The Coign of Vantage*

---

grains of truth from every field and grinds them in its own mill, so translating knowledge into character. He who reads in a merely parasitic way soon loses the strength of individuality, and though he may be a walking encyclopædia, the capricious *Zeitgeist* does with him what she will. It is in the realm of action that the test comes. While new light will without doubt be given to each new age that is on the watch for it, and so lead the course of events into broader channels than those of earlier generations, yet the true man, faithful to the tasks imposed upon him, doing his duty as he conceives it to be, even though he may seem to lack the wisdom which they ought to possess who are the heirs of all the centuries, is worth being studied by every one who aspires to meet the modern situation. For he has made the same attempt which *fin de siècle* thought must also make, if it is to be of any practical service, namely, to go beneath