

reputation ; this man from Galilee was subverting all forms of Church work. He stood outside the organization ; He was not a legalized and educated Scribe ; He had no authority from Church or State, and yet, He was casting out devils. What was easier than for them to say : He is only working an evil by a more powerful evil ; He is casting out devils by the prince of devils ? But we know, as they might have known, that He was using truth against the kingdom of falsehood ; in the name and power of the eternal God He was destroying the works of the devil. So had they sneered at John the Baptist, saying, "a reed shaken by the wind," or, "a dweller in king's houses," a merely popular preacher to be carried away by the current of public applause ! but He who knew the heart of man, and the value of his work, said of him, "Behold a prophet of the prophets." We too often fill that scorner's seat, and judge after our own prejudices or passions, rather than after a Godly reasonableness. So have I seen a man come to the people like a new star breaking into the hemisphere of their thought and life. He has taken old things and clothed them with new beauty ; he has led the blind by a way that they knew not ; he has made many a crooked place straight, and many a rough place smooth ; he has warmed the indifferent into enthusiasm, and caused the unbelieving to have faith. But he adopted new methods of working ; new modes of life ; new phrases of speech, and the new wine burst the old bottles, and the orthodox—wedded to the antique, enslaved by the conventional, said : "This fellow is dangerous ; that style of speech will make free thinkers ; that style of living will corrupt the young ; he is only working changes in the power of evil." And they have turned the tide of feeling and opinion against him, and his work has been hindered. Do not fall into that sin, I beseech you. Examine motives and results from the standpoint of truth and love. See where the work begins and in what it ends. Does it tend to make men think better thoughts, and to perform better actions ? does it tend to build up manhood in the strength and beauty of Godliness ? does it tend to the love of God and men ? If so, it is of God and for God, and is great and true and holy. Beware of the enormous sin of calling light darkness, and good evil, and miracles of mercy marvels of diabolical ingenuity. Here is religion—which God give you in its fulness—to think right thoughts, to speak right words, to perform right actions, and to judge righteous judgment.

ENJOY LIFE.

Although strict attention to business and professional duties is of the first importance to a nation, it is yet possible that attention may be too close, and industry become mere subservience to business. That this state of affairs does exist to a great extent in this country is a fact not to be gainsaid and much to be deplored. Business men work from morning till night, from year's end to year's end, with scarcely any relaxation and but little recreation. Brain and nerve are kept in a continual state of tension, and in many cases have to give way sooner or later. This evil is serious, and must be remedied. We must unbend the bow sometimes ; we must have rest and we must have recreation after the harassing cares and troubles of the day. We must learn to take advantage of the thousand ways and means afforded for pleasant change and recreation.

In these days of culture and refinement it costs but little in means or trouble to cultivate and give scope to the tastes and inclination with which we are endowed for the beautiful in nature or in literature, science, music and art ; and these are our natural resources for pleasure and change when brain and nerve are weary with work. We may all more or less derive pleasure and benefit from these sources ; and yet we do not take proper advantage of them—we many of us almost entirely ignore them, and toil away with a dim prospect a long way ahead of the time when we shall retire, settle down and enjoy life. When we do manage to retire, what do we find ? That we are so used to harness, that life free of it is a burden, and we pine for office and 'Change, and stock and market reports. We actually cannot enjoy the pleasures we have looked forward to so long, and have so long choked down our capacities for enjoyment that they have ceased to exist.

You find such cases on the continent every day—millionaires travelling regally. You watch them gazing upon the triumphs of art—statues that breathe, pictures eloquent as speech—gazing and yawning ! You watch them listening to music which thrills the soul and charms us away from the world, and they listen and are bored.

You see them sitting in the theatre when the sublimest of passion and heroic deed is being represented or related, and behold they are shutting their eyes to speculate as to the amount of the wheat or hog crop. Life is not to be enjoyed by these men ; as well "throw pearls before swine" as lavish the beauties of art and nature upon such. It is easy to see the mistake these men make, and we must avoid it ; we must not pass over the little pleasures of life, the flowers that grow along our paths of duty, until it is too late to enjoy or appreciate them. We do not work the less effectually because last night we read and thought over some treasure of literature ; because we drank in the notes of some cheering air ; because we gazed in rapture on the beauties of a painting. Let us enjoy life a little by availing ourselves of the many sources of

pleasure ; we can have our music, and it will soothe and cheer, encouraging us to another day's duties ; we can give a little time to the beauties of art and we will the better appreciate those of nature. Let us study our literature, the thoughts and poetry of men who have made Europe what she is. Let us surround ourselves with the beauty of the floral wood, giving free scope to our natural love for it, for what cheers the heart of a man more than the sunshine and smiles of nodding blossoms ? We cannot be sure of becoming rich with all our toiling ; we may never be able to retire altogether, so that we cannot afford to put off enjoying life. Therefore let us spend it pleasantly as we jog along, making the most of all the pleasures kind Providence has endowed us with capacity for enjoying.

Guy.

THINGS IN GENERAL.

MARKETABLE BEAUTY.

Beauty, Mr. Gladstone says, is one of the qualities which a purchaser looks for in the object he buys ; consequently, if more beauty is given to the objects manufactured by English workmen, they will become more attractive to the purchaser, and he will be likely to buy more of them, and to give a higher price for those he buys. This is especially to be borne in mind in articles intended for the American market. If the English producer wants to sell his goods in America, he must leap over the barrier raised by hostile tariffs, and in order to do this, he must give his goods some quality which similar goods made in America want. If he can give them beauty, this condition will be satisfied, for as yet the Americans have been too busy to think of making their work beautiful. In the same way he may hope to compete on more equal terms with the countries which have hitherto been in advance of England in respect to taste. England, for example, now exchanges patterns in cotton goods with France, whereas 30 years ago she only took patterns from France. In so far as this process is extended to all the manufactures common to the two countries, the other excellences of English work will have a better chance of making their way abroad. Therefore, if a workman "can learn to appreciate beauty in industrial production, * * * he is increasing his own capital as truly and as substantially as if he could add to the muscles of his arms by doubling their force all at once. He is introducing in the work he produces an element comparatively new to him, but an element which will add to the price it can bring in the market, and which will add to the comforts he can command for his wife and family."—*The Spectator*.

ENGLISH AS A COLLEGE STUDY.

The head of a great university has lately ventured publicly to assert that only one thing is essential to culture, and that one thing is a thorough and elegant mastery of the mother tongue. If we mark well the exact sense of the word essential, and remembering to insist that other knowledge is important and all knowledge desirable, the truth of the statement may be conceded. The Greeks, the most polished people of antiquity, studied no literature beside their own, and learned no alien tongue for any literary purpose. The French, the most polished people of the present, and the only modern people whose literature is read by all others, possess to a remarkable degree the same self-sufficing characteristic. These two notable facts in the history of civilization support President Eliot in his unexpected and audacious confession. We believe that he is right, whether he speaks of the culture of a nation or of that of an individual. Nor is the knowledge which he praises merely a grace ; it is a means toward soundness of judgment ; it is a help to pure reason. Obviously, the man who always chooses words with precision and arranges them with lucidity will argue more accurately than the man who expresses himself vaguely and blindly. "Reading maketh a full man ; conference a ready man ; and writing an exact man," said Bacon. Yes, if the writing itself is exact, but not so certainly otherwise.

Now, if this knowledge of English is thus essential, why not teach it ? Is it a prominent branch of education in our universities ? Not at all ; not in Harvard and Yale, I am sure ; probably in no other. It is a humble attendant on other studies, coming almost as a supernumerary. There are professorships of rhetoric and of English literature, but they are held in light esteem, I believe, by the other chairs of the faculty, and they are allowed to demand but little of a student's time. Their courses are made so easy that the idle seek them as "optionals." Only think of their being classed as optionals, when their proper result is an essential ! Oh, but the students are supposed to know English when they enter college. Are they ? Ask the disgusted professor of rhetoric. He will tell you that in nine tenths of the exercises submitted to him spelling and grammar and construction are all at fault. And to correct this disgraceful ignorance there are six or eight "compositions" a year. There should be several times as many. In learning to write well there is but one secret of success, and that is frequent, laborious practice, coupled with assiduous correction. I venture to assert that the journeymen printers of our land write more fluently and grammatically, on the average, than the seniors in our universities. Why ? Not through superiority of intellect, certainly ; not because they know