

of Human Life." The discussion of the subject was admirably calculated to elicit an interest in students of science, and at the same time to counteract the tendency, on the part of young thinkers, to skepticism.

The importance of such a course of lectures is beyond question. It gives symmetry to education. Where the intellectual training is exclusively secular, the culture is unbalanced, and the spiritual element of our nature will not be developed. Physical, mental and spiritual discipline is essential to a well-balanced and symmetrical education.

In this mode of instruction the moral advantages are even greater than the mental. Students whose attention is never directed to the importance of spiritual culture will learn to look upon religion as an un-necessary incumbrance. Or knowing only the elementary principles of science, and having no other guide but nature they will venture to criticise, to doubt, to deny. But when science and religion are kept side by side during the college course, and the higher philosophies of the mental and moral powers are taught during the senior year, faith will not be purchased at the awful price of skepticism. Bacon says, "that a little philosophy inclineth man's mind to atheism, but depth in philosophy bringeth men's mind about to religion; for while the mind of man looketh upon second causes scattered, it may sometimes rest in them, and go no further; but when it beholdeth the chain of them confederate and linked together, it must needs fly to Providence and Deity."

OUR LECTURE COURSE.

The second lecture of this term,—*"Small Beginnings, Great Endings, or the Power of Trifles,"*—was delivered by Rev. Henry Cross, of St. John, in the Academy Hall on Friday evening, Nov. 2nd.

Nearly all the greatest and best things of the world, the lecturer said, have had small beginnings. The little acorn, if planted in the ground, will germinate in a short time, and become a young sapling; ages pass away and that acorn develops into the giant of the forest. Some of the greatest rivers in the world, on whose bosom is borne the wealth of nations, take their rise in some far off mountain;—it may be there is a little spring issuing from the earth, which, as it flows on and on, increases in volume and strength, until the rill becomes a sea. The loftiest mountain, whose top pierces the very heavens, was once no larger than a mole hill. The world is made up of littles. The ocean consists of globules, and the whole earth of small particles of matter that are only discernable by a powerful microscope.

Illustrations as to the *"Power of Trifles"* abound on every hand. They are seen in nations, in history, in science and art, and nearly everything. Scripture history is full of illustrations of this character. The seeming accidents in the life of Joseph and other Scripture characters, were the

first links in a chain of stupendous events. The infant discovered in the ark of rushes on the river Nile, became the signal instrument in the hand of God, for civil, social and moral advancement. In that little rush ark lay the germ of the most extraordinary reform in everything that pertains to the interests of man both in this world and in the world to come. No one can trace up step by step, the history of David, the son of Jesse, from the time he watched his father's flocks in Bethlehem till he sat upon the throne of Israel, and not admire the wonder-working hand of God in so controlling human events as to produce the most extraordinary and far-reaching results out of the most insignificant means.

Profane history furnishes illustrations quite as remarkable. A great number of historical events were given, showing that by mere accident Christopher Columbus conceived the idea of effecting a passage to India by a westerly route, which led to the discovery of America; and that a most trivial circumstance led to the invention of the printing press. The speaker referred to incidental circumstances leading to the invention of the mariner's compass and eloquently delineated the changes which this invention has wrought among the nations. Oceans hitherto unknown and pathless have become a thoroughfare, and the wide seas have become subject to man.

The power and utility of steam as discovered by George Stephenson, and the invention of the electric telegraph by Benjamin Franklin, were laid under contribution by the speaker to illustrate the power of trifles.

Church history also illustrates the same truth. Here the lecturer paid an eloquent tribute to St. Paul, Martin Luther, Robert Raikes and other leaders in moral and spiritual reform, delineating the rapid and world-wide development of their plans.

We see the same influence on individual character,—the *"Power of Trifles."* The speaker illustrated the effect of trifles on the life of individuals both for good and evil, by a variety of examples.

The lecturer spoke for an hour and held the marked attention of the audience to the close.

Ye morning was cold and drizzly, ye rising sun strove to dispel ye rolling mists. Ye Junior-donned ye great coat and knee-boots, and rushed wildly to ye station to meet ye adored one; but ye fates—fickle powers—were unproportions. Ye form of of ye damsel fair was dimly visible in ye distance gliding swiftly homeward, ye Junior was wroth, and strode back to his room loading people and things with execrations.

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