

useful not only to the animal man but to the rational and moral man,—useful to a being of spiritual faculties, whose happiness is to be found in their free and harmonious exercise. Granted that there is a primary necessity for that knowledge and skill by which subsistence is earned and life preserved. But life is the means, action and improvement the end; and who will deny that the noblest utility belongs to that by which the chief purpose is accomplished? We should honor and cultivate as unspeakably useful that literature which corresponds to, and calls forth the highest faculties; which expresses and communicates energy of thought, fruitfulness of invention, force of moral purpose, a thirst for and delight in the good, the beautiful, the true.

A people which has any serious purpose of taking a place among improved communities should studiously promote within itself every variety of intellectual exertion. It should resolve strenuously to be surpassed by none. It should have a full persuasion that rightly motivated mind is the creative power through which all the resources of nature are to be turned to account, and by which a people is to spread its influence. To avail ourselves of the higher literature of other nations we must in some important respects place ourselves on a level with them. The products of machinery we can use without any portion of the skill that produced them, but works of taste and genius, and the results of profound thinking can only be estimated and made helpful and enjoyed through a culture and power corresponding to that from which they spring. Great minds are developed more by the spirit and character of the people to which they belong than by all other causes. A mercenary, hard, selfish, materialistic, luxurious, sensual people, toiling for the pleasures of sloth, cannot but communicate their own softness and sordidness to the superior minds which dwell among them. We in Canada are rich enough for ostentation, for intemperance, and even for luxury. We can lavish on fashion and material pleasures. Where is our real poverty if not in the soul?

Canada has a magnificent heritage indeed, both of material good and of constitutional liberty. Let us blush, if in circumstances so peculiar, original, and creative, we satisfy ourselves with a passive reception and mechanical iteration of the thoughts