

inoculated with the desire for knowledge. Let the universe become a field of discovery. Have an inquisitiveness that cannot be suppressed ; an observation that is always observing ; an eternal curiosity that must know the why and the wherefore. We may learn a valuable lesson from the boy of seven whose irrepressible desire to know becomes almost intolerable.

3. But here, the question arises, Know what ? in other words, What are the subjects of knowledge ? As well might I try to number the rays of the sun, or the sands of the sea-shore innumerable. Every day a thousand things confront us, laden with mysteries, beckoning us to unfold and explain them. The increase of knowledge, the march of science has not diminished, but rather augmented their number. Nevertheless, there are some subjects of knowledge that we cannot afford to overlook. There are some things of which we may and many things of which we must be content to remain ignorant ; there are a few things, knowledge of which is a necessity to him who would pass among educated men.

I may be permitted to mention a few of the great essentials which vindicate their importance the moment they are named.

(1.) First, I would mention the history of our own land and of our own empire. We are Canadians and British citizens, and to discharge the duties of citizenship intelligently we must know our nation's history and traditions. In order to understand and appreciate the movements, social, political and religious, that are now going on around us, we must know the past and be fully alive to the present. "The present," says Westcott, "if we could read it rightly, contains the past and the future," that is to say, given the present, which is but a development of the past, and the true seer could determine what the past has been, and could, likewise, forecast the future, whose germs are found in the present. Hence it follows that if we are conversant with the past and no stranger to the present, we shall have a faithful monitor to guide us in the future.

(2.) Next, I would mention the English language and