

and to add other elements of instruction. These desire clearness of mental vision and perception of the inward spirit and essence of the thought. But they also look upon literature not as something apart from life, but as the expression of life,—life personal, life social, life national, life religious. And so the patient study of words and the continuous philosophic thinking contribute to the life they already possess. In this spirit and with this aim it would be hard to fail in the work of teaching. Without it success would be slight.

4. We see how a literary taste is to be cultivated.

It has often been taught that a literary taste is shown by one's power to express himself after the style of Addison or of Macaulay or some other writer or school of writers. In this view literary form has been regarded much as the style of dress current in any period. It has been looked upon as a matter of form of the external.

But the only discussion here presented is of a deeper character and indicates that literary taste is not so simple a matter. In this view taste is not a distinct faculty, but a harmony resulting from a combination of many elements. Only the undeveloped taste likes one thing so much that it will not look at another. The developed taste will take the instincts which literature develops, such as rhythm, love of story, truthfulness of representation, and demand that they be real and not mere forms. It will be characterized by an ever increasing sense of reality. The material must be real elements of humanity; the beauty must be real beauty; the rhythm must be real rhythm; the story must have part in human life. The plan must not be a fancy, but a law of life. So we grow in love of truth and have impatience with falsehood.

The mind will have an increasing sensitiveness and delicacy, so that it will detect beauty where others do not; it will have an impatience with everything artificial; it will treat the means of artists only as means and never as the ends,—the means of placing before us our human souls; it will have the elements so balanced that harmony will result. In brief, style will not be a trick to be learned, but the free expression of a developed mind—the result of prolonged surrender to the discipline that concerns the senses, the feelings, the representative and creative imagination. "The style is the man." "The spirit of literature is just the spirit of the highest human life." Get that full life and culture and you will gain the literary style.

5. The views presented, I venture to think, make apparent to us how great our inheritance is in the English litera-