

Abreast of the Times

name of even these is not Legion. And yet, the essence of a world-library could be brought within the compass of a modest room. What are the hundred best books is not a matter to determine by vicarious selection; but to any one who uses his brains, a single really great book is more educational than a whole cart-load of small ones. And sound literature, like sound wine, is all the better for keeping. Though we have moved into a different atmosphere, there need be no outcry for an "up-to-date" Homer or Dante or Shakespeare. Their truth has made them eternally fresh, and the flight of time serves rather to enhance appreciation of them. So far from growing out of the great thoughts of great thinkers, it is only by earnest brooding over the problems of life and the lessons of experience that we slowly learn to grow into them.

Nothing can atone for the want of that habit of personal reflection which takes the