

It is better to know one subject thoroughly than to have an imperfect smattering of many subjects.

Several Canadian ladies have won a distinguished reputation in the study of botany, by collecting and classifying our native flora. A gentleman friend of ours especially prosecuted the study of grasses, and is now one of the highest living authorities on that subject. Another, and with great success, made a specialty of fungi. Another took up the subject of entomology, and has conferred great and lasting benefit on society by his investigations of insect life, especially of those species injurious to plants and fruits. Amateur geology or microscopy affords a wide field for original investigation.

If our tastes are more purely literary and we are fond of historical or biographical investigation, instead of attempting to skim over a vast field it were better to select some important period or subject and to study it up thoroughly, exhausting every accessible authority and, if possible, consulting contemporary memoirs and original documents. In this manner may we confer real benefits on science or literature, and experience the eager joy of exploring previously unknown or little trodden paths, and of adding, at least, a humble contribution to the stock of human knowledge.

There is one subject, especially, which may well engage the profoundest study of the most cultured minds, and which, above all others, will amply repay the labour bestowed—we mean the careful and critical study of the Word of God. And here the same rules of specialization seem to us to apply as in other studies. While one should endeavour to gain clear conceptions of the full-orbed beauty of the Divine revelation as a whole, it is only by the minute and critical study of some particular portions that the amazing and inexhaustible riches of Holy Scripture are even measurably apprehended. And thanks to the admirable apparatus for Biblical study now within the reach of all, even the unlettered may, with pleasure and profit, engage in this delightful task. No studies, we are persuaded, will so inform the understanding, cultivate the taste, and ennoble the nature; none can be so practically useful in this life, and so momentously important for the life that is to come.