

become more familiar with the thoughts and ideas conveyed through the literature of those two great races, than through Greek and Latin; or rather, that being already imbued with the latter, we may now assimilate the former.

The other change is the great development of those many subjects commonly included in the name "Science," and the application of not a few of them to the increase of conveniences of life. While we may be thankful for the stimulus thus afforded to intellectual development, we must recognize the alteration which is thereby necessitated in the curriculum of school and college, and the authorities of the place of education must be ready to incorporate these subjects in their courses of study, and to leave out others which have become less necessary.

One other change of method in these days is not so much an innovation as a reversal to Greek practice. I mean the introduction of gymnastics as a regular part of every boy's education. We come as near the Greek custom implied in the word as is compatible with the ordinary temperature of our buildings, and with our notions of decency; and it is to be hoped that a valuable lesson of healthy and manly æstheticism may thus be learned as the young athletes go through their exercises and feats of skill in the gymnasium, for it is certainly quite as likely that there the exclamation, "I will give thanks unto Thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made," will be heard, as in the dissecting room of a city hospital, if not more so. But the point to which I am desirous of calling your attention is this, that now all three parts of man's composite nature are cared for in true education—body, mind and spirit—and the Christian schoolmaster or professor joins his practice to the prayer of the Apostle of the Gentiles—"I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

What a wondrous work it is in which you are engaged in this College and School! You are constantly bringing the thoughts and opinions of the past to the touchstone of the present, learning and teaching wherein they are shewn to be right or wrong. Continually you are astonished at the intuitions, which flashed upon some mind, of a previously-unsuspected truth,

or at the sudden generation which subsequent slow and patient investigation has verified, or is in process of verifying. And no less are you amazed at the certainty with which those of a past age who were reputed wise insisted upon the truth of maxims and statements which have long since been shown to be false. On some subjects, you cannot but rejoice in the stability of the foundations which have been laid, and which guarantee the steadiness of the superstructure which is being raised upon them; and anon you fear, when you see whole systems fall and pass away, through the crumbling of the premises on which they were reared, under the disintegrating power of more accurate knowledge.

And then you are in touch with the present, an age such as the world has never seen before, when everything is brought to the test, "when many run to and fro and knowledge is increased," when man is able to "look toward heaven and tell the stars how high they are," when he can command "the lightnings that they may go and say unto him, Here we are"; when the properties of things are known and the secrets of nature discovered, and man is with speedy foot ascending the steps which lead upwards to the throne promised him of lordship over the whole creation. Well may you tremble at the greatness of the task allotted you, to guide the awakening intellect of the rising generation, to give the mind the touchstone of right principle, to impart to the spirit the fear and the knowledge of God, for it still remains true that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

And for the right discharge of this stupendous duty, I repeat to you the word of St. Paul, as if spoken to you by your predecessors—by Mountain and Nicolls, by Doolittle and Williams and Chapman—"Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."

Be sure that, in faithfully discharging your duty, you are rightly helping on the world to be ready for the coming of its King, and when He comes, He will say to you and to those in whose footsteps you are walking, "Well done, good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord."