

but as clearly nothing that will simply occupy his time without furthering the all important acquisition of manipulative skill."

The subject of technical education, which was brought to the front the other day by Dr. Lyon Playfair, is not meeting with that amount of general support which it deserves, and which it must ultimately receive, if we are to maintain that superiority in home and foreign markets for which we have been so long famous. The wars which, in past generations devastated the Continent, banished trade, diverted the minds of our Continental neighbors from such matters, and gave us an immense advantage in the markets, it is to be hoped will not soon occur again, and we will be under the salutary necessity of seeking some other means of sustaining our position. If our neighbors and rivals in trade are to be, by a change in the circumstances of nations, placed upon a footing of equality with ourselves in regard to the power of production in *quantity*, we must adopt such methods of manufacture as will ensure that the *quality* of our goods shall continue to challenge attention. But if our rivals, not content with an equality such as this, should overmatch us in the style and finish of their productions, nothing remains for us but a general application to the study of those principles which underlie all our manufacturing processes and our mechanical details. We must commence to educate our workmen, to educate them in the business in which they are individually engaged. It is quite clear that unless the workman understands the principles upon which his work is constructed, or the processes in which he is daily engaged, that his usefulness will be greatly curtailed; the variety of work upon which he might be engaged will be limited, and the perfection to which he may attain, rendered a mere matter of chance. It is, therefore, of the highest importance to us as a trading nation, that we hasten to put ourselves into a position superior to our neighbors in the matter of working-class education. We must cultivate a knowledge of the industrial sciences, not that

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