

"Know thyself" is a maxim as applicable to communities as to individuals, and if I am guilty of presuming that you have overlooked something deeply concerning you, if I insinuate that you do not exactly embrace your full and true position—it is not that I arrogate a superior discernment, but perhaps offer views suggested by a somewhat greater indifference, as a looker on can sometimes determine the best move at chess more safely than the players. Life has oftentimes been compared to a game at chess, and in our day so keen is competition, so well understood are the causes of success or failure, that cities must struggle for their corporate capacity as well as families for their subsistence, and play out their part with the same patience and shrewdness, the same energy and decision which are everywhere and in every cause the essentials to success.

It is an undoubted fact that we all overrate what is remote, underrate what is familiar to us. The knowledge which concerns us most is generally the last acquired. The saying, "far off cows have long horns," is but a vulgar rendering of the divine proverb, "a prophet is not without honour save in his own country." Distance lends enchantment to our view of other things besides scenery.

No man, it is said, can be a hero to his own value, because there is nothing heroic in flannel drawers and a nightcap, and yet a man's a man for a' that—for George Stephenson, the father of the Locomotive Engine, after having remarked that he had dined with princes, peers, and commoners, and also that he had dined off a roach-herring and gone through the meanest drudgery, summed up as follows:—"I have seen mankind in all its phases, and the conclusion I have arrived at is this,—that if we were all stripped there is not much difference." Our neighbours and commercial rivals seldom rate themselves below par, but a lingering remnant of colonial tutelage must, I suppose, be assigned as an explanation of the fact that there exists in this section of the Province a want of confidence in something or in somebody, and it must be either in our resources or in ourselves!