

advance or recede—gaze upward, with the eye of his mind, or wander with downcast countenance through the beautiful regions of science with as little profit and as little pleasure to himself as is afforded to a blind man by the most gorgeous landscape of nature's scenery. Depend upon it, that a man who does not look up will assuredly look down; and that the spirit which dares not soar is destined to grovel; although we all cannot arrive at high renown or immortal fame, yet, we can each add something, no matter how little that something may be, to the store of learning, which has been transmitted to us by our ancestors, and which it is our duty to hand down in our turn to remote posterity. Let us not be cast down by the magnitude of the task, for great results have ever had small beginnings; and how the grain of mustard seed grew into the greatest of all trees, we all have read. Receive not as true the old-fashioned rhyme of Pope:

“A little learning's a dangerous thing;

“Drink deep, or touch not the Pyrean spring.”

For in these latter days, as Moliere has it, *nous avons changé tout cela.** Modern experience has taught us that men will not be content to remain wholly ignorant, because they cannot hope to be perfectly learned. The decree has gone forth, the spirit of knowledge has touched the multitude. *Totamque infusa per artus. Mens agitat molem et magno se corpore miscet.* On every side of him the traveller, in the “old country,” sees the evidence of this activity. On every side he beholds those means of intellectual development which a beloved country (like a tender mother) has provided for her sons. I allude not so much to the ancient and time-honoured seats of learning in England, as to those more modern ones which, in the form of “national schools,” “normal schools,” “public libraries,” the “people's lecture rooms,” and others too numerous to mention, which lie so thickly scattered through her large towns, and more particularly in those of her manufacturing districts. I have myself seen in one of these establishments at Liverpool, crowds of artisans and labourers congregated together, all with one accord drinking, as it

* Le medicin malgré lui.