

words will not be simply bright images and pictures, but parts of larger pictures and suggestive of realities.

3. *The study of philosophy helps the student of literature by so far enlarging his conceptions as to enable him to interpret the great masters of literature.*

If a small man undertakes to interpret Shakespeare or Browning he will make his author seem as small as himself. But set a mind to interpret these, or other authors who know from experience of self and other; how subtle and incapable of being put into definite form and expression are the thoughts that are suggested by true greatness and the man gets a vision almost like that of Moses. Many of the deepest truths taught by Aeschylus or Sophocles or Browning cannot be understood unless there has been the previous consecutive thinking and unifying processes of philosophic study. The same is true of the Bible, which is probably the most virile book in all literature.

4. *Philosophy helps to a knowledge of literature because it helps to read the history of the literature intelligently.*

There are schools of philosophy and often these schools give rise to types and schools of literature. So by knowing their philosophic principles you trace the streams or tendencies of literature in a natural and not in a merely mechanical way. Thus Spinoza is said to have influenced Goethe, and so Coleridge, and so Carlyle and Emerson. And thus some of our thought.

This will keep us from making our division of literature merely chronological. It will enable us to detect somewhat of the forces operative through the ages and to feel how certainly a Mind is guiding in the multifarious life of man. The true history of literature is a history of thought, and philosophy alone can give us such a history.

Thus the careful student will be helped by philosophy to detect the assumptions pervading literature, to interpret language adequately, to understand the great literary masterpieces and to obtain a true conception of the history of literature.

It may not be useless for us as students to note some consequences of these views.

1. And first we must carefully distinguish literature from philosophy or we shall not understand either.

Many persons suppose they enjoy poetry when it is really the philosophy they appreciate. Some of the critics think it is the philosophy of *In Memoriam* that readers value when these readers suppose it is the poetry.