

sense? Do you know what the eye, the ear, the muscular sense and touch, not to mention the less intellectual senses of taste and smell, should tell you of the world in which you move? Is each of your senses so endowed by nature and so trained by practice as a servant of the will that it makes exact discriminations? I should like if time permitted to interrogate each sense. Let me ask a few questions of one sense, hearing, and of that only in relation to one of its endowments, the power of discriminating the *timbre*, the modulations of human speech. Is your ear attuned to the exquisite intonation of cultivated human speech? I care not in what language; let us speak of our own. Do you recognize the melody, the richness, the variety of the English tongue as spoken by a master of its resources? For of this tongue I must declare my belief that it is one of the noblest of our modern languages, holding a just middle position between the voluptuous languors of the Italian and the rugged, sometimes uncouth, strength of the German. I was deeply impressed by the music of human vocalization in the speech of Thompson, the abolitionist, whom, with Frederick Douglas, I heard speaking on American slavery, many years ago in Toronto; and again in an address delivered in this city a few years ago by Dr. Dalinger. To listen to such men, if we listen attentively and thoughtfully, is no unimportant means of culture. Do you discriminate in hearing? How many vowel sounds do you distinguish in English cultured speech? Have you observed the difference between the long vowel sounds of court English, the English of educated, highbred men of the midland and southern counties, and those of Northumbrian English, the English of which lowland Scotch and the Yorkshire dialect are varieties? Which kind of English pronunciation has the closer affinity with French pronunciation of long vowels? Are the English *t* and *d* identical with the corresponding French letters? Are your ears alert to all such inquiries continually? If so, I congratulate you that as far as speech is concerned you have the cultured ear; and it is in your power to acquire that refined pronunciation which, rather than any other single quality, is the outward sign of culture.

If, in a manner equally satisfactory, you can answer all questions that you ought to ask yourselves touching all sense-intuitions, your external perception is cultivated. If