

lists of names and dates and other dead or dying facts, but in a sympathetic understanding of the ancestral experience of our own race, that experience which is the vital form of natural heredity still animates the living world of which we form a momentarily conscious part. Whether they actually know the facts of English literature or not, the everyday human beings about us are still instinct with its spirit. The ripest student of that literature, old or young, is he who best appreciates his fellow men.

With English composition, in its broadest sense, the trait which I have in mind is far more obvious. The task of the writer is to inform other people of what he knows or feels. Very clearly, to do this he must always be sympathetically considerate of the public he addresses, large or small. Very clearly, too, the wider this sympathetic appreciation of the living people all about him, the greater the power of informing, influencing, stirring, pleasing them. There is no more pregnant commonplace in the books of rhetoric than perhaps the oldest. The ultimate secret of the art these books try to teach, in its very highest forms, is learned by those who think the thoughts of the wise, and who speak the language of the simple.

In truth, then, what distinguishes the study of English, in our English-speaking country, from all other studies is this: while other studies tend toward various kinds of special culture and training, more and more remote from actual life, the study of English tends, or surely should tend, rather toward a broad, general culture and training, whose ultimate result should be the closest and most sympathetic appreciation of the very world we live in. In this trait, I think, and in the implied consequences of it, lies the real secret of the

importance which in a blind sort of way has of late years been attached to the study. Other studies, people begin to recognize, draw the student further and further away from everyday life; the study of his native language brings him constantly nearer and nearer to it. The deepest, most important function of the study, then, is to bind the student, with strengthening bonds, to the living world from which his other work is constantly distracting him. Here, and here only, specialist and layman may always fraternize in the growing consciousness of common humanity.—*Prof. Barrett Wendell, in the School Review for December.*

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METALLURGY is tending to become one of the most efficient producers of manures in the world. Twenty years ago, says the *Annales Industrielles*, twenty thousand tons of phosphoric acid were as a poison to the two million tons of cast iron which England produced, while English ships were ransacking the most distant regions of the globe for phosphoric acid for agriculture. The basic process has been the end of this anomaly. Apparatus attached to the furnaces in Scotland for the recovery of the ammonia out of the furnace gases have furnished a new and important source of sulphate of ammonia for agriculture.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

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Reason is progressive, instinct stationary. Five thousand years have added no improvement to the hive of the bee, nor to the house of the beaver.—*Colton.*

A world without a Sabbath would be like a man without a snail, like a summer without flowers, and like a homestead without a garden.—*H. Ward Beecher.*