

But how if we should want the seeing eye and the hearing ear in a more important sense than is covered by any physical deprivation? How if there is a subtle aroma about what has been said by highly gifted men we cannot catch, a flavour we cannot appreciate; if nature and art teem with beauty which is for us as though it never was; how if there is a music in the music which our untrained ears cannot catch? The men of genius come to us each with his mission. One takes us up to the highest heaven of harmony; another purges our eyes that we may see God's glorious works as they are. George Macdonald says Burns' mission was to show men there was poetry immediately around them, at their very door. Now, beauty and utility go hand in hand in nature, and the same is true of all things which enable us to know her better. Take drawing and designing—and I was glad in visiting the college to find these will meet with careful attention—they increase the power of observation along the whole line and develop accuracy in all matters on which the mind employs itself. We are unthankful where we are not dull. If we felt as we ought, we should thank God at the sight of every flower, and send our hearts to heaven up the silver staircase of every starry beam. Think of all the beauty of the world; think of all that is glorious in literature from Homer to Tennyson—of all that is entrancing in song and music from David's harp, that could chase the evil spirit from an unworthy king, down to Handel, Beethoven and the other great composers of modern times; think how a great historian like Thucydides or Gibbon or Macaulay makes us live in past ages and under strange climes; think of the joy that the lyric poet can evoke in the heart; think also that the mind thus awakened and nourished is capable of doing better whatever

it applies itself to, and then thank God we live in an age when all this may be brought within reach not merely of the rich and powerful, but almost of every child who has any aptitude and who is blessed with parents and guardians not insensible to the possibilities of the time and to their duty to their wards or offspring. Thank God that pioneers as you are—in a new country—in a small town—you can be not merely the architects of happier fortunes than could be within your reach in more crowded fields, but can have at your very door the means of the higher education for your children, where science, languages, history, the classics, political economy, the arts of commerce themselves, may be mastered, and on terms so moderate as to vindicate the essentially democratic character of the institution. (Loud cheers.)

Education is a thing you cannot have too much of. Everybody sees the immediate advantage in the business of life of being able to read and write and cast accounts. Even the mental training of this much education and its consequences are not so well seen. Yet there cannot be the least doubt that such education will save men from the grosser aberrations from truth, will greatly aid them in forming just opinions on government. Hence Adam Smith lays down that if you leave the multitude uninstructed, religious animosities may produce dreadful disorders, and his words received a fearful illustration in the Lord George Gordon riots. "Educate the people!" was one of the watchwords, with which the Puritans of New England, woke up the sounding aisles of the dim primeval woods. It was the principal watchword of Penn, when he founded his peaceful colony, of Washington, addressing the nation he had saved, and of the sagacious Jefferson. Cultivate the people—infuse the charm and ennoble