

him to make all future studies sources of improvement therein. If the school he just left has not done its duty by him in this respect, the demands he now makes upon the College are all the more urgent. No amount of success in other departments of learning can compensate for a meagre knowledge of his own tongue. It seems like a strange inversion for a student to write out full and correct answers to all the questions on an examination paper in Greek or Latin, and yet in writing these answers make numerous errors and display weakness in the use of the language he has been speaking all his life. Acknowledged masters should be read with care and discrimination by the student as part of his College course. They should be read in order to acquire an extensive vocabulary, the ability to discern slight shades of difference between approximate synonyms, and a habit of tracing words to their origin—than which habit there is none more productive of pleasure and profit. "Track a word that has been as familiar as a house-cat back to its derivative lair, and ten to one it will pay you in history, legend, poetry or preaching."

The success of one who aims to be a public speaker depends in no small degree upon his acquaintance with the language which is to be the messenger of his thought. Every effort put forth to attain thoroughness in this part of his training is sure of an inestimable reward. Whenever study to this end becomes general, the labors of preachers and lecturers will be less futile, inasmuch as speakers will then be better qualified to speak and hearers to hear. The influence of many a volume is annulled by an obscure and repulsive style. He who purposes writing a book had better abandon the project if he has not first learned to express himself with strength and perspicuity.

Those who control our educational interests should raise the English language higher on the list of studies than it has ever been hitherto. In the curricula of

our Colleges it needs to be lifted from an inferior to a superior place. *Alma Mater* puts no instrument into our hands which we are to use to such an extent, and it should send us forth capable of wielding it with power. Give us the mathematics, and the dead languages, and the philosophy, and the history, and the natural science in abundance, but above all give us a mastery of our mother tongue through critical study of the best English Classics. RYE.

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