

sophizing. "Does it work?" that is the question which our whole system cries—either it must produce results, or it is cast aside.

And so it is with our literature; we must produce results! The world is not interested in what has gone before; it is even less futuristic. Our age is extremely egoistical. It is too busy to bother about the past or the future.

The best literature of a period is that literature which best portrays the thoughts, modes and activities of its people. From an artistic point of view, literature is best when it contains the most beautiful thoughts in the most exact words. Therefore, the literature of a certain period is often greater than that of another period because the thoughts of one people are often greater than those of another.

We cannot say if *our* literature enters the realm of true art. That judgment is left for our posterity. We hope that it is art, and some claim it is a greater art than any embodied in previous literature.

The question to be decided by a literary aspirant is whether he shall undertake to be a true artist, and embrace art for art's sake, or accept the profession of letters as a means of livelihood, and as a means of coming in direct contact with the life of his time. Either a man must seclude himself, and set up his own judgment as sole standard, and produce the art which he calls art; or he must join the modernistic movement, and hope it is art.

"But, sir!" I protested, "it is literature, imagination, poetry!" The veteran newspaperman looked at me with a bit of pity in his eyes. "That much I'll not dispute," he said. "But the question that you must ask yourself is — is it suited to the needs of modern magazines, and publishers?"

The author considered for a moment, and then continued, "Perhaps, the magazines and our modern novels have gone into by-ways which lead in all directions but that of real literature—at least that is the claim of many people. But as far as I am personally concerned, I have no doubt that our literature is not a literature which is on a lower level than that of previous ages."