

while multiplies by thousands prison, asylum and grave inmates.

We sought, at the start, to develop the idea, that home was a likeness of the occupant. Whatever meliorates the latter must improve the former. Not a few regard all methods of intellectual and heart culture as *res extraneæ*, matters foreign to business men and elite. Indeed, their talk would have them believe brains to be a *convenience* for resisting atmospheric pressure. Well may the wise men who, through all ages past, have been eulogizing man's lordship upon the ground of his mental superiority to the brute, in view of present infidelity, exclaim in despair: "Who hath believed our report!"

What are aids to a healthy, robust culture; and are these grown at home? Whatever schemes for education have from time to time exercised a predominant efficacy upon society, certain is it, that reading, or the study of books,—for all proper reading is study,—is one demanded in this literary era; an era, the coins of whose mind-mint well bear an Augustan image and superscription. One wouldn't think it though, were he a mixer-in of society. He whose mind is bent upon what experimental knowledge his animal senses may absorb, and none other, is, at the outset, well nigh unto the attainment of his desired stature. Every good book, well read, is an inoculation into one's system of an additional life-drop. The mind if not brought into antagonism with others, but left in solitary tenure of its own resources, grows conceited and arrogant, failing, in the absence of peers and sovereigns, to perceive its just rank. Reading, like a Roman *yoke*, puts us to the extremity of passing under or surmounting ideas. It is Nature vocalized and made garrulous, so that mountain and valley, sea, river, firmament and sky, forms animate and inanimate, phenomena common and rare, changes gradual and abrupt, join in pleasant colloquy upon the utilities and harmonies of their seemingly unfriendly natures. Books acquaint us with ourselves both physiologically and spiritually. They foster the mind, warming into life by their incubatory contract self-surprising, mighty thoughts. They are