

· CLASSIC · · MYTHS ·

Does not the experience of the ages of successful tuition after all count for something? Those men who, in the past, have made their marks, men who have left behind them living memorials of their greatness were usually schooled thoroughly in the classics. Washington, Jefferson, even, to a certain extent, Lincoln, who gained his education handicapped by many obstacles, derived their knowledge from the study of the past.

In studying the works of the ancients, one reads what are perhaps the greatest minds the world has ever known. Thinking with great minds, one cannot help absorbing some of the wisdom which has made these men outstanding. Especially for the young men who hope to be leaders in the professional and business life of the time, in finance, in affairs of state, in practical life, those studies are to be preferred which shall make them greater men, which shall give them a larger prospect of life, quicken their powers of vision, enlarge their range of sympathy, and bring them into fullest consciousness of the sources and developments of the culture we enjoy. And never more than in this age of crowded activities, of militant socialistic agitation by half-educated theorists, of radical and atheistic tendencies, was there need of men that know the world was not made the day before yesterday.

Unless a student is dull indeed, he cannot fail to learn by his contact with the ancient world that the problems of government, the just division of powers, the distribution of wealth, the relations of people toward one another are not new problems, but ones which have been peculiar to every age.

No man is well educated, is well fitted for leadership among his fellows, who has not an easy and thorough command of his own language. For the complete understanding and mastery of our tongue, there is no better teacher than the classics. In fact, a very great number of our own words are immediately derived from the Greek and Latin.

Briefly, an education to be true must teach us our duties to God, to our country and to our neighbors. An education that does not do this is unquestionably false. The classics are basically the study of the universe and man, and the relation of these two to God. Therefore, an education to be complete must be founded on the classics. If we are to rise above mediocrity in our chosen work, surely it must be upon the solid foundation of a broad and liberal education, which will make us men and women possessed of lively imaginations, clarity of thought, grace in expression and souls imbued with deepest sympathy for the human race in all its struggles upward.