

who has planted cotton and nothing else, knows a great deal about it. He was almost born with a knowledge of all the eccentricities of the plant. He is a specialist of the most extreme type; and, now that cotton planting has ceased to pay, he is totally at sea; he knows no other style of agriculture. It is the same with the modern factory system. A man may work for years and become the most expert brass-moulder, or iron melter in the factory, yet he is not a practical man. He knows nothing about anything else. His mind is developed in only one direction; and, thrown suddenly on the world with no chance of practising his one trade, he in a truly deplorable situation.

Such men have not seen that the rational idea of specialism, as exemplified in the careers of the most truly successful men, is a specialism that does not usurp so large a part of our time and energy that general culture may be neglected. A famous author says: "This world is a school for the education, not of a faculty, but of a man. Just as in the body, if I resolve to be a rower, the chances are that I shall have, indeed, strong arms, but weak legs, and be stricken with blindness from the glare of the water, so in the mind, if I care but for one exercise, and do not consult the health of the mind altogether, I may, like George Moreland, be a wonderful painter of pigs and pig-sties, but in all else, as a human being, be below contempt—an ignoramus and a drunkard!"

Many people seem to think that for a man to do his best in one branch of industry he should know nothing of any others. That is, that broad and general learning is a hindrance to success in some special branch of industry.

They forget that the brain of man is not a store room that can hold just so much learning and no more, but is a part of his body, developed like his muscle by every course of exercise it goes through, and (with a properly varied course) continually approaching the limit of perfection. The leg muscles of a potter, who from morn to night works the treadle of his potter's wheel, are not symmetrically developed as those of the man who has used his not nearly so much, but in a varied and more natural way. Just so the mind of a man