

The base and common-place Mexican donkey, has more physical power, to carry a load of fagots, than that grand inventor who first harnessed the lightning and caused it to propel our cars, drive our machinery and turn night into day by its brilliant light.

"Wealth is power," to oppress. "Knowledge is power," to bless—a broad distinction but true.

Knowledge is valuable for the pleasure it imparts, for the permanent wealth it secures and for its ennobling effects upon the mind. Its excellence is more strongly illustrated by comparing it with ignorance. "The ignorant man," says a writer of antiquity, "is dead even while he walketh. He is numbered with the living, but he does not exist."

The strong prejudices and narrow range of thought which are common to the unfurnished mind are obvious to all who come in contact with it. Rude manners and a contempt for just laws distinguish an uneducated community. "Learning," said Lord Bacon, "doth make the mind gentle, generous, and pliant to government, while ignorance leaveth it churlish, thwarting, and mutinous;" and history proves this to be true inasmuch as the most barbarous and unlearned times have been most subject to tumult, seditions and violence. The same conditions exist among the nations now.

The treasures of knowledge have been pronounced by the wise of all ages as infinitely superior to gold that perishes. Knowledge has a property of resisting accident and adhering to its possessor when all things else forsake him. The winds cannot sweep it away, nor flames devour, nor floods dissolve. "All that I have is about me" said the poet Simonides, with perfect calmness, when in the midst of tempest and shipwreck his companions were loading themselves with their most costly effects before plunging into the waves. A treasure over which the elements have no power is surely worth the labor required for its acquisition.

The error is sometimes made of estimating knowledge principally as an instrument of pecuniary gain. Those who hold