

Gifted with such abilities and virtues, Jefferson was undeniably a thorough statesman. While an ardent worker in political science, he none the less cultivated the arts of the rural district. The examples of his public life have been so well followed, and so great success has been achieved, as not to need farther recommendation. Who, then, would hesitate to commend to the American youth for their imitation that course of life pursued by Thomas Jefferson? Who could hesitate to follow his examples? Who can justly condemn the examples of his public career?

Those fine abilities and rare virtues will ever be admired by an intelligent people. Although he did not live long enough to satisfy the desires of his friends, he outlived the hostilities of his enemies; and at the moment he closed his mortal career he occupied the very first place in the hearts of a free people. *

SELF-RELIANCE.

The highest tribute of respect or honor that we can ascribe to the memory of Moses, Plato or Milton, is that they set at naught the teachings of men and of books, and spoke not as other men suggested or intimated, but spoke and wrote as they themselves thought. Man is prone, and indeed too willing, to set aside the fruits of his own mind simply because they are his own. But in every work of genius, in every work of true worth, man must ultimately and unreservedly rely upon his own spontaneous impressions, with good humored inflexibility, though the majority of voices may be upon the other side. Else, if he wait till a later time, perhaps tomorrow some one else will have caught up and said in a masterly and scholarly manner, precisely what he had thought and felt all the time, but did not carry to perfection because of the opinions of others.

There is a certain stage in many persons' course of education, when they ar-

rive at the conclusion that to envy is ignorance, to copy imitate is a form of suicide; and that they must rely wholly upon themselves for the true solution of the enigma of their lives; that no true good can come to them except through their own immediate efforts. This is as it should be, and it would be well if all could come to this conclusion. But there are far too many exceptions.

Many endeavor to follow in the path of certain illustrious men, and although they may learn much that is beneficial, yet they are seldom found among the eminent men of the age.

This is an age of advancement, rapid, sure and praiseworthy, and although it is well to bear in mind the destructive traits of eminent men, yet it is ultimately required that we proceed according to our own convictions.

No law can be sacred to any one but his own nature. That which is right is with his nature. That which is wrong is against it. What we must do, is that which concerns us, and not as every body else dictates. We must follow out our own minds, and then if we are wrong, we must suffer the consequences.

Suppose the government were to pass a law requiring me to steal a horse. I would not stop to think what was the duty due to my country, but I would first inquire in my own mind, as to the duty to myself. If I refused to act as the law required, I must receive the penalty and become a martyr. If I did contrary to my ideas of right, I would obey my country, but would I be free from sin on that account? Because it is the law and the opinion of many, would I be justified in committing the act?

Man is timid; he grows timid. He is no longer upright, but is forever quoting some ancient sage and predecessor, some one whose life has been successful; and does not rely enough upon himself.

James Watt was not a very smart or learned man, yet he persevered in the time of his own thought and genius, regardless