

David and his Psalms, the eloquence of Isaiah, the wisdom of Solomon, the life of Jesus and his words, the life of Paul and his letters, we have recommended the very greatest book in this world. All men of nobility, of intelligence know that.

Modern enterprise and intelligence, as illustrated in the later nations, owes its peculiarity and strength to the Bible. It is a confidence caused by reading this book which makes most men enterprising, venturesome, trustful of one another, resourceful and full of endurance. So that not without a good reason have men put the Bible in all these lists.

Another obvious lesson is that the best books are the old and tried books. Everybody nowadays seems carried away with an opposite notion, that we must read the newest books. They are put out so enticingly. They interweave so much of history, philosophy and religion. They deal with the problems of life. They sell by the hundreds of thousands. But why do not these men recommend them? It is because they are not classic, they are not well-tested. They have not passed muster before the best minds. Therefore, with as little time as we have at our command, new writers are not entitled to claim our attention unless they can prove an undoubted excellence which shall entitle them to the claim.

One other lesson only do we draw from these lists. It is that every intelligent man should read what is best in the varied departments of thought. What should a preacher read? Only sermons and theology? To what should a chemist confine himself? To science only? How shall a man be the most effective lawyer? By reading legal works only? Shall a teacher busy himself with nothing but pedagogy? Shall an engineer know only mechanics? Here is where the greatest warning is sounded to every man, whether young or old. Take care lest you narrow yourself down to your own calling. Take care lest you become the victim of a fad. Take care how you touch only one or two tones of a nature which has infinite harmonies. Take care lest you allow prejudice to make you one-sided. Take care lest, even with a holy seal in your profession, you become dwarfed by reason of it in your