HALING into a reverie, the other evening, my mind, being full of my work, naturally ran toward my profession; and almost without thinking (an apparent paradox) I received some new ideas, or at least made some new reflections, concerning the various relations of architecture and its practice to the other professions. I have thought that perhaps they might be interesting, or at least challenging, to those in the School who are in the other professions.

Let us first glance at the latter. The physicist deals with the great forces of nature, and takes his ingenuity to explain, measure, and master them. He may by one deep thought, which shall be the culmination of all his study, build up new theories, or undermine old ones, and so further the progress of the world toward perfection of knowledge, thus influencing, radically and eternally,—at least so long as his civilization is extant,—the minds, manners, and customs of the world’s inhabitants. To a high-minded man, nothing can be a greater incentive than this to the utmost training and use of his knowledge and faculties. Yet if he does not see fit to put forth his hand, no man will know that he is the worse for it.

The mechanical engineer, it is needless to say,—for look at the history of the last hundred years,—has the power, after the physicist has done his work, of incalculably benefiting humanity in all the material resources of life.

The chemist is a most powerful factor in life, —nay, he is scarcely second to the physicist; for what invention or discovery in the history of the world has had greater influence, or will have greater influence, than the invention of gunpowder or nitro-glycerine?

The miner, simply as a miner, has but a transient influence, yet comes more directly in contact with life, and benefits it more simply than either of the others.

The electrical engineer, practicing applied physics, has influence equal to any.

The civil engineer has a direct influence, transient where his skill is entirely bestowed on structures, etc., but far reaching when he develops the skill sufficient to enable the mechanical engineer to drive his engine at the wind's pace from end to end of a continent.

Those who have read as far as this, may think that an architect has a pretty small hole to crawl out of; but no! The architect alone, of all the scientific professions except medicine, has an intimate connection with every variety of life: the amusements, the education, the religion, the home-life, the health, the pleasures, the ideals of humanity, are not only influenced by the architect, but are shaped and planned by him, are cared for and studied by him, and are his sources of anxiety on the execution of his work. The man who can enter into schoolboy life and its varied feelings, and can be a boy, yet with a man’s knowledge, is the one who will plan the schoolhouse I should want to attend.

The man of whatever denomination who can be a thorough Churchman and Christian, and can enter into all the feelings of those characters, is the only man who can express in a church, at once, praise and joy, sympathy and majesty. This is really a practical, every-day fact; for no Catholic church is designed by any but Catholics, or at least seldom.

The man who gives you a dry cellar to your house, wards off death; he who arranges a good sanitary system prolongs your life; he who gives you your knee-space and fresh air at the theater makes your life more happy.

And, greater than almost all these things, he who can so design as to point to, and exhibit, an ideal life of grandeur and equipoise, or of pure and elevating gayety which shall refresh you, or of universal sympathy for mankind,—in a word, he who can express his soul in his building, will be sure of the sympathy of others, and of doing them good.

HER INVITATION.

In the parlor they were sitting—
Sitting by the firelight’s glow,
Quickly were the minutes flitting,
Till at last he rose to go.

With his overcoat she puttered,
From her eye escaped a tear:
"Must you go so soon?" she muttered;
"Won't you stay to breakfast, dear?"—Life.