

22.
Where the
interest of
the book
will lie :
in all the
influences
which have
a result on
our inner
life.

at. What will interest us most will be the conscious aims and ends, if such existed, of any political or social movement, and, where they did not exist, at least the results to our inner life which have necessarily followed, the methods by which knowledge was extended or science applied, the principles which underlay literary composition and criticism, and the hidden spiritual treasure which poetry, art, and religious movements aimed at revealing or communicating ; in fact the question : What part has the inner world of Thought played in the history of our century,—what development, what progress, what gain has been the result of the external events and changes ?

23.
The personal
knowledge
and experi-
ence neces-
sary for a
true por-
trayal forms
a limitation
of the ex-
tent of
ground to be
traversed.

But if personal knowledge and experience are—as it seems to me—of the greatest importance in an attempt like this ; if, without having lived the inner life, a record of it would be either a mere string of names or a criticism of opinions, not a living picture,—so it is also the factor which necessarily limits the extent of the ground which I propose to traverse. Thus I feel obliged in the first place to limit myself to European Thought. Such a limitation would hardly have been called for a century ago, because it would have been a matter of course : but the steady growth and peculiar civilisation of a new and vigorous people on the other side of the Atlantic force from me the twofold confession, that there is a large world of growing importance of which I have no personal knowledge, and to estimate which I therefore feel unqualified and unprepared ; and further, that I am equally unable to picture to myself the aspect which the whole of our European culture in its present state may assume to an outside and far-removed observer who is placed in the

24.
American
influence
only
touched
upon.