

the result, the parts and the ideal whole, of what is felt and meant: it commits us to no preconceived theory, can be used equally by thinkers of the most opposite views, and lends itself to any specialisation which may become necessary.

II.

Two processes have helped to determine the intellectual progress of mankind. These two processes have often been apparently opposed to each other in their operations; but in reality neither of them can proceed very far without calling the other into existence. They are the extension and the condensation of knowledge. Curiosity, the demands of practical life, the experiences of every day, all tend to an enlargement, to an accumulation of knowledge. Such growing knowledge is, however, of little avail if it be not readily grasped: the command of knowledge is as important as its accumulation. The more extensive the country which we wish to explore, the more we look out for elevated and commanding points of view, which permit us at a glance to overlook a wide landscape measuring the distance behind or the prospect before us. But, however enticing, these elevated views are frequently seductive and misleading. They permit us not only to look backward on the land which we have explored, giving us a clearer picture of its many features, of its winding paths, of the position of its separate objects—these elevated views present to us likewise the regions which we have not yet explored, and suggest the attempt to supersede the laborious process of further exploration

1.
The two
factors of
intellectual
progress.