

Strong section of industrials who still imagine that men can be mere machines and are at their best as machines if they are mere machines are already menacing what they call “useless” education. They deride the classics, and they are mildly contemptuous of history, philosophy, and English. They want our educational institutions, from the oldest universities to the youngest elementary schools, to concentrate on business or the things that are patently useful in business. Technical instruction is to be provided for adolescent artisans; book keeping and shorthand for prospective clerks; and the cleverest we are to set to “business methods”, to modern languages (which can be used in correspondence with foreign firms), and to science (which can be applied to industry). French and German are the languages, not of Montaigne and Goethe, but of Schmidt Brothers, of Elberfeld and Dupont et Cie., of Lyons. Chemistry and Physics are not explorations into the physical constitution of the universe, but sources of new dyes, new electric light filaments, new means of making things which can be sold cheap and fast to the Nigerian and the Chinese. For Latin there is a Limited field so long as the druggists insist on retaining it in their prescriptions. Greek has no apparent use at all, unless it be as a source of syllables for the hybrid names of patent medicines and metal polishes. The soul of man, the spiritual basis of civilization- what gibberish is that?

Questions

a) What kind of education does the writer deal with?

The writer deals with the business education. He conveys that industrialists want to use education for business purposes. The reason is that they think that this is the right way to earn more and more money. In fact, to collect wealth is their first and foremost goal of their lives. In short, writer talks of business education.

b) What kind of education does the writer favour? How do you know?

While reading this passage, one can understand that the writer favours the classical education. He does not praise the mindset of the business-oriented people. He highlights that money lovers do not have any interest in philosophy, history and English. If he agrees with the point of views of industrialists, he would second their thoughts. However, he does not appreciate them. Thus, it is ascertained that writer of this passage favours those subjects, which are disliked by the industrialists.

c) Where does the writer express most bitterly his feelings about the neglect of the classics?

In this whole passage, the writer dislikes the notion of the people about business. However, In the beginning of this passage, the writer expresses his discontent about the neglect of the Classics to a great extent. Therefore, it can be said that writer of this passage bemoans the idea of people about collecting wealth in the start of this passage. He does so, for he has love for Classics.

d) Explain as carefully as you can the full significance of the last sentence.

The last sentence of the given passage talks of the soul of man. It conveys that it is the soul of the man that is the spiritual basis of any civilization. It means man is civilized because of his soul. It is unfortunate that with this soul, he is after the materialistic goals.