

Supplement to the
Monmouth Herald
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Sees Signs of Big Revival in Poetry

According to Prof. Allen Abbott of Columbia University, who lectured to the Normal students Monday morning, one of the great revivals of poetry, similar to others which have occasionally arisen in times past, is in progress right now. The stress of war, asserted Mr. Abbott, always reacts by bringing the heroic and picturesque in thought to the surface, and this condition is favorable to poetry.

In the course of an hour's address Mr. Abbott labored to erase some of the false impressions in the public mind in regard to poetry. He found an instance of this in the remarks of two commercial travelers which he overheard on the train. One said he disliked to go automobile riding with his wife for the latter was always nudging him in the elbow and calling his attention to a beautiful sunset or to a robin on a lightning blasted pine tree. "Oh, poetry", sympathized the other traveling man.

To too many people, asserted the speaker, poetry consists in some one nudging your elbow and calling your attention to the sunsets and the robins. Again, he said, there is a popular impression that poetry is untruthful as finds expression in the adage "More truth than poetry" which is frequently heard. Mr. Abbott contended that poetry is as truthful as any other branch of literature; that it is simply language expressed in terms of art.

He made numerous quotations, aiming to bring out examples in the various lines and said that children should not be taught the technique of poetry but rather given examples to read and commit to memory.

One of the things which Mr. Abbott gave and one which brought out most apparent approval from the audience was quotation from a poem on the evolution of black men through the various stages of development by Vachtel Lindsay. It was a series of pictures which brought up the sight of a colored boy "beating on a barrow with the handle of a broom" and as presented by Mr. Abbott was deeply interesting.

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