

SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE
OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1902.

KNOW, THEN, THYSELF.*

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LONG ago, as history measures time, when our planet was regarded as a flat disk girt by an unknown sea, and heaven was no farther away than the fair summit of Mount Olympus; when learning centered about the eastern curve of the Mediterranean, and a knowledge of music, mathematics and philosophy constituted a liberal education, a master mind emphasized the seemingly simple precept, 'Know thyself.'

Centuries later, when the disk had rounded into a sphere; when Jehovah had superseded Jove; when civilization had become continental; when the classics, modern languages and literature had been added to the list of scholarly pursuits, a keen little Englishman echoed the injunction of the ancient Greek.

And to-day, when scientific research has extended beyond the confines of the habitable portion of the earth, invaded the depths of the sea, explored the uttermost heights of the atmosphere and mapped the heavens; when God is worshipped as a spirit and ever more reverently as we begin to comprehend the marvels of his creation; when the making of many books has given this knowledge entrance through every door open to receive it, how much more reason have we than had Alexander Pope to re-

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

* Address of President of American Folk-lore Society at annual meeting, Chicago, January 1, 1902.