

later when I heard he himself give a very very interesting address on a rather complicated subject. I spoke to him afterwards and I said, My how I love to heard you. I said, You certainly are a wonderful scholar." He said, Would you call me a scholar? Do you really think that I am a scholar?" And here was the term used. He looked with contempt on somebody else because they were not a scholar. But he would hardly aspire to it! I would feel that if there was ever anybody who deserved that title he certainly was one of the ones who did.

Now among a small part of our populace, but a very influential part, there often comes to be an attitude toward this word scholarly. It seems to me it is important we do some thinking about it. Prov. 8 describes wisdom as very very important. Yet we read in the NT "the world by wisdom knew not God." Wisdom is not a way of gaining knowledge of that which is most vital. That we have to learn from God's revelation. There is no other way we can get it. But wisdom is vital in the skills that are needed in order to make our lives worthwhile in the service of the Lord. From that viewpoint it is very important.

There are various aspects, various elements that enter into it. I believe that there are particularly for scholarship two aspects both of which are absolutely necessary. The first of these is the gathering of facts. The gathering of material. How easy it is when dealing with any problem, or studying any subject to overlook some fact that is really of great importance. It enters into every aspect of life. The searching for all the facts that we can get in that particular area.

So it's easy for us to get the idea that just gathering any facts is a wonderful thing for scholarship. Of course it is true that gathering any kind of facts if you really do it carefully and accurately gives you a training that is of value. But there is a gathering of facts that are vital, and there is a gathering of facts that are not particularly vital. And a tremendous amount of so-called scholarship is devoted to that aspect..

I think probably most of you have heard of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. This was shortly before the Civil War. They were very very important in American history when A. Lincoln and Stephen Douglas traveled around Illinois holding debates which were widely publicized. After the debates the Illinois legislature was elected and Lincoln actually received more votes than Douglas did. ~~xxxxxxx~~ --a fact I only learned this morning. I always thought it was the other way around. Because when the Legislature came to vote-- and in those days senators were elected by the legislature rather than directly -- Douglas was elected senator and Lincoln was defeated.

But Lincoln in the debate had put Douglas into a certain position which increased his ability to become senator but which made him greatly decrease his popularity in the south. As a result when the Democratic party nominated Douglas for President, most of the southern democrats revolted and ran a different man. On account of that split Lincoln was elected. It was very obvious that Lincoln had through the debate succeeded in winning the election