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### Giant and Dwarf

As on through life's journey we go day  
by day,

There are two whom we meet, at each  
turn of the way,  
To help or to hinder, to bless or to ban,  
And the names of these two are "I  
Can't" and "I Can."

"I Can't" is a dwarf, a poor, pale, puny  
limp,  
His eyes are half blind and his walk is  
a limp;  
He stumbles and falls, or lies writhing  
with fear,  
Though dangers are distant and succor  
is near.

"I Can" is a giant; unbending he stands;  
There is strength in his arms and skill  
in his hands;  
He asks for no favors, he wants but a  
share  
Where labor is honest and wages are  
fair.

"I Can't" is a sluggard, too lazy to  
work,  
From duty he shrinks, every task he will  
shirk;  
No bread on his board, and no meal in  
his bag;  
His home is a ruin, his coat is a rag.

"I Can" is a worker; he tills the broad  
fields,  
And digs from the earth all the wealth  
which it yields,  
The hum of his spindle begins with the  
light,  
And the fires of his forges are blazing  
all night.

"I Can't" is a coward, half fainting  
with fright;  
At the first thought of peril he slinks out  
of sight;  
Skulks and hides till the noise of the  
battle is past,  
Or sells his best friends and turns  
traitor at last.

"I Can" is a hero, the first in the field;  
Though others may falter, he never will  
yield;  
He makes the long marches, he deals the  
last blow,  
His charge is the whirlwind that scatters  
the foe.

How grandly and nobly he stands at his  
trust,  
When, roused at the call of a cause that  
is just,  
He weds his strong will to the valor of  
youth,  
And writes on his banner the watchword  
of Truth!

Then up and be doing, the day is not  
long;  
Throw fear to the winds, be patient and  
strong!  
Stand fast in your place, act your part  
like a man,  
And when duty calls, answers promptly,  
"I can."

The following epitaph of a man who  
did not succeed may be suggestive of  
some essential elements of success:

He lacked tact.  
He didn't care how he looked.  
He was too proud to take advice.  
He did not fall in love with his work.  
He got into a rut, and couldn't get out.  
He did not learn to do things to a finish.  
He lacked the faculty of getting along  
with others.  
He couldn't transmute his knowledge  
into power.  
He tried to pick the flowers out of his  
occupation.