

is capable of development through itself, though when watered and nourished by favorable surroundings it flourishes much more luxuriantly.

Much might be said of the development of genius by surroundings. Take any discoverer of ancient times and place him here to day when there is much less to discover. He could not become so great as before. His genius may be *as* great, but surroundings lack the former power of development. In all probability Oliver Cromwell would never have become the distinguished man he did, but for the civil war; nor Napoleon, but for the French Revolution. The question also may be asked, "Why did not Milton's brother become as great a poet as he?" Because his brother, being younger, was more influenced by the political troubles of the day, in which he became prominent, more so than perhaps Milton would, had he entered a political life. Newton serves as a good example to show that genius in its action is influenced by surroundings. When a boy at school he was dull and what might be called lazy, till one day a fellow playmate, who stood above him in class, gave him a severe kick. Newton, being small of stature, was not able to return this infliction; but sought revenge by studying until he far excelled his enemy. Thus in most men of genius this at first dormant power is awakened by some stroke of circumstances.

Education and experience are likewise developers of this wonderful quality. "Experience," says Emerson, "is the ground and basis of all knowledge," and as genius is useless without knowledge, both education and experience are important factors in its development. Milton is a beautiful illustration of this. His father designed him from childhood for the study of letters, and took the greatest interest in his intellectual culture, and was always found encouraging him in such pursuits. Newton, after the incident related above, continued his study, reading the works of great mathematicians, and thus thrown in a mathematical atmosphere, was able to do the great work he has accomplished for the world.

Genius in its various forms occasions innumerable results. Let us first consider its effects on the individual. It does not give him knowledge, but renders him capable of comprehending that which may come within his reach. To some it has been very injurious, leading them into the deepest degrada-

tion, to others most beneficial raising them far above the common level. In the latter case, it has caused great trouble to many, the common people of whose time being so ignorant as to consider such person insane or heretical, and they often inflicted on them most excruciating punishment. Its possessors, however, in after years have been always honored, and had this elementary quality been removed, they would long since have been forgotten.

To speak of all the material benefits rendered the world through genius would require much more space than is permitted to us, for to it is due a great deal of what we at present enjoy in all pursuits of business, as well as of pleasure.

In the intellectual world like great results follow as the Shakespearian Drama and the Miltonic Epic, which are the wonder and admiration of all. So, likewise, the mathematical works of Newton, and the astronomical researches of Galileo are worthy of mention, for without them the world of to-day would lack many means of advancement.

We have discussed this mental faculty in its various applications, yet in all obtainable by man. Few have reached this quality of distinction, nevertheless it is open to all, and even in our progressive age, no few men stand out as distinguished from the rest. Although we may not have as many distinguished men as former generations, it is not from a lack of genius, but because more are seeking this higher level, and hence is obtained by the mass, and not the few, making mankind better and happier. Advancement leads to happiness, and from the above we find it is attainable by all, and is ours to seek, as is confirmed by Pope when he says:

"Remember, men, the universal cause  
Acts not by partial, but by gen'ral laws:  
And makes what happiness we justly call  
Subsist not in the good of one, but all."

S. J. C.

Rev. Robert Macdonald, a Nova Scotian by birth, formerly a student at Acadia, afterwards at Newton and Harvard, a man of exceptional ability, with fine promise of a useful and honorable career before him, was formally installed as pastor of the Warren Avenue Baptist church, Boston, on Tuesday evening, Nov. 10th.—*Ex.*