

will certainly confirm. All these examples which might be multiplied indefinitely, prove beyond doubt that even the highest mental gifts may be of little avail, unless they are seconded by industry and perseverance.

An interesting question now presents itself, concerning the importance of genius in the general onward movement of the world. A distinguished writer has declared that "the world is not moved by men of genius." This proposition can hardly be admitted without certain qualifications. Genius consists in an extraordinary gift of nature, especially adapting the mind for the performance of great and noble deeds in the different spheres of human activity. But, on account of the difference of judgment in different people, as to what ordinary and extraordinary gifts are, and also through carelessness in the use of the word, it is often applied incorrectly. The word genius is often used where the word talent would be in place. These words are quite distinct in their meaning. They are both applied to human ability in its various degrees of excellence. Genius marks the highest intellectual gifts, whereas talent indicates a lower grade of mental power, but still raises its possessor above the ordinary multitude. Genius is that creative faculty which opens up new vistas to the mind, new avenues of thought and endeavours, along which talent travels at a slower pace, gathering up the facts and principles which genius has discovered, and utilizing and perfecting these for the practical needs of men.

Thus, it was the genius of Watt that invented the steam engine, which the talent of able engineers transported into the locomotive, while hundred-armed labor builds the track, along which our modern life pulsates. It was the genius of Napoleon that well nigh grasped the empire of a world, outrivalling the deeds of Cæsar and Alexander, and supported only by a few talented generals and the strong arms of the valiant youths of France. Thus, in its conduct of human affairs, genius resembles the head; talent, the skilful hands; and the multitude of mankind, the human body. As the head needs the co-operation of the body, so the body needs the guidance of the head for the accomplishment of its task. So, also, the progress of the human family, without the leadership of genius, would come to a

standstill, whereas genius without the able assistance of talent, and without the strong arm of toil, would remain barren and fruitless. Therefore, the above-quoted propositions stand corrected, thus: that although the world is not moved by men of genius *only*, it is they that take the lead along the different avenues of human advancement, whereas talent slowly urges on the multitude along the road pointed out by genius.

Thus, each of us has his mission in this world and his allotted task, joint with the obligation to accomplish that task to the best of his ability. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that our natural powers are susceptible of almost infinite development, and although education cannot create genius it can enhance talent to assume almost the semblance of genius. Talent and genius are both applied to human ability in their various degrees of excellence. By talent, we generally indicate that high order of ability which enables its possessor to utilize to the greatest advantage the experience of the past, the knowledge of facts and principles which the world already possesses. But should not the fact that men have so cultivated their talents that they have been mistaken for geniuses, encourage us to the use of those talents which we have? Supposing a scholar has a genius for the study of languages, while another has to depend upon a modicum of talent, the former will excel in his recitations, although he does not study so long nor so intently. But which derives the most benefit from his study? The benefits of language study and especially those derived from the dead languages, do not so much consist in the mere ability of reading the languages, as in the mental training which this study imparts. And so it is plain, that the scholar who has to dig hardest at his Greek, derives the most benefit from it. Genius will save the student from hard work at college, and will place him easily at the head of his class; but in practical life, when there comes a time when perseverance, accuracy and intense and continued application are required, genius alone will not answer, but the well-trained mind performs the task.

Let then, such examples spur us to an awakening of our latent powers. We know not what we can accomplish. Habits of perseverance, industry and thoroughness