

that help you climb into your berth. In short, whenever you want to reach an upper level, whenever you realize heights to which you have not attained, whenever you seek to overcome Nature's precipitous barrier, put there to try your mettle and draw out your perseverance, whenever you start to climb, then you have recourse to the ladder or to the ladder principle.

Now just as soon as we pass from the simple stage of life, so do we pass from the simple stage of thought, and as a man's ability to think out complex problems develops, so also his language loses its simplicity and begins to take on those figurative aspects that make it the instrument of cultured thought. You will not wonder therefore, if I make use of this word ladder in a metaphorical sense. It is not of that material thing of uprights and cross-bars that I wish to speak, but of those other less tangible and less homely ladders that enable a man to rise in thought, in knowledge, in wealth, in influence, in service, in society, in politics. We do not ever remain what we were when we were born. For one thing, time bears us along on its broad bosom, and makes its own changes on stature, on feature, on character. But other than these unavoidable changes which are the gift of time, there are certain very real and very definite changes that proceed from our own attitude to life, the modifications or excrescences of our own activity. We take a certain view of life, and we work upon the conditions that obtain in our neighborhood, we plan and toil, with the result that in the course of years we become different men from what we otherwise would have been. We occupy, e. g., a different station in life from what