

create an unhealthy desire to be a hero, or on the other to so minimize the value of common people and ordinary events as to impress young minds with the idea that these count for nothing. All of this is to be earnestly deprecated and faithfully avoided. There is, too, an uplifting charm in observing how the course of widely separated circumstances and far removed times and persons fit into an apparently designed order of procedure, for which one can give no adequate explanation except by the recognition of an intelligent Providence; and the charm of providential direction has been so apparent and transcendent in the story which is now submitted, that the writer could not be clear, in the light of conscience, and withhold it from the public.

May it not be that heroes are to be found in the ordinary ranks of life? And perhaps it may require a century or more to show how real and magnificent was their heroism. Is it wrong to worship heroes? It was to the chagrin of a party, but was it a sin or a crime that the world was gone after Christ? He attempted the thing that He knew ought to be done. He did it though it cost His life; indeed He did it only by the cost of His life. And He is to-day the world's greatest hero; and the world most honors itself and uplifts itself by recognizing in His divine purposes the highest expression of human nobleness and by worshipping Him. Should not a nation honor itself by enbalming the names of its worthies who have humbly imitated the Christ virtues? To pass on their bright examples is a kindness which each age may demand of its people, as the supreme purpose of ages, as of individuals, must ever be to attain to the best of which human nature is capable; and the display of human virtues constitutes a step in the upward process.