

cess without effort—something that will enable them to reach the top of the ladder without stepping upon the intermediate rounds. But what is the true character of genius? It seems to be nothing more or less than a capacity for an extraordinary degree of application or a strong determination to employ every moment diligently. No men as a rule have toiled more patiently and perseveringly to attain the success which has made them famous, than men of genius. They have learned

“To scorn delights,
And live laborious days.”

The idea that eminent men have reached their high positions without hard labour is a grand mistake. One of them tells us that

“Not a truth has to art, or to science been
given,
But brows have ached for it, and souls
toiled and striven.”

These men are not afraid to burn the midnight oil, or to rise with the lark to pursue their favourite studies. They do not depend upon genius to elevate them to the heights of fame by a series of leaps. They entered the battle of life firmly convinced that

“He who dareth in the generous strife
Must, ere the morning mists have ceased to
lour,
Till the long shadows of the night arrive,
Stand in the arena.”

The spectacle of men trusting to what they are pleased to term a streak of luck or good fortune to bring about success always reminds one of the fable of Jupiter and the waggoner. The waggoner whose wheel had become fast in the mud is pictured as shouting to Jupiter for aid. The king of gods looks down from his Olympian throne, and bids the indolent clown cease his supplications, and put his own shoulder to the wheel.

There is a strong tendency in the

minds of many to envy the success of the fortunate few, and to repine at fortune by whose partial distribution of favours the objects of their envy are assumed to have attained to coveted honours and rewards. We are apt to blame any cause rather than our own want of application, when we see ourselves outstripped in the race; yet we own abstractly the good old maxims which promise wealth to the industrious, fortune to those who rise early and work late, an abundant harvest to the farmer who ploughs the deepest, and casts the best seed into his furrows, and, in a word, under all its many forms, that the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Let all those who would gladly find some easier way to success than earnest application ponder well the words of Salvini, the great Italian actor, to the pupils of his art. “Above all, study, *study*, *STUDY*,” says this chieftain in a profession which is supposed to reserve its prizes for genius. “All the genius in the world,” he adds, “will not help you along with any art, unless you become a hard student. It has taken me years to master a single part.”

Wilbur F. Crafts, in his *Successful Men of To-day*, gives 135 specimen replies to the question, What do you consider essential elements of success for a young man entering upon such a business or profession as yours? And, with very few exceptions, the answers contained, *systematic industry* or *hard work*. It is the ability and the will to do hard work that forms the largest constituent of talent. It is this that enables men

“To wake the strong divinity of soul
That conquers chance and fate.”

The apparently impromptu productions of great men which have elicited the applause of the world are in reality the result of persevering industry.

Rufus Choate on being highly