

CLIMBING.

KNOWLEDGE has been compared to a clear, limpid stream, taking its rise in almost inaccessible mountain heights.

The student is a discoverer searching for the perennial streams that supply this stream. Like the discoverer of strange lands, he must endure many hardships and surmount many difficulties. The question of finance, as to how he is to obtain money to carry on his studies, must be met and solved. The thought of leaving a happy home, with all its pleasant association and taking up his abode with strangers, whose sympathies and aims are perhaps distasteful to him, may deter him. Or the blandishments of ease and pleasure may tempt him to remain in the valley below, rather than to endure the labour and trouble of climbing to the mountain heights to quaff the stream of knowledge at its source.

The earnest student will turn a deaf ear to all these calls and steadfastly set his face toward the mountain heights. He will move on from one point of vantage to another until he reaches the goal of his ambition. And as he mounts from height to height his field of vision broadens and the resolution to mount higher and yet higher grows stronger and stronger. Difficulties met and overcome strengthen his immature powers and fit him to meet and overcome new difficulties. As he looks around him with invigorated vision new beauties burst upon him from every side. New streams of knowledge are discovered mingling their waters with the original stream. Fresh observations must be taken and new problems solved. From the knowledge that two and two make four, he advances to know that two hundred thousand times one hundred quadrillion, added to infinity, gives, as a result, infinity.

He studies the structure of his own frame, and discovers that the brain controls the nerves, the nerves act on muscles, causing muscular contraction, and thus the motions of life are performed. Back of this he would go and study the mind, which moves brain matter, and the power that acts on mind.

He studies the forms and laws of matter until he is met with the questions: what is matter? and what power begat the force of gravitation?

History discloses to him many of the events that

have transpired on this globe of ours. It tells him how events have shaped the destinies of kingdoms, and teaches him to view effect with its relation to cause, in the political world. But back of authentic history he finds untrodden centuries that may yet be opened up to human ken by the diligent student of history. And thus he may roam through the entire range of human knowledge, finding regions yet unscanned by the eye of science.

To conquer the difficulties surrounding these questions and open up to science the unknown facts and laws of nature, is the work of the student, and it requires untiring energy and ceaseless application to accomplish it. He must climb from peak to peak of the mountain, and drink deeply from the springs of science, using the difficulties met and overcome as the stepping-stones to further achievement. Dr. Holland has said:

"We rise by things that are 'neath our feet;
By what we have conquered of good and gain."

And it is true that only what we have conquered helps us to rise. Half-achieved purposes and slighted opportunities only bar the way to further advancement. The student who does only enough work to pass him on to the next department, is sure, sooner or later, to come to grief. But he who seizes every opportunity to gain knowledge from every source is on the sure road to success. The good things of life come not to the idler and the loiterer, but only to him who, through patient well-doing, obtains the promise. All the great discoveries in science and the great achievements in every department of work have been attained by careful study and unremitting toil.

There is a pleasure in the overcoming of difficulties unknown to the mere dreamer. Such pleasure is felt by the student who, after hours of careful attention to a problem, sees the difficulties that surround it vanish and the light of truth break in upon his enraptured vision. Such pleasure may be felt by every sincere worker in the realm of knowledge.

Our predecessors have laboured and studied and given to the world the results of their toil. Shall we be content to pass on to those who come after us these same results, or shall we rise from known to unknown heights and open up for them regions not yet discovered, thus having the happy anticipation that our works shall follow us,