

unsubdued and forts untaken, these ceaselessly rising behind him, will give endless trouble; but if he thoroughly master every part of the field as he goes, he will pass on from victory to victory. The learner should go to the *bottom* of everything, and investigate the truth he is examining in all its bearings. The underlying principles of each subject should be clearly and fully grasped. These are not only rich in themselves, but explain and help in the remembrance of all the minor truths of which they are the basis. Most people speak not of how *well*, but of how *quickly*, they do their work. Euripides used to write three lines, while a contemporary poet wrote three hundred, but Euripides' lines have passed down the centuries, while those of his fellow-poet perished with him.

III. *Perseverance*.—The old Saxon principle of steadfastness in pursuing everything to the end is likewise indispensable. Indefatigably from day to day the work must go on. There is no such thing as a sudden flight to higher knowledge. The heights can be reached only by climbing, and he alone can gain them who climbs with unwearied persistence. The sheet still exists on which Ariosto wrote a passage of eight lines in sixteen different ways. Balzac did not grudge bestowing a week on a page. It is well known that Newton, with commendable modesty, ascribed his gigantic feats of intellect to unwearied application. When the gifted Audubon discovered that a pair of rats had gnawed to pieces his box of drawings of nearly one thousand inhabitants of the air, after the first keen sense of disappointment was past, he went forth gaily to the woods, and spent three years in refilling his portfolio.

This leads to the thought that the sky will not always be blue, nor will the waters for ever sparkle. The hours of discouragement and difficulty call for patient perseverance and tenacious toil. "I foresee distinctly that you will have to double Cape Horn in the winter season, and to grapple with the gigantic spirit of the storm which guards the cape; and I foresee, as distinctly, that it will depend entirely on your own skill and energy, whether you survive the fearful encounter, and live to make a port in the mild latitudes of the Pacific."

IV. *Dependence on Divine aid*.—The propriety of this habit is not recognized even by many pious students. The rightness of praying for common mercies, such as daily bread and health of body, is readily conceded, but that of praying for vigor of mind is not regarded as so evident. Is it unreasonable that we should pray for