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THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

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## Weeds.

**I**N this Nineteenth Century, of ours, with all its hurry and bustle, we are very apt to be careless in regard to reforms which should be instituted in the busy world around us. Cases of crying importance demand and usually receive speedy treatment: if men's personal feelings and sympathies are aroused and touched, they will be willing to direct their energies towards remedying the evil, and consequently it will be remedied. But of the multitude of evils of minor importance, most men are quite content to let them hold sway so long as they do not conflict with their own private interests. Thus it is, that when we enquire into the matter, we see that it is the many little things which cause so much of the care and trouble of this life. From many of these men might be free, if he would but arise, and, with his God-given strength, fight with and overcome them.

After this brief general introduction, let us enquire more closely as to the nature of some of the causes of the troubles which have been referred to, viz., weeds. Just at this juncture it is quite in order to explain as to how far the application of the term "weed" may extend. No doubt, heretofore, in the minds of many, it has been limited to the description of a class of undesirable plants found upon farms, in gardens, and elsewhere. But to my mind, the term "weed" is much more comprehensive than this: a "weed" is any object, animate or inanimate, which exists out of its own proper sphere to the injury of mankind. Following out this definition, you will at once see that the objects to which it may be applied are almost countless. For some deserving of it are found in Social, Political, Religious, and Professional fields, as well as in those of a purely agricultural nature.

As diseases differ in their causes, symptoms, and methods of treatment, so do weeds in their nature and in the methods to be used in their eradication. If the same treatment were used in combating all, we would see that while in some cases the desired object was attained, in many, the only effect would be to produce a more vigorous and persistent growth. Therefore it is at once obvious that he who would become a successful weeder in any field must first of all make himself thoroughly conversant with all the facts relating to the nature and life of his adversaries. It is just over this point that so many enthusiastic reformers are defeated. With unbounded zeal and energy, they enter into the conflict with the opposing forces, but alas! they have not the all-essential knowledge of how best to direct their energies and husband their strength in the early fight. What is the result? When the decisive moment comes, when the crisis is reached, they find that the strength which they should now possess was in the beginning wasted in futile charges. Those engaged in the strife could not take a better guide than the old motto, "Be sure you are right then go ahead."

Let us now turn our attention to some of the infested fields which have been mentioned. First make a hurried survey of that broad,

inviting, undulating expanse known as Society; at first sight, a casual observer is tempted to say, surely among all this beauty and splendor I shall not find a single weed? But soft! what is that tender looking plant which seems to be so rapidly increasing in number? I turn to a faded flower near by and ask him; he replies in a tone of the deepest sorrow, "that is a typical specimen of our Canadian dude, who is so fast entrenching himself in our fair soil to the exclusion of other more useful forms of life." Again I ask, who was so thoughtless as to introduce such a variety of mankind? Sadly and sorrowfully comes the answer, "they were introduced by no one." They afford a splendid example of spontaneous generation, like Topsy, "they just grew." Several other weed forms are observed but time will not permit of a closer scrutiny, so we hurry on.

Separated from Society, by a low boundary, lies the rugged, and to many uninviting, field of Politics. But in spite of its unfavorable nature it yields frequent and abundant harvests (to Royal Commissions). In our fair Dominion, I am glad to say, there has been followed, in the past, such a vigorous system of cultivation that it is fairly clean. This is a matter for congratulation, when we consider that this field is, to a great extent, the dumping-ground for some of the others. A continuance of the present system of management will, we believe, hasten the day when we can, with pride, point to it and say without fear of contradiction, it is the cleanest in the world.

The field of Religion next demands our attention; in surveying this we must be less critical. While we believe the great majority of those in the ranks of the ministry entered them actuated by a sincere desire to benefit their fellow men, still, we know we find some who did so because they say they could thus obtain an easy and respectable living. But how are such to be known? The answer is plain, "By their works ye shall know them." Of men who are ready to preach, there has never been a lack. What we most need now is men who preach and practice; whose life is one long, continuous, beautiful, living sermon.

All through the journey of life, a person meets many humbugs among no classes are they better represented than among those who are so pleased to call themselves, and to hear themselves called, "honorable members of the learned professions." Every day we see some of these same "honorable members" who would have been of more service to their country had they served her in the capacity of honest tillers of the soil. We need professional men of the right stamp, but do not need such namby-pamby ones as are becoming so common in our land? No, no; I say, let us refuse to give our support to such, until all are brought to see that success in life is the reward of merit, and of individual merit alone. Would that more of us could realize the truth of the old couplet:—

"Honor and fame from no condition rise;  
Act well your part there all the honor lies."

We have now cast a few hurried glances over some of the figura-