

the roar of freight trains passing you at five-minute intervals all night. Still the Pennsylvania has a union station at Chicago with the Milwaukee road, which is to carry them to their destination; and if they take the New York Central they will be compelled to transfer there from one station to another. We shall choose the Pennsylvania.

What factors enter into the development of an efficient will? The foregoing discussion justifies the answer: Every factor that enters into the development of the mind itself, for will is simply a name for *mind in action*. More specifically, the development of the will depends primarily upon: (1) the widening of knowledge through experience, acquiring adequate and usable ideas and power to conceive alternatives and predict consequences; (2) practice in deliberation, developing right habits of thinking and sound methods of reasoning; (3) the development of such ideals

and the cultivation of such feelings as shall lead one to prefer and to choose wisely among the consequences presented to the mind in deliberation; (4) practice in prompt, energetic action in execution of one's decisions.

In the development of the will much depends upon one's *personal associations*—which is the same thing as to say that much depends upon the other wills with which it deals. The direction of one's will is often determined for life by early training in the home; and to the end of one's days the quality of his will depends in part upon his family, friends and business associates, the demands that they make on him and the environment which they constitute for him. Ever since St. Paul, moreover, Christians have rightly believed that the ultimate secret of strength of will lies in one's personal association with God through Christ Jesus.

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Interest: Immediate and Remote

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When a girl of six is playing with her dolls or a boy with his marbles, they are interested in what is taking place then and there, and in neither case is there anything thought of future results. Their interest is then said to be present or *immediate*. But the time comes, a few years later, when both boy and girl begin to make plans for the future, and in many cases their interest in some future event is so strong that they are willing to do disagreeable work in making preparations for it. Interest of this kind, in some end we have in view for the future, is said to be *remote*.

Throughout our lives these two kinds of interest exist side by side. There must always be certain things in which we have an immediate interest, and our lives would be very dull indeed if it were not so. Take out of your everyday life the things in which you have merely a passing interest,—eating and drinking, conversation, reading for pleasure, sports and pastimes, the ordinary sights and sounds of the passing day,—and much of your time remains a blank. The man or woman who has no immediate interests is to be pitied.

But, after all, these passing interests are not the things that are most worth while. We really live only when we have plans to work out and ambitions to achieve, when we have some goal ahead which we must make an effort to reach. We are rich in proportion to the number of these remote interests we have.

Of course, a remote interest may not be of real value. We may put our best effort into

some petty plan for revenge or into the realization of some worldly ambition which will not bring us happiness. But in general remote interests are more desirable than immediate interests. It is only by means of remote interests, by plans for our future achievement, that we are able to make progress or that the world at large goes forward to better things.

Very often the means by which these remote ends are to be reached are difficult, if not wholly disagreeable. You cannot become a good violinist except by long hours of practice, or learn to read and write Latin without wearisome memorizing of declensions and conjugations. It is an interesting thing to look forward to an abundant harvest from your garden vines, but getting a harvest means sometimes the reading of dry theory and painful toil in the garden itself. Put, as a rule, the stronger the interest in the end that is sought the less disagreeable do we find the labor that leads up to it.

Sometimes, fortunately, it is possible to combine immediate and remote interests, so that in working out our plans we do not have to put forth any disagreeable effort. If I wish to learn the names and the positions of the constellations, the study is at no stage disagreeable or painful. If I wish to take exercises in the form of walking, I can give to my walk an immediate interest by means of amateur photography or nature study. In striving to carry out any of my plans for the future why should I not make the means to the end I have in view as pleasant and interesting as possible?