

the higher tasks of nurse, teacher, merchant, lawyer, physician, statesmen, minister of the gospel, be lifted up! The nurse, for example, has often more distasteful work to do than the shoe-black, or the drain-digger; she may do it merely for the sake of the wages she receives and then it will be irksome enough; but when done for the love of Christ and of suffering men, it is worthy of the most cultivated and refined women. The lawyer may think only of his fee and of the quickest and sharpest way of earning it, and then his occupation is mean enough; but if he realizes that his work is to assist in unravelling the tangled skein of human affairs in order to secure the rights of men, he becomes a co-worker with the Lord who loves righteousness. The statesman may manipulate men and organizations very cleverly so as to keep himself in power, and he will win the glory that belongs to a shrewd gambler; or he may with singleness of purpose devote his powers with utter self-forgetfulness to the promotion of the lasting welfare of his country, and then the men who love their country will call him blessed. The minister of the gospel may seek his office mainly for the "piece of bread" attached to it, and then he is one of the most degraded of men; but when he gives himself humbly and wholeheartedly to the task of saving men and building them up in holy charac-

ter, there is no work on earth in which God takes greater delight.

So, then, whether our work is of the lower or of the higher sort, let us do it as in the light of eternity, the light of God. Not that we are to be every moment consciously occupied in thinking about God and eternity, any more than we are to gaze from morning till night at the sun while we are doing our daily work; but that we are to let eternity flood the soul with light on all human relations and interests.

Jesus Christ made the ideal real. He transfigured the work of the carpenter, of the healer, of the teacher. It is possible for us to approximate to this ideal. "I can do all things in Him, who strengtheneth me." Let Christian men—men with large endowments for commercial life or professional work—not weakly drift with the current of worldly usage, nor yet think it necessary to pull aside into some quiet eddy where they will escape the force of the current. Victory over the world is better than escape from it. And victory is possible to the man who banishes "the spirit of fear" and works in "the spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind," confident that he is a co-worker with God. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

ON THE WISDOM OF LOOKING AT THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE.

I SUPPOSE that there are few of us who have attained even early middle life so happy as to be able to say, "I have never made a mistake." So certain is it that, as we wend our way through life's journey, the most cautious of us, simply by reason of inexperience, must make some mis-

takes that there is a saying almost grown into a proverb, "He who has never made a mistake has attempted little of difficulty or value." Yet amid much that is distinctly discouraging to high endeavor, this consciousness of failure brings with it one salutary lesson: It teaches us to be.