

The dignity of labor is further shown in *its ultimate results*, as enabling man to fulfill the end of his being, and to carry out the purposes of his Creator. Every human being has something to do. Activity is a principle of life, a universal condition of nature. Everything that has life acts—does. We see this exemplified throughout the whole range of creation. The bird that wings its flight in the air; the insect that incessantly moves its tiny body; the fish darting through the water, now sinking, now rising to the surface, now cleaving the element in which it lives, and sporting in a thousand varied gambols; the animals that dwell on the face of the earth, with all their elaborated and complicated mechanism of motion; the vegetable tribes—the waving grass, the fluttering leaves, the creeping root, the opening bud, and the bursting flower; nay, even the earth itself, in various forms of hill and dale, mountain and valley, volcanic forces and upheaving mounds; the sea incessantly restless with its tides and waves, its foaming breakers and its under currents; and, lastly, the air in its different phenomena of gale and breeze, whirlwind and tornado, and fleeting clouds above; all, by their ceaseless and varied motions, impress us with the idea that action is the essential condition of life—only death is still and immovable.

And man, paramount, chief of earth's created forms, he, too, is formed for action; and so essential a principle is this of his nature, so incessant is its influence upon him, that not content with his own natural powers of motion, he brings under tribute every external force within the reach of his skill and ingenuity. For him the swift horse puts forth his strength, the ship travels for his conveyance, borne onwards alike by winds and waves, and, more swift and powerful still, the wonderful agency of steam carries him along at a rate that mocks the fleetest animals, and almost rivals the wind itself.

Now all these varied means of locomotion are so many evidences that man is formed for action; they are so many

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