

HYMN, "O spirit, o'erwhelmed."

FIFTEEN MINUTES FOR ALL.—"Lessons I have learned from failure."

CLOSING HYMN, "Soul of mine in earthly temple."

Success.

True success—achieving God's purpose.

Success is often the child of repeated failure.

Getting up and beginning over, again, and again, and again: thus success is reached.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.—*The Word of the Lord to Joshua.*

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;

In feelings, not in figures on a dial. He most lives Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.

—*Bailey.*

Extracts from Emerson.

I do not want to expiate, but to live. My life is not an apology, but a life. It is for itself, and not for a spectacle. I much prefer that it should be of a lower strain, so it be genuine and equal, than that it should be glittering and unsteady. I wish it to be sound and sweet, and not to need diet and bleeding. My life should be unique; it should be an alms, a battle, a conquest, and medicine. I ask primary evidence that you are a man, and refuse this appeal from the man to his actions. I know that for myself it makes no difference whether I do or forbear these actions which are reckoned excellent. I cannot consent to pay for a privilege where I have intrinsic right. Few and mean as my gifts may be, I actually am, and do not need for my own assurance or the assurance of my fellows any secondary testimony.

What I must do is all that concerns me, not what the people think. This rule, equally arduous in actual and in intellectual life, may serve for the whole distinction between greatness and meanness. It is the harder because you will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it.

Life's Victors.

"Speak, history! Who are life's victors? Unroll thy long annals and say;

Are they those whom the world calls the victors who won the success of the day?

The martyrs or Nero? The Spartans who fell at Thermopylæ's tryst,

Or the Persians and Xerxes? His judges or Socrates? Pilate or Christ?"

A Call to Succeed!

Definiteness of goal—this is one of the secrets of success. That is our true birthday, not when we are born into the world, but when we are consciously born into a mission. For the sense of a divine seizure for a vocation specializes life, turning it from an indefinite "an" into the definite "the." This clearness of goal gives to life directness, simplicity, coherence, unity, inspiration, persistence, grandeur, victory. Be it for you and me to accept unhesitatingly St. Paul's definition of life,—a definition as profound as it is simple,—"To me to live is Christ!" For so alone we shall find that "To die is gain."

"Unto the prize." It is the prize of the true race, the Christian stadium. Not the Isthmian garland of fading olive or parsley; but the true immortelle,

"the crown of glory that fadeth not away," the glorious amaranthine crown. In other words, the prize is the goal itself. What nobler coronation than the sense of an achieved mission?

"Of the high calling of God." What higher calling than God's upward summons, God's heavenward vocation? Why, the sense of an achieved vocation is heaven itself! Then—

"Rise, my soul, and stretch thy wings,
Thy better portion trace;
Rise from transitory things
Toward heaven, thy native place:
Sun and moon and stars decay;
Time shall soon this earth remove;
Rise, my soul, and haste away
To seats prepared above."

"In Christ Jesus." It is a profound expression, a favorite formula of our great apostle. According to him, to be in Christ is to live in the sphere of Christ's personality,—work, spirit, life, character, influence, etc. This whole conception of the apostle's stadium,—this pressing on, this apprehending, this forgetting, this stretching forward, this goal, this prize, this high calling, this obtaining,—all this is true and great and triumphant, because all this is in the august arena of the Divine Man; in the blessed sphere of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Or, to quote a kindred expression in our same apostle's letter to the Colossians, "Perfect in Christ"—that is, perfect in the arena of Christ's own personality. We hear a great deal in our day about "Progress, Development, Evolution," and the like. Some of it is skeptically false; much of it is sublimely true. In fact, evolution is pre-eminently a Pauline idea. Recall our text: "Not that I have already obtained," etc. The truth is, there is no such champion of progress as the Apostle Paul; no such philosopher of evolution as the evangel of Jesus. The difference between the evolutionism of Darwin and the evolutionism of Paul is this: Darwin busies himself with what man has been; Paul busies himself with what man can be: Darwin looks backward, and so bruteward; Paul looks forward, and so Christward: Darwin finds the issue of evolution in man; Paul finds the issue of evolution in Christ, or, as St. Paul himself says: "In Him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily (body-wise). And ye are complete in Him" (made full, completed, unfolded, matured, filled full, fulfilled, etc.) (Col. 2: 9, 10.)

What is implicit or unfolded in man becomes explicit or unfolded in Christ. In other words, Jesus Christ is the soul's true environment, the soul's true soil, air, wet, light, heat, chemical agencies, etc. For no man truly knows what is in him and what he can become till he and Christ are in touch. Jesus Christ, and He alone, is the true perfecter of human nature; the perfecter, for instance, of our faculties of duty, enthusiasm, faith, hope, love, conscience, reason, imagination, insight, justice, liberty, loyalty, order, symmetry, ideal, fidelity, truth, sympathy, unity, aspiration, communion, worship, etc. Jesus Christ is both our author and our finisher, our inaugurator, and our consummator, our Alpha and our Omega, our all in all. Perfected in Christ.—*George Dana Boardman, D.D.*

The Inspired Word.

SUCCESS SECRETS.—Acts 1: 8, 4: 33, Rom. 6: 11, 19, 8: 26, 1 Cor. 1: 26-31, 2: 1-5, 3-11, 13: 1-3, 2 Cor. 12: 9, 10, Gal. 2: 20, 21, Eph. 2: 10, 5: 18, Phil. 4: 13, 19, Col. 2: 9, 10, 1 Thess. 5: 17, 2 Thess. 3: 13, 2 Tim. 2: 1.