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From the Editor's Pen

"The King!" What wealth of royalty these simple words suggest. "A son or daughter of the King"—what nobility inheres to the princely relationship implied.

Our Royal Estate

The honors and emoluments of earthly kingship are by the very constitution of human society limited to a few; but upon all who are children of God by faith in Jesus Christ, the privileges and prerogatives of the heavenly kingdom are unstintingly conferred. Differences of opinion may exist concerning the relative values of human distinctions; but no debate is possible over the worth of the honors pertaining to the kingdom of God. They only constitute unending glory or assure their possessor of imperishable renown. They characterize the royal estate to which we are called, for into this exalted heavenly relationship it is the purpose of Jesus Christ to introduce us all. Here the ideal becomes the real; we are made members of the King's household, and, as His sons and daughters, live together but to magnify our noble calling, and by loyal adherence to the principles that govern the royal family, prove ourselves worthy of a place among those who are known as the children of the King.

There can be nothing higher, than this, and in proportion as we walk thus worthily, do we prove the real and abiding nobility of our characters. Not in what we say, so much as by what we do, is proof of our loyalty given. The mind may be vaguely filled with noble thoughts, but only as these find expression in action do they fulfil their true mission. He who said, "think on these things," also said, "these things do." The true idealism which all young Christians especially should cherish, is that which so relates high thinking to noble living that the very thought inspires the thinker to go forth to unselfish ministry among his fellowmen. The true test of royalty is service, and that only is genuine nobility that rests not on hereditary title or on the posthumous fame of some far distant ancestor, but on humanitarian ministry in the spirit of Him "who went about

doing good." There is no nobility like the nobility of goodness, and there is no goodness worth calling Christian that does not give tangible expression to the spirit of Him who "came not to be ministered unto but to minister." Let no young disciple idly dream of days yet to be, when facilities for the practice of this spirit shall be enlarged, but rather awake to the need of to-day and, alert to the present opportunity, make instant response to the call of the Master.

To each Christian this call clearly comes, and happy is he who waits not to do some great thing, but avails himself of even the humble occasions that everywhere and every day arise. The spirit of the Master, thus prompting to helpful ministry, lifts the common duties of the day out of the realm of drudgery and makes each small deed great because prompted by a great motive. Not all are called to preach, but none are exempt from the call to minister. Not to the pulpit or public platform are to be exclusively assigned the honors of ministry. Let our young people make no mistake here. God may not want everybody to be a professional preacher, but He does call everybody to be a minister. No person can exclude himself from this number. Every one a minister! Every day opportune! Every place fitting! Every occasion a privilege! Every opportunity great! Every deed loving! How such thoughts ennoble life. They enrich it with the dignity of unselfishness and adorn it with the graces of divine love. Only so can life be sanctified by the sympathetic touch of Him who inspires, sustains, and rewards such ministry. Herein lies the secret of celestial dignity, and by this process alone can the highest glory on earth or in heaven be attained. Well has Keble written:

The Daily Task

"The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask;
Room to deny ourselves; a road
To bring us daily nearer God."

And well may we pray with him:
"Only, O Lord, in thy great love,
Fit us for perfect rest above,
And help us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray."

Idealism

Precious beyond rubies is the idealism which can invest with celestial dignity the earthly avocation, and which, even when the hands are engaged in downright drudgery, can fill the mind with noble thoughts, and carry you through the daily task as a son or daughter of the King.—Hamilton.

March

The stormy month has come at last,
With wind, and cloud, and changing skies;
I hear the rushing of the blast
That through the snowy valleys flies.
Ah, passing few are they who speak—
Wild, stormy month!—in praise of thee;
Yet, though thy winds are loud and bleak,
Thou art a welcome month to me.
For thou to northern lands again
The glad and glorious sun dost bring,
And thou hast joined the gentle train,
And wear'st the gentle name of Spring.
Thou bring'st the hope of those calm skies,
And that soft time of sunny showers,
When the wide bloom on earth that lies,
Seems of a brighter world than ours.

—Bryant.

"March was originally the first month of the Roman year, and was dedicated to Mars, the god of war. Its Saxon name means 'lengthening month,' as the days begin visibly to lengthen; rather, the days begin to be longer than the nights."
—Loaring.