

who makes the most of his one talent is as truly successful as he who makes the most of his ten. It is not always the most brilliant lads in school, who require very little effort to prepare their lessons and keep themselves at the head of the class, who become the most successful men. The dull and plodding student whose progress at first may be very slow, yet steady, often leaves the brilliant one who advances by fits and starts far behind in the race of life, since the amount of effort required to be put forth by him to gain knowledge is the means of strengthening all the faculties of his mind; whereas the man of brilliant parts naturally, not requiring the same amount of effort, misses the strength derived from it and is ultimately beaten in the strife. It is not, then, the student who heads the class list who can justly be considered at all times the most successful, but he who prepares himself in the most efficient manner for the profession he has chosen.

Success is just doing the utmost of what we are capable—rising to the level of our best—in the sphere in which we have been called to labour. Our Creator has endowed us with certain powers of body and faculties of mind; success consists in making the most of these powers and faculties. He has also placed within our reach many privileges and opportunities: success consists in improving these in the highest possible manner.

The New Testament gives us the true idea of success in the commendation which our Saviour bestowed upon the woman who anointed Him when he said, "She hath done what she could." The man who does what he can in whatever calling or profession Providence has placed him is a successful man. No man is expected to exceed the capabilities of his nature. The actual can never exceed the possible. Yet the aim should be to make

the actual approach nearer and nearer to the possible. Success has been defined as "*The best I am blossoming into the best I can be.*" The successful man is he who makes the most of himself every day, and whose experience to-day enables him to do better to-morrow.

How few win true success in this sense! How few reach the level of their best! The possibilities which lie before the student are great and manifold, but the actual attainments of the vast majority fall far short of the possible; and many, outstripped in the world's battle by those who in many respects were their inferiors, are tempted to ask, What is the secret of the success of these men? How have they made such wonderful progress? And the answer will be, "*By systematic hard work.*" This will not be agreeable doctrine to those who are fond of quoting with approbation the dictum of Solomon, that "much study is a weariness to the flesh." Nevertheless, the man who is afraid of hard work need never expect to be successful. This is especially true of students. In their case fortune favours only these who are willing to work. The gods help those who help themselves. And it is a maxim founded on experience that success is equally certain in every career to those who use the right means. Systematic industry is of far more practical value than even talent. Huxley bears testimony to this fact when he says: "A somewhat varied experience of men has led me the longer I live to set less value on mere cleverness, and to attach more and more importance to industry and physical endurance, and no success is worthy of the name unless it is won by honest industry, and a brave breasting of the waves of fortune."

Some men from a mistaken idea of genius imagine that it is something which will enable them to attain suc-