

It is therefore poor policy and worse taste to make light of the "good intentions" of any human being by flippantly suggesting that good intentions mark the road to a certain region which every sane soul would shun.

Success in the soul life is attained, not by never falling, but by never consenting to defeat; if we live fighting for the higher, we shall surely die winning.

What we need most of all with the passing years is a clearer vision which will enable us to see this life in true perspective and to estimate its various cares and concerns in a proportion more consistent with the mind of the Master.

"All men think all men mortal but themselves" is more applicable before thirty; and when men merge towards the mid years of life, they may less readily make "New Year resolutions," but that, not because they are indifferent to the wisdom of "resolving and re-resolving," but because they learn to live not by the year but by the day.

Living "a day at a time," and recognizing in their work the truth of the Edinburgh motto—"Nisi Dominus Frustra"—("Except the Lord, it is in vain"), men cease to fret themselves about making rules of conduct to take effect on this day or that of standard time; they learn to receive gratefully each new day, and, profiting from the past experience of themselves and others, are eager to make the best use of the fleeting hours.

Two other considerations may prevent the making of New Year resolutions: (1) When a man has learned his limitations and found "his work," not merely in the Carlylean sense, but in the congenial, and fitting, and God-given sense; and (2) as he learns, slowly but surely, that the only thing that counts in this life is the development of character through the exercise of mind and heart and soul sympathies and the deepening of a conviction, born of personal experience, that "the love of God is broader than the measures of man's mind, and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind."

These considerations, together with a sense of utter dependence daily upon the Supreme Life-Giver, may at once make "resolving" less likely or necessary, and worthy effort more sure.

---

"You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments that stand out, the moments when you have really lived, are the moments when you have done things in a spirit of love."