

and possibilities are open to you. In no age or country have the advantages been greater. A new world of inconceivable affluence is laying its treasures at your feet. It is a great thing to have a girded mind. The value of a liberal education cannot be easily estimated.

My subject, however, is not the girded mind, but the *girded life*. It does not pertain to the intellect in any exclusive sense, but to the whole man. The education that leaves out the heart is necessarily defective. The girded life means the man in the entirety of his being and in all the complexity of his endowments harmoniously developed. There is something of far greater value than genius or learning in determining the future. It is character. Mrs. Humphrey Ward puts this excellent criticism upon the lips of one of her personages, "No, we don't lack brains. All the same, I tell you in the whole of that room there are about half-a-dozen people, oh, not so many—not nearly so many, who will ever make a mark even for their own generation. Why? Because they have every sort of capacity, every sort of cleverness, and no character."

Character is the determining quality in manhood. You cannot be at your best in any line of achievement or pursuit without character. Education fails, genius fails, everything fails to produce the finest results without character.

What does a man need to become a great artiste? An æsthetic culture of the most finished kind—an eye trained to distinguish colors and to appreciate harmonies, and a hand able to transmit with exquisite accuracy all that is seen and felt to the responsive canvas. Is that your answer to the question? Surely it is incomplete. A man can never be a really great artiste upon whom the inspiration of the Almighty has not fallen.

What is necessary to the highest musical effectiveness? A voice naturally well toned, set to the key of sweetest melody, and trained to the last degree of perfection in articulation and expression? Nay, that is not enough. There must be soul—a something that neither art nor genius can command.

And what of preaching? In no sphere of human activity does the highest effectiveness necessitate character so absolutely. A man of narrow sympathies can never be a power in the pul-