

ambition of a young man should be, by becoming worthy, noble and grand himself, to heal some of the festering wounds of nature, to alleviate the condition of the suffering, to enlighten the ignorant, to protect the defenceless, to unfold the enigma of life, and chase the shadows from the portals of death to make himself a true man, and impress his manhood upon others.

Only the weak will sigh for the golden days of the past, when mighty events were occurring, and startling feats were being accomplished, when men by the single prowess of intellect or arms climbed far above their fellows on the ladder of ambition, and sat in lonely grandeur upon the pinnacle of fame. The day for such single greatness may be past, but we will not mourn for it. A grove of oaks is far more beautiful than a single spreading tree. Men are always in demand. They are needed on the farm and in the counting house, at the bar and in the laboratory, on the platform and in the school-room, at the sacred desk and in the council chamber. The world is still brimful of opportunities. The loathsome vice and degradation of the lower strata of our city populations still appeals to the philanthropist; fever, cholera and consumption, with their ghastly victims, still plead for extended researches in the medical art; the turbulent masses still tax the fertile brains of politicians, and he shall rank as father of his country who satisfactorily solves the existing perplexing problems of social life. Men have yet only begun to read the lessons inscribed by the finger of Time upon the mountain's massive brow, and beyond the deepest depths of the heavenly vault yet traversed by the telescope, lie undiscovered stellar systems, awaiting an explorer. Science, so highly vaunted, is yet but a precocious child, and the amount that we do not know is marvellous. Plato held that every free volitional act created a new necessity; we may be allowed to hold that every step in advance creates a new opportunity. Industry has ever been rewarded; genius has received its laurels; combined they have surprised the world with man's most signal triumphs. Broader avenues of fame and fortune now invite the toiling aspirant. He cannot enter all; he cannot afford time for experiments, lest his knowledge should come too late to be of advantage. He must enter one, and steadily pursue it to the end. Each avenue leads to the goal, some by more rugged ascent than others, but all assuredly; and while the bolder spirits prefer to scale the precipice to gain the mountain top, others choose the smoother winding way. All are not adapted to the same work, or to similar means of acquirement, and much of the misery of our world is caused by a false choice, the right man getting into the wrong place.

It is a current opinion that if a man is brimful of energy and vim, quick to see and prompt to act, any place is the right place for him, and whatever his lot he will bend circumstances to his will. Yet it is true

that some of our most distinguished men have excelled only on particular lines, and have been singularly deficient in other departments of activity. The advantages accruing from a man being adapted to his sphere of labor are very considerable. Harmony then exists between the agent and his work, all unnecessary friction ceases, and the maximum of work with the minimum of force, is obtained. Nature, recognizing the favoring conditions, speaks out in clear, decided tones, and uses her materials to the best advantage. Body and mind are freed from shackles and restraint, and the full enthusiasm of the man flows out freely into his work. There is no need to resort to artificial processes of education which warp and cramp and weaken and develop rather an industrial dude than a vigorous man. Thus upon the wise selection of his life's calling largely depends a young man's success. How blind, how cruel, then, that ancient custom that a son must inherit his father's occupation as well as his name, and all other such customs as determine one's life work irrespective of one's capabilities.

Numerous examples might be cited of the ways in which persons err in connection with their choice of work. The stock illustration would be that of men who fancy that they can tidy a room, bake bread, sew on a button or pack a trunk successfully—cases in which the right man is apt to be a woman. But more to the point, the hallucination has fastened itself on many minds that every person who receives a liberal education must devote himself to one of the so-called learned professions. Think, how many a good mechanic has been converted into a very poor preacher! How many a youth under this impression has devoted himself to the medical art whose proper sphere was killing potato bugs! The idea that it is less honorable to be a first-class artisan or farmer than a third-class lawyer or doctor should be thoroughly exploded by this time. College graduates have been two exclusive in their pursuits, and to give society a healthy tone we must have them in every walk of life, disseminating among the masses the culture and knowledge they have gained in the university. Other errors fatal to the highest interests of Society occur when financial considerations are allowed to overtop all others, when deep sentiment and emotion or even religious enthusiasm are allowed to bias the mind and prevent an impartial judgment. Such fundamental mistakes will track one's every step and write failure on one's every attempt.

That men who are adapted to their professions should succeed is a proposition that no one would be disposed to challenge. That many of the most noted scientists, most famous inventors, and greatest masters in the fine arts have been men who have arisen from humble positions by untiring devotion to a favorite pursuit, is a fact that no one will dispute. But how a youth of ordinary intellect, with the choice of a dozen vocations for every one of which he would seem