

only climb. To the young these anniversary days show always a large credit balance on the side of hope. The buoyancy of youth feels sufficient unto successful encounter with any host of dragons which the future may hold. And this is the natural, the helpful, the intrinsically powerful attitude of human thought. If we receive and use aright the gifts which the years bring, life's lengthening evening shadows will be illumined by the same strong hope which made glad the anniversaries of youth. Its roseate hue changes to a softer lustre as the events of passing days assure the fact that "God's errands never fail." The lesson to the youth to-day is often voiced here from week to week in the familiar text, "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." There is no lack of knowledge, even to the youngest, about how to do this. The *best* that we know is always highest right to us, and faithfully followed will keep hope ever dominant in our lives, and bring us faith and trust for the sad days; but if we do not *use* the gifts which the years bring, they bear them silently away and hope recedes to a more congenial atmosphere, and we, robbed of its inspiration, find our anniversaries saddened by the ghost of discontent and discouragement, and the murmuring undertone that life is short and sad, interrupts all our banquets of soul and sense. God gives to us each the magnetic touchstone, which shall attract good and repel evil, the human conscience; but conscience is not a permanent but an electric magnet, strong and sure in its attractions and repulsions when the divine currents are round about it, weak and irresolute when the currents weaken, dead and lifeless when the contact of divine and human is severed. To make our anniversaries glad, the days between them full of good deeds, free from reproach, we must keep uninterrupted the circuit between ourselves and God, and see that our insulation is perfect. *We* must keep our machinery in order, and the subtle

currents will make us strong unto every good word and work. The difference between a morally strong man and a morally weak one is just here, not in what we call different endowments of moral power, but in the more perfect and continuous connection between man and God, in one case than another. The most vital lesson that Christ on earth taught to men was that this close connection and control is equally possible to all men, compulsory to none. To those past the era of youth, with its high hopes and aspirations, the dominant echo of a day like this is prone to be the brevity of human life, the thought of how the anniversaries crowd upon each other, and this thought too is full of helpful suggestion. The brief span of existence allotted to human life is too short for any of its golden days to be marred by discord of man with man. We don't live long enough to have time to be unkind. Anger and malice and evil speaking must not fill the hours which are to some of us being numbered by the final recession of the sands of time. We need them all for helpful, loving service. If we have entertained ill will and a spirit of revenge toward any man, and that man is suddenly summoned to his Maker, in the presence of the great and solemn mystery of the unloosing of soul from body, how our hatred and anger vanishes, how the scales fall from our eyes, and we see our petty jealousies from God's standpoint, for death closes the circuit which we have interrupted, and the currents of divine truths again allow us to rightly test good and evil. With thoughts of the infinite littleness of our daily exactions, the infinite greatness of the power of which we all are manifestations, let us follow the angel of the future, through the portal on whose threshold we stand, with greater hope, with deeper trust, with new resolve, inspired with the nearness and the thought that

"Beyond the dim unknown,  
Standeth God within the future,  
Keeping watch above His own."