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OCTOBER 2, 1909.

What are the motives which keep men slaving after they have acquired a competence?" "Is ambition a selfish attribute?" These and similar questions have often been asked me.

The passion for conquest, for power, the love of achievement, is one of the most dominant and persistent characteristics of human nature. With most men the bread-and-butter and housing problem, the question of getting a living, a competence, is only one, and often one of the least, of the motives for an active career.

We have an instinctive feeling that we have been set in motion by a higher power; that there is an invisible spring within us—the "imperious must"—which impels us to go onward, to weave the pattern given us in the Mount of Transfiguration of our highest moment, to make our life-vision real. A divine to make our nee-vision rear. A divine impulse constantly urges us to reach upward to our highest ideal. There is something back of our supreme ambition deeper than a mere personal gratifica-tion. We instinctively feel that there tion. We instructively seet that there is a vital connection between it and the great plan of creation, the progress, the final goal of the race.

We are dimly conscious that we owe want thing to the world and that it is

We are dimit conscious that we owe something to the world, and that it is our duty to pay the debt. There is something within us which protests against our living idle, purposeless lives; which tells us that our debt to the race is a personal one; that it can not be paid by our ancestors, by proxy. not be paid by our ancestors, by proxy. It tells us that our message to humanity is not transferable; that we must deliver it ourselves. No matter how much money we may have, we don't feel quite right—really happy—unless we are doing our part of the world's work. We feel that it is mean, contemptible, to be drones in the great human hive; to eat, drink, wear, and use what others earn by hard labor. We have a sneaking feeling that we are criminals; that it is unworthy of us to shirk a manly or womanly part in life; it violates our

sense of justice, of fairness.

These promptings of humanity and the yearning of every normal man for a fuller, completer life; the craving for expansion, for growth; the desire to objectify our life-visions, to give birth to the children of our brain, to exercise our inventiveness, our ingenuity, to express our artistic temperament, our talents, whatever they may be; the inherent, instinctive longing to become that which we were intended to be; to weave the life pattern given us at birth -these are the impelling motives for a creative career.

One man expresses himself, or delivers his message to humanity, through his inventive ability to give his fellow men that which will emancipate them from drudgery; another delivers his message through his artistic ability; another through science; another through oratory, through business, or his pen, and so on through all the modes of human expression, each delivers himself according to his talent. In every

case the highest motive is beyond the question of mere living-getting.

The great artist does not paint simply for a living, but because he must express that divine thing in him that is struggling for expression. He has an unconquerable desire to put upon canvas the picture that haunts his brain. We all long to bring out the ideal, what-ever it may be, that lives within us. We want to see it; we want the world to see it. We long to create, to see the children of our brain just as the artist longs to see the children of his brain, his

ental visions, on canvas.

It is not so much what men get out of their struggles, as the inherent passion in every normal man for self-expression to do the biggest thing possible to him—that urges them on. This is what keeps men going, always struggling to

Some savage tribes believe that the spirit of every conquered enemy enters into the conqueror and makes him so much stronger. It is certain that every business or professional conquest, or financial victory, every triumph over obstacles, makes the achiever so much

exercising of the creative faculties, the stretching of the mind over greater and greater problems and the solving of them, constitute a powerful mental tonic and give a satisfaction and self-complacency which nothing else gives. Think of the tameness, the in-sipidity, the weakness, the mental flabbiness of the life of the inactive and purposeless man who has nothing special to do, no great life-motive, no "imperious must" pushing him on, in comparison with that of the man who feels all the forces within him heaving and tugging away to accomplish a mighty purposel.

The idle, aimless man does not know the meaning of personal power or the satisfaction which comes to the doer, the achiever.

Those who wonder why men who already have a competence continue to struggle, to play the game with as much zeal and ardor as ever, when they might retire from the field, little realize the tremendous fascination of the great life-game, especially for those who have artistic talent and those who have the ability to do things; men who have great executive powers, qualities of great execuleadership.

With as much reason might we wonder why great singers, artists, actors, authors, do not retire from active life, give up their work when they are at the zenith of their power, when they are just in a position to do the greatest thing possible to them, as to wonder why great having a senitron and the senior of why great business and professional men do not retire in the most fruitful period of their lives merely because they have attained a competency.

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

THE PASSION FOR ACHIEVEMENT.

What are the motives which keep men slaving after they have acquired a competence?" "Is ambition a selfish attribute?" These and similar questions have often been asked me.

The passion for conquest, for power, The passion for conquest, as did Napoleon or other great warriors, as did Napoleon with every new victory.

The ambition for greater achievements is one of the ments is fed by every fresh triumph,

The ambition for greater achievements is fed by every fresh triumph, and the passion for conquest, which years of winning and the habit of conquering have strengthened, becomes colossal, often abnormal, so that men who have grown accustomed to wielding enormous power shudder at the very thought of laying down the sceptre.

We hear a great deal of criticism of the greed of rich men, which keeps them pushing ahead after they have

the greed of rich men, which keeps them pushing ahead after they have more money than they can ever use to advantage, but the fact is, many of these men find their reward in the exer-cise of their powers not in amassing money, and greed plays a comparatively small part in their struggle for con-ouest.

quest.

Of course this is not true of all rich Of course this is not true of all rich men. Many of them are playing the game, and keep on playing it, for the love of accumulating. Their selfishness and greed have been indulged so long that they amount to a passion, and the accumulators oftentimes become money-

mad.

But the higher type of man plays the game, from start to finish, for the love of achievement; because it satisfies his sense of duty, of justice; plays it because it will make him a larger, completer man; because it satisfies his passion for growth. He plays the game for the training it gives, for the opportunity of self-expression. He feels that he has a message to deliver to mankind. he has a message to deliver to mankind, and that he must deliver it like a man.

The tyranny of habit is also a powerful factor in keeping men going. The daily routine, the business or professional system, becomes a part of our very nature. When we have been going to our office or business at just such a time every morning, doing about the same things every day for a quarter or half a century, any radical change—a sudden cessation of all these activities, a switching from the daily use of our strongest faculties to comparatively unused ones, is not a pleasant thing to

contemplate, nor an easy thing to do.

Every normal man has a dread of the
shrinking and shriveling which inevitably follow the change from an active to an inactive life. He dreads this because it is a sort of slow suicide, a gradual atrophy of a talent or power which had perhaps been the pride of his life.

There are a multitude of reasons why a man should not retire when he has a competence. A whole life's momentum, the grip of habit, which increases facility and desire at every repetition; the strong ties of business or professional friendships, and, above all, the passion for conquest, for achievement, the love of the game, tend to keep him in it.

It is the love of forging ahead, of

pushing out into new fields, which has grown to giant proportions in the grand struggle for supremacy, the ambition to push on a little further, not greed or selfishness, that keeps the majority of men in harness.

The artist, the business, or profes-sional man is much like the hunter, who will endure all sorts of hardships and privations in the pursuit of game, but loses all interest in it the moment he bags it.—O. S. M., in Success.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS. GRUMBLING AGAINST GOD.

"Well, well, it's Sunday again," were the first words uttered by Harry Gray as he woke one morning. "What a long weary day it will be. Yes, a beautiful bright Sunday, and pleasant to some people, no doubt."

There had been a time when Harry it had been a time when Harry it had been a time when had been at the same had been

There had been a time when Harry might be found punctually at his place in the church this day, telling plainly by his bright eyes and eager, happy face that he found the Sunday a delight. But that was nearly a year before the words I have repeated were spoken.

No how was more active, merry and

healthful than Harry until the work of a few fearful moments made him a helpless cripple. For long weeks he lay upon a bed of pain and misery. After a time he grew strong enough to sit in an easy chair by the window.

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Day and night his strength increased until he could, with tolerable comfort, spend the whole day in his arm chair, learning the lessons his sister Mary found time to hear at night. Her love invented many ways by which the rest-less boyish hands were kept busy. Mary and Harry were orphans, and all the world to each other. Everything the world to each other. Everything connected with Mary seemed brisk and cheerful; and so, although she was obliged to work all day and every day, even the clatter and whir of her busy sewing machine, in the window opposite Harry's nook, seemed a song of contentment, like the purr of a monster puss.
She was mother and sister to Harry,
and oh! how he loved her.
No food was so good as that her hands

prepared; none could shake the pillow. arrange the curtains, or do anything in the sick room like Mary.

Discontent was ashamed to show his nead where Mary was. But the Sundays—the long, long Sundays, when Harry would not keep her by him, yet could not be happy alone. Little she dreamed how very dreary

aud wearisome he found them. He had always a smile for her, and in the evening they sat together reading or talking of the beautiful home where taiking of the beautiful home where they hoped to meet a glorified mother, where none would ever say, "I am sick," and none would need a physician. On the morning of which I write!

Harry—placed as usual in his arm chair—saw his sister set out to attend a long ceremony of High Mass, with apparent cheerfulness. He hurried her off even waving his little handkerchief gaily until she was fairly lost to view. Then he took his prayer-book and tried honestly to fix his mind upon the

words he read; but alas, the remembrance of the Great Physician, Who healed so many, filled him with strangely bitter thoughts.

Wasn't our Lord just as powerful in heaven as when on earth? Why could

not be heal Harry Gray as well as blind Bartimeus and the centurion's servant, and St. Peter's wife's mother?

How many rich boys were whole while he, who needed strength, was helpless. Only across the street was a handouse; the only son of its owner -a lad of Harry's age-seemed to have

everything. Didn't God make a mistake and give all the good things that should be Harry's to the rich man's son? He had ponies, horses, carriages of all sorts—
everything to make life easy. If God had crippled him, how many iriends would delight in picking every thorn from his path.

But Harry Gray was a burden on a frail woman, whom he should have supported. How sad was his case. Too poor to consult any great doctor; too weak to lead a useful life; too ignorant to win bread with his head and hands alone.

The more he thought the worse he seemed. He looked back to the days of his careless active glee, and the con-trast made him sad. He looked forward to a life of pain, weariness, weakness.

Mary would never consider him a burden, but the more he thought of his life—past, present, and future—the heavier grew the weight on his heart, the darker everything appeared.

Such a long, long day! Would it ever end? Longer even than usual, for when Mary came home and Harry found that an evening service of great solemnity was appointed he insisted that she should attend that service also. In vain she said she "was tired," would "rather sit by him," etc. Harry knew that she longed to be there, and made

The unborn creatures of the imagination of the artist, the author, the actor, the singer, struggling for expression, haunt them until they are objectified, made real. So the ambition and ideals of the business, the professional man, clamor for expression as long as he is able to continue in the game.

Those who have never won big battles in business do not realize what a deep hold this passion for conquest, this insatiable thirst for victory, gets upon

there twinkled out a little star that

The longer Harry gazed the more merrily the star twinkled till at last an acquaintanceship was fairly established. "I am a 'lesser light,' you see,' said the star; noticed only by my light, and that is borrowed. No astronomer ever gave me a name, or 'calculated any-thing about me.' Professors never point their telescopes at me; I am no guide to sailor or refugee, and yet I shine. Somelof my neighbors have said, 'What good do I do the earth people while the King Sun floods the world with light by day and Queen Moon smiles on them from her serene glory by night? I'll hold no penny light at such an illumination.' And out they go, though the earth people never miss them till long after, if at all; yet I shine on," said the star.

"I've sent good thoughts to lonely criminals pining within prison walls; I've cheered the watcher by the bedside of the sick; I've painted pictures of wife and children for the soldier far of wife and children for the soldier far from his home. My service has been made up of little deeds, but I've never faltered, never flagged, never ceased shining or let my light grow dim. I've looked into many homes and learned many a famlly secret. I've seen those who were courted and admired and called mighty, live their little day, then disappear like a bubble picked, while I unnoticed, held my own.

"I've jseen kings who were vile, conquerors, who were cowa.ds, rulers

querors, who were cowa ds, rulers bought and sold, merchant princes who were misers, hypocrites who passed for all they were not; yet I've not lost my faith in human nature.

"For I've seen heavenly grace in garrets, honor in hovels, and the modest flowers of virtue hidden by the rank

weed of vice.

"You may read of the victories of Alexander and Bonaparte, but I've seen conquerors far mightier than they, whose battles were silent—fought within their than they. in their own hearts-victories known only to God and themselves.
"Perhaps you think the rich boy

next door happier than yourself, yet the load on his heart is heavier than yours. Guess what he suffers in seeing a mother, dearer to him than all the world besides, abused by a father made brutal by strong drink.

"Rich! He would gladly give all his paltry gold for the wealth of love, devotion, tenderness lavished on you.

"Cheer up, little cripple! Do your work manfully if it is only to bear patiently what the good God sees best to lay upon you.

The city clock struck nine as Mary came in. Harry rubbed his eyes. The star was there twinkling as merrily as ever, nodding, as if to say, "Remember!"

Had it really preached a sermon, or was it all a dream? Harry could not tell; but whether or no, he had learned to bear his trials bravely, and ever after Sunday brought holy thoughts that made it a day of rest full of comfort and sweetness.—Young Catholic Messenger.

ANCIENT MEXICAN CHURCH.

ANTO DOMINGO AT OAXACA, BUILT CENTURIES AGO.

Larger than Westminister, larger ven than Saint Paul's, is the Church of anto Domingo. This great edifice, re-owned in many countries, is known not only for its size, but for the beauty and magnificence of its decorations and the many historic events entwined in its history. The church was built on con-secrated ground, having been the site of the martyrdom of two Dominican priests, who were killed by Indians in the tip e of Cortez.

By 1550 there were a number of Dominican friars in Oaxaca, and the question of erecting a church and convent for the use of the order was agitated. The exact date of the beginning is not known, but it must have been How many boys could leap and run century, they began the work with a few laborers, who gave their services, shortly after the middle of the sixteenth and every member of the order worked hard collecting more funds. A petition was sent to the king of Spain for assistance, to which he responded generously. From time to time, the king sent other contributions and there was no halt in

Saint Paul's Cathedral in London measured 510 by 250 feet and cost £747,954 or 7,497,540 pesos, or some 5,000,000 pesos less than Santo Domingo. Some idea of the size of the structure can be obtained when it is considered that four buildings, the size of Westminster Abbey could be set on the ground covered by this Dominican temple. At the present time, however,

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saw the church increasing in wealth. The library was ranked among the greatest in the republic. The interior of the church was decorated in many places with pure gold. Santo Domingo was turned into a barrack by the French army of occupation and the gold decorations, the fine paintings and costly adornments were ruthlessly stripped from her walls. The friars were driven out and for six years the church was a fort and nothing more. The accumulated grandeur of 300 years was undone in a few brief months.— Mexican Heraid.

THE ENGINEER'S RECORD OF SOBRIETY.

The importance with which sobriety -nay freedom from the very suspicion of drinking intoxicants while on dutyas viewed by railroad men may be gathered from a recent incident given as follows by the Springfield Republicar:

"There was an incident connected with a recent railroad wreck near Bris-tol, Va., that will appeal to railroad men everywhere, and the public no less. It is typical of the men of a calling. The engineer, Samuel Bush of Knox-ville, Tenn., died of his injuries, but not before his manliness had been estabhelore his manifies and been established in a striking way. Bush was painfully working his way out of the wreck of his engine, scalded and frightfully bruised, when the few passengers who retained their senses dug into the burning and twisted mass to rescue him He was lifted out upon the ground, and as there were no doctors on the train, passengers went to their suit cases in search of whisky with which to stimu-late him. When they came with the liquor the engineer begged them to look after the comfort of the passengers. Being told that no passenger had been greatly injured, he said: 'That's good. But before I take this whisky I want that four buildings, the size of Westminster Abbey could be set on the
ground covered by this Dominican
temple. At the present time, however,
only a small part of the church is used
for worship, the other portions having
been converted into barracks by the
government. Owing to the great
height and thickness of the walls of the
church it has been read for a forte church, it has been used for a fort on any and every occasion when necessary.

No wars, however, marred the serenity of the early Dominicans and each year

legineer, 'and he can not afford to have anything against that.' So it was that Engineer Bush passed away with an untarnished record."

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