

ing into disorder and endanger the safety of valuable property, and still more precious human life. An unseen disease invading some obscure portion of the human organism, and allowed to work its way unchecked, has often undermined the constitution and brought on incurable and deadly disease. It is the man who, while holding firmly his central principle of action, yet also masters the details of his work who, as a rule, most surely attains to success. Frederick William the First of Prussia, the father of Frederick the Great, had such a perfect knowledge of his army, its disposition and accoutrements, that it was said he knew where to lay his hand upon the shoe-fastening of every soldier in every regiment. And accordingly when his greater son came to the throne he found ready to his hand an army not unworthy of his military genius. A remarkable example of the importance of small things occurs in the history of this very king. One of the most serious reverses sustained by the great Frederick was at the battle of Kunersdorf, and the principal reason of his defeat was his ignorance of the ground at one particular part of the field. He had trusted to be able to advance a division of his army against a certain point in the enemy's line, but he discovered too late that the ground was impassable. And there is another consideration in connection with this attention to small matters. The man who has not learnt to do little things well, will probably do nothing well. "He who is faithful in that which is very little, is faithful also in much." The man who fulfils the smallest of

duties with conscientious care and zeal, will be likely to do the greatest things with energy and success. And it is by doing well in early days whatever duties may fall to us to be discharged that we gain the knowledge, the ability, the skill to do the greater duties which are then entrusted to us.

Work! it is a great and solemn subject, the employment of man on earth, sometimes pleasant and joyful, sometimes wearisome and painful—the blessed and unceasing employment of the saints in heaven, who rest not day or night—the employment of Almighty God, himself the Maker and upholder of all things visible and invisible. What more powerful impulse can move us to effort than that which is inspired by such considerations? By labour we are proving ourselves to be men, and men in the true sense of our being, imitators of God the great worker, as loving and obedient children. By labour we are advancing ever nearer and nearer to the ideal of our being, drawing in from above and putting forth around us the energies of our regenerated life. By labour we are doing our part towards advancing human civilization, and raising to a higher scale the race which God has destined to reflect his glory. How honourable, how noble, how elevating is such work! May it be said of us that we have "laboured and not fainted," that we have been "good and faithful" servants! May many a one among us leave in the memory of others the conviction that he has been "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

MORE things are wrought by prayer
Than the world dreams of. Wherefore let
thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day,
For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,

If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them
friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.
—Tennyson.