

errand boy, and at fourteen apprenticed as a bookbinder. Amid these associations were formed the habits of faithfulness and energy which led him to the greatness of his manhood and the honors of his old age. Amid these associations too the pleasures of science first appeared to him. He began to read such scientific works as he could get access to. He attended occasional lectures on scientific subjects. He began to seek as friends scientifically inclined people. The whole bent of his mind was henceforward toward science. A new hope had dawned upon him. He saw something in life worth living for. He saw blessings to aim at and ask for greater and dearer than his daily bread. But the brightness of the zone beyond him made the sphere of his daily life dark and unsatisfying, and oftentimes in those apprentice years a question like that of his boyhood, "Which side am I on?" must have come with sorrow to his mind, as he thought of his unfavorable position in life, and his spirit must have chafed like a caged bird against the bars, as he realized that while his hands were compelled to toil on one side of the fence, his brain was busy on the other. While his hands fastened covers upon volumes of scientific lore, his mind feasted on stray morsels caught from the work itself. His intellect longed to wander forth into those elysian fields which it would make the land of its adoption,—leaving the routine work of the bindery and the shop to spirits whose ambition soared no higher. His intense desire to be engaged in scientific occupation led him, thus early, to write, as he said, "in ignorance of the world and simplicity of mind, to the President of the Royal Society." As is too often the case, dignity despised devotion. The president passed by the 'prentice, and, unawares, lost the opportunity of welcoming and helping to his sphere "a prince and a great man" in science.

Faraday was more successful in an application, made a few months later, to Sir Humphrey Davy, for it resulted in his being appointed assistant in the laboratory of the Royal Institution. He was then 22 years of age. From that time his life's work lay in connection with that institution, and it was a steady