

"IDEAS" AND "IDEALS."

In our busy workaday world, fortunes are made by men who have *ideas*. The constant prayer of many young men is for a good idea, a paying, workable scheme for willing money out of other people's pockets into their own.

But how seldom is there any proportionate desire of *ideals*, which too many young people regard as profitless and cumbrous! A brilliant idea may yield thousands of pounds, even if it refer only to an improved match-box or a patent suspender. But a high and fastidious ideal may actually keep one back in the race of life, by rousing the faculty of conscience and the feeling of distaste for rough and ready modes of advancement.

An ideal is just a sentiment of the heart, so firmly and warm'y cherished as to become a principle of action. A youth starts with a certain prepossession in favour of honourable conduct, with a passion for clean hands in business, for example; and this feeling moves him at critical moments to take a decided stand, and perhaps to put himself in definite opposition to common ways and opinions.

In the issue, many throw away their ideals entirely. They dismiss them as pretty but unpractical emotions, and become what the world calls hard-headed, go-ahead men of business.

Yet the loss of the ideal is an irreparable one. It is the putting out of the Divine light in a man, after which he remains truly darkened and shadowed. To go through life without ideals is to be a creature of unmixed clay, untouched by the immortal life. This is but to say what was meant by the question: "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Unless we keep within us a warm flame of higher sentiment, the love of the true, and beautiful, and good, we become soulless beings. We may be successful workers, prompt and accomplished men of affairs, but we are really dead as regards that which constitutes a true and vital manhood.

The greatest Teacher ever known among men said: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven." What higher ideal could He have stated than that? And he puts it in the forefront to show that it ought to be the leading motive. If our life is to be a

true success, a fully developed and real life, not a mere succession of experiences or material developments, it must start with the highest possible emotion, the love of God and all that God approves and requires. Religion is the cultivation of the ideal. For it draws us upward at all times, and in every task; to the unseen and unselfish; it purges us of low motives and base desires; it keeps alive the heat of heavenly passion; it reminds us that our abiding city is yet to come. Living in the atmosphere of religion, we can do the world's work none the less busily or well; but we do it for the ideal motive, and we seek beyond and through it the "manifestation of the sons of God."—*The Christian Leader*.

GENTLE MANNERS.

There is no doubt that in this pushing world of ours, the courtesies of life, those indefinable nuances of voice and manner, that indicate good breeding and refinement, are in danger of being largely curtailed. So keen is the rivalry, so intense the strain, so bitter the losses and disappointments, that the savage elements seem to come into play, and most of us have neither the time nor the temptation to attend to graces of behavior.

The word, the tone, the gesture betray the man or woman of refinement. The true gentleman, for instance, is even-tempered, never loud of speech or dress. He possesses the quality of self control. He is not boastful or vain. He will not prate of himself. He will not insist always upon his rights, but can gracefully waive his privileges. He will respect his neighbor's convictions. He will be scrupulous of his word. He is modest, deferential, careful to avoid offense, but not a "mush of concession."

There is no religion without gentleness. The kindly temper, the thoughtful act, the courteous deed, the gentle manner, are as much part and parcel of religion as the mechanical repetition of prayers and listening to a sermon. What wretched hypocrisy to be soft-voiced in our petition to God and cruel-tongued in our intercourse with our neighbors!—*Jewish Messenger*.

Keep the heart shining, and you will soon have a face to match it.