

OUR WORDLY AMBITIONS AND DUTIES IN SMALL THINGS.

"A few short years and the sound of my name
Shall fill the ringing trumpet of fame."

"True worth is in being, not seeming,
In doing each day that goes by
Some little good, not in dreaming
Of great things to do by-and-by,
For whatever men say in their blindness
And in spite of the fancies of youth,
There's nothing so kingly as kindness,
And nothing so royal as truth."

Contrast the sentiments expressed in the foregoing couplet and stanza, and have we not the key to the life of the one who aspires to wordly ambition, and also to the one who aspires to be divinely controlled.

Have we not all sometime in our lives possessed strong desires to do something great in the world? And is this desire wrong? Yea or nay, this depends entirely on the motive governing the action. Are not all great things composed of little things? Do we stop to consider in the hurry and worry and competition of our modern civilization how much our lives depend on trifles?

We may see a trifling fault in a friend or neighbor, but give it the wings of gossip and "behold how great a thing a little fire kindleth!"

It seems very trifling to fulfill cheerfully each day our little duties in the home or in the business world. We chafe and fret desiring greater fields to conquer, and in our eagerness to peer into the future lose sight of the opportunities of the golden present.

To do good in the world we must begin with ourselves. All desires for wider fields of usefulness wherein we may uplift the world from all that's low and groveling, must be preceded by a thorough cleansing of our own hearts, this is of far greater consequence than any talking or preaching. If we uncomplainingly bear the petty trifles in daily life we will be influenc-

ing others far more than we realize. There is much in simply being good. We influence all with whom we mingle for good or ill, and actions are far more effective preachers than words. Our deeds are carefully weighed in the balance of our fellowmen.

We all desire to be loved, yet do we realize how much we may lighten our own and others burdens by the hearty handshake, or the little kindnesses which cost us so slight an effort? Souls are hungering and thirsting for this love and kindness, which we all might give if we would take time to think. Many a heart aches simply because others withhold the love which is its very life. We all possess this love in different degrees, but alas, how many manifest it? especially in the "bosom of the family." We allow the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches to smother it, as the following story aptly illustrates: A young wife much to her regret found a marked change between the lover and husband. She longed for some of the old manifestations of love, she thought much and prayed earnestly for light. At night her husband on coming home would treat all her little surprises she had so carefully prepared in a matter-of-fact manner; after supper seat himself in the cosiest place by the fire and read the newspaper, not showing the least desire to read aloud or converse with her from whom he had been absent all day. Finally she spoke to him one night, ending with these words, "If you will show me half the love you manifest to your dog I will be satisfied." This angered him, but his wife's words kept ringing in his ears until he resolved not to show the least kindness toward his large Newfoundland dog that made a practice of joyfully coming to meet him each evening, and both manifesting much love for one another. He was grieved and angered to find a great change soon came over his faithful dog; he