

The object after which every student strives should possess the highest and noblest character in order that when attained his success will merit the most unqualified approbation. The goal of a student's ambition is usually two-fold. He may study purely and solely for the sake of study. His desires may terminate in the acquisition of a certain amount of knowledge. So long as he is making new discoveries, and, in this manner, widening his circle of information, he remains satisfied, even should his extensive and varied attainments be devoid of the slightest practical importance. He climbs the heights of Parnassus for no other purpose than that of enjoying the beautiful prospects seen from its summit, and the nearer he approaches this lofty eminence the greater is his satisfaction. This is the end of his ambition. There is, however, a higher and, in some respects, a nobler ambition in the minds of many students. Their object in study is not simply to acquire great stores of learning, but to acquire these stores for the sake of fitting themselves for the work to which they have devoted their lives. Study with them is not the end, it is simply a means to the end. Realizing that they have some position to fill in society, some work to which Providence has called them, they seek the halls of learning, not merely to regale themselves with refreshing draughts from the Pierian springs, but in order that by drinking deeply from these they may be strengthened and prepared for the practical work of life. Now, in both these cases, the student who attains the goal of his ambition is successful, although the success of the one may be higher and nobler than that of the other. In the one case, the most successful student is he who acquires the greatest amount of information—he who approaches nearest to the top of the hill of knowledge ;

in the other case, it is he whose education fits him in the best possible manner for the part which he is called upon to perform in the great drama of life.

It will be noticed that we have left out of question the aim of many who call themselves students, which is nothing more or less than to pass the prescribed examinations, or obtain the stamp of their Alma Mater in some less honourable way—an ambition which is beneath the consideration of everyone worthy the name of student. The true student, and the only one to whom the name is not a misnomer, is he who studies because he delights in it, or because he knows that it will develop all his powers and faculties, and thus make him a better man in every respect for the discharge of life's duties.

Usually the success of a student is measured by his position in the class list. But while this is in many ways a fair enough test, and the only one which under the present state of affairs can be practically applied, yet at the same time there is obviously a certain amount of injustice in it, since a variety of circumstances, not of the nature of intellectual attainments at all, may conspire to prevent many from appearing to the best advantage upon such occasions. A man's penmanship, which is only a mechanical accomplishment, his nervous temperament, and similar things, may influence the result of his examinations unfavourably.

Besides, all men are not born equal, although the American Declaration of Independence asserts that they are, consequently all men have not an equal capacity for study. Nature has bestowed her gifts more lavishly upon some than upon others. Some have been endowed with one talent, and some with two, while others have ten. There is, therefore, an element of unfairness in judging the success of all by the same standard. The man