

they concluded it best to give their assent. Well, in this way, their work was done. But who can tell when the no-work of the incompetent man shall be done. He went into the vineyard not to work, but to destroy the work of others, and to be a pitiable trifler with the spiritual and eternal interests of men. I do not affirm, that in such cases, direct wickedness is intended, *The claims of duty* are simply disregarded from some base, selfish motive, or possibly from a mere softness of disposition, which shrinks from displeasing a friend, or the friends of a friend. Men call this kindness. Alas! if the whole business were fairly looked at, it would be seen to be on all hands, the height of cruelty. All kindness that works at cross purposes with justice, is cruelty in disguise, and withal a very terrible sort of it.

Put now the cure for this, and much evil of a like sort is simply a higher order of moral courage. Let there be such a profound regard for what is right, as God declares it to you through conscience, that neither the fear of man, nor the favor of man, shall drive you one hair's breadth from the path of duty. Would it not, indeed, be a changed world if all men, or even a goodly number, were to act thus. Pray to God for an increase of moral courage in all, but especially in those in whose hands are placed the great civil and religious interests of the world.

It is quite probable, that not a few of you, may, in future, have divers of these high trusts committed to you. I implore you to employ these talents which may be put into your hands, with a stern regard to the simple claims of justice, conscience and duty.

*If Law is to be your vocation*, and the social and civil affairs of men the objects that are to engage your attention in future life, let such a high moral honesty characterize your whole deportment as shall give form and complexion to all your acts. That country were indeed blessed, that could boast a race of moral heroes in its statesmen and lawyers.

Nor should it be supposed that moral courage is of small moment to the *Medical man*. Often, indeed, must he courageously adhere to the path of duty, even when his own life is in peril. Still, oftener, must he stick determinately to what is duty, in spite of whim, ignorance, or caprice, or he will put the life of his patient in peril. If the