

meadow. "Dad, I guess the fish would bite good to-day." "Well, sonny," said the practical parent, "you keep right on hoeing taters and they won't bite you."

Unfeeling as the answer may appear, it brings out into sharp outline the supremacy of duty over inclination, of fortitude over despondency, of fidelity and conscientiousness and grit over vain imaginings and foolish regrets, and indolent repinings. "Keep right on hoeing taters" is unpalatable advice to many a weary worker in the field of life insurance who would fain do something else. One thinks he ought to be a general agent when he is only a solicitor; another thinks the company's rules absurdly strict; another, that its demands on him are too great; another, that his field is too small; another, that his commissions are too low. One man thinks he knows more about his own business than the officers do; another, that his abilities are undervalued; another, that the work he is set to do is all wrong; another doesn't see why everybody doesn't see things just as he does; another, that he is hampered and restricted; and still another, that somebody is down on him. To all these the story is applicable. To all these its moral comes: "You are what you are; you have your work to do—do it; you are one of the cogs or one of the wheels of a great machine; you have your place and your function; fill your place, fulfil your function."

It may be hard to be told to hoe potatoes when we had rather be raising orchids or going fishing, but duty is duty. We may think the work not worthy of us, we may feel that our energies and our abilities are wasted in servile toil, but if we have taken the contract let us carry it out like men. Courage and self-control and tenacity of purpose are the attributes of manhood, and are often best exemplified when possibly we think them the least called for. All of us are "hoeing taters" in one way or another. The earth to all of us is sometimes a dreary place enough, but "tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh with a harvest."

William Gray, formerly one of the wealthiest and most respected merchants of Boston, came of very humble origin. At a directors' meeting, in his later years, he advocated some measure opposed by a pompous and overbearing capitalist, who tried to disconcert him by interrupting his remarks, and cried out: "Billy Gray, I knew you when you were a drummer boy!" "You did," said Mr. Gray, "and didn't I drum well?" That sounds the keynote. Billy Gray drummed well when he had to drum; when he imported China silks and teas he did that well; and he managed well the largest manufacturing plant in New England when that came to him to do likewise.

"Act well your part—there all the honor lies; bravely, cheerfully if may be, put aside your natural yielding to doubtfulness, to despondency, to hesitancy; brace yourself for your task, do it to the best of your ability, and then some day, as it happened once of old, perchance one shall come unto you and say: 'Friend, go up higher.'"—*Weekly Statement.*

A MOVEMENT jointly by the United States and France has been set on foot for some agreement among the principal commercial nations as to a uniform bi-metallic currency. This involves a uniform value for silver as compared with gold,—the coinage of all silver brought to the several mints, and the making of silver coin a legal tender. It is thought that circumstances for such a bi-metallic union, especially between England, the United States, France, Germany and Italy, are more favorable than at any previous period. The subject certainly will bear careful examination.

Financial and Statistical.

According to the *Railway Review*, Sault Ste. Marie bids fair to become a mammoth manufacturing centre. A strong company has been formed to develop the water power of Lake Superior, and apply it to large establishments on both sides of the falls at Sault Ste. Marie, the works on the Canadian side to be above and on the American side below the rapids. It is estimated that the actual volume and velocity of the water fall is 122,000 feet per second, equivalent to 236,000 horse power. The company esign to build on the Canadian side a tail-race five miles long and 1,000 feet wide, and on the American side a canal also five miles long and 1,000 feet wide—a width unequalled, it is said, by any canal in the world. Immense dry docks are to be built on either side, to be filled and emptied by gravitation. Blast furnaces, shipyards, flouring and paper mills, and kindred manufacturing establishments are contemplated.

We are glad to see a general disposition throughout Canada among wholesale dealers to shorten the credit period extended to retailers. This movement is especially noticeable in the Province of Quebec among wholesale grocers, and we trust will find imitation in all the other lines of trade. A business held well in hand, and approaching as nearly as practicable a cash basis, is in a condition to withstand the depressing influence of a general financial disturbance when a long-credit business finds it difficult, if not impossible, to weather the storm. The retailer who gets long credit is apt to give long credit to his customers, and when the stringency comes the tightness is felt all the way up from the consumer to the manufacturer or producer. There is altogether too much of the business of the Dominion done on long credit in all branches of trade, and even if shortened one half would still be quite long enough for safety.

It is of general interest to note the growth of a few cities in the United States, as shown by the census at the end of each of the three last decades. In these thirty years Minneapolis has increased nearly thirteenfold and in ten years nearly quadrupled, while St. Paul since 1870 has grown nearly sevenfold, and since 1880 nearly fourfold. Chicago has nearly doubled since 1880 and nearly quadrupled since 1870, while Milwaukee, Pittsburg and Detroit have made great strides. Following is the list of all but three Western cities:—

	1870.	1880.	1890.
Pittsburg.	56,000	156,000	235,000
Cleveland	92,000	160,000	261,000
Milwaukee.	71,000	115,000	204,000
Detroit.	79,000	116,000	205,000
Chicago.	298,000	503,000	1,099,000
Rochester.	62,586	89,000	158,000
Buffalo.	117,000	155,000	251,000
Albany.	69,000	90,000	94,000
Minneapolis.	13,000	46,000	164,000
St. Paul.	20,000	41,000	135,000
San Francisco.	149,000	234,000	298,000
Seattle.	1,000	3,500	44,000