

valley and on every mountain-top in Europe, attesting our faithfulness to you: we refuse to comply with your demands."

Kingdoms have been reared and overthrown by aspiring men. Alexander erected a great empire, but it fell to pieces immediately after his death. Hannibal, ambitious for the glory of Carthage, performed one of the most famous exploits on the record. With his army he climbed over the Alps, burst into Italy and defeated the Romans in four great battles. Cardinal Richelieu humiliated Austria in order to make France famous among the nations of Europe.

People, whose aim is personal power and personal honor, seldom allow friends or affections to stand in their way. Richard III caused his nephews to be smothered with bed-clothes in order to clear his way to the throne. Queen Elizabeth ordered the execution of her rival, Mary Queen of Scots. The miser starves himself and his family in order to die a rich man. When he has hoarded up the amount he desired at first, he is not satisfied, but he must have just so much more; and when that is accomplished, he is not yet contented; but continues on in this way until he dies, causing all who come in contact with him to be unhappy through his inordinate desires. Selfishness is an offshoot of ambition, freezing up the avenues of the soul for benefiting our fellow creatures. If all the tears could be gathered together and all the sighs and groans heaped up, caused by scheming mankind, a mighty ocean would deluge the face of the earth and no grating thunder would equal the crash that would deafen our ears.

Ambition assumes strange characters. One woman is anxious to display her gay attire, while another is proud of her plain dress. The demure Quakeress is just as self-complacent in her gray bonnet and gray dress, as the lady who exhibits the latest novelty from Worth. James I. of England was fond of displaying his learning and Cardinal Wolsey used every effort of his being so that he might ascend the Papal chair.

Yet, how many reforms, how many industries would we enjoy at the present time, if it were not for the planning of ambitious people? Martin Luther, on discovering the wicked lives of the Cardinals of the Church of Rome, endeavored to find out the true doctrines and when found, gave them to world. Carefully fostering the Reform religion, he labored faithfully for the glory of Christ's church on earth. Michael Angelo, by improving the one talent given him, brought painting to that perfection that our modern painters vainly endeavor to copy. Samuel Johnson labored incessantly to gain a name in letterdom. William Caxton, holding his life in his hand for "practising the Black Art," gave us one of the greatest boons that mankind has ever received. Ideas have been exchanged, science has been benefited, and the Gospel has been spread through this medium. James Watt turned steam to such an account, that the oceans are conquered, travelling made easy, labor lightened, industry increased, and comforts of almost every description result from the ambitious mind of this young philosopher. After Christopher Columbus made his wonderful discovery; many, anxious to win a name, braved the Northern ice-bergs and faced a tropical sun to bring to light the treasures of the New World. A school-boy studies hard for the sake of occupying the post of honor, unconsciously benefiting himself and others by his striving. Ambition is ennobling, when it is not for selfish purposes; and no matter how high our aims, we will succeed.

"Thou hast a charmed cup, O, Fame!
A draught that mantles high,
And seems to lift this earth-born flame
Above mortality."

—*Fern.*

FOOLSCAP.—When Cromwell became protector he caused the stamp of the cap of liberty to be placed on the government paper. Charles II. having on one occasion to use some for dispatches, this paper was brought to him. On being told the meaning of the stamp he exclaimed,—
"Take it away, I'll have nothing to do with the fool's cap."