

The Profit of Failure

feels that it might have been, and ought to have been so different, if he is now awaked to a genuine regret and an honest desire to amend his ways, an infinitely benignant Power stands behind the new resolve, and gives another chance for the most despairing heart to rejoice once more. Any survey of the realm of law is deficient which ignores the tireless working of the great law of love. It is not inevitable that the darkness should remain unbroken when there is a real longing for the light. Ibsen preaches as unmistakably as Paul that "the wages of sin is death," but the earlier Realist adds that "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Failure unlocks the door of wider revelation. It makes us humble, and that in no mere whining way. Until we feel that we have not yet attained, why should we trouble to be any more in the future than we are now? Moral enthusiasm languishes in an atmosphere of vain self-suf-