

A KNOCKER AT THE DOOR

OR A WALK AT THE HEART

Some one knocking for the knocker, Some one tapping at the door; Only fancy, if it be no more, I shall think of it no more.

AMBITION.

As I was, we are tall, exclaimed "Give me a lever strong enough and I can move the world. Just to what other region of space our globe with its towering millions would have been hauled we know not, if in the nature of things, the wish of that old legendary character had been granted, but a nineteenth century people basking in the sunshine of civilization do know that some mighty lever has thrust them forward and away from the depressing influence of the dark skies of ignorance and barbarism into a state of being where shine upon them in all their brilliancy, the glorious luminaries of education, refinement and advancement, and that lever—Ambition.

long, and the air rang with the din of battle; the shout of victory and the groans of defeat mingled their discordant tones together. But above the keen cries of war, and the clash of arms was heard the "still small voice" of peace; its gentle pleadings did not reach all ears, but some weary of strife responded to its call—felt the fire of a new inspiration to swell that sweetest of carols "Peace on earth, good will to men," until it should reverberate through all the land. In yonder cluster cell where the din and turmoil of the world seems not, a man is seated with pale face and bent form (these the victor's trophies now) one of the noble few who in these days of turbulence owned the motto "love for humanity."

won; but do they come? Strange! that to its benefactors the world denies its tribute of gratitude and praise, while the pulses of a vain life and "heart filled with legitimate words of dust to dust" have been uttered, when joy and sorrow are alike powerless to gladden or make sad the spirit, then the bells of public sentiment ring out their chimes, rich in their sonorous bursts of praise, and the voice of the people shouts with one accord "Evil the wreath of snow flowers for the pale, cold brow that might have worn so proudly the chaplet of honor and fame! Raise high the stately monument! Inscribe on its granite base, come! chant your eulogies and requiem for our departed son. Unavailing efforts all to atone for past neglect. Consoling thought, however, that a grand life's work out-lives the coil and rust of the world. Thousands are the vessels with their precious freight of humanity that have followed in the path of the great pioneer. Thousands, ambitious to be kings of the broad acres stretching from Atlantis to Pacific, when the strong right arm, and the indomitable will are the chief requisites to insure possession. The land of their adoption is reached; the trees, proud guardians of the soil from primeval ages, must yield to the axman's blow. The woodsman's sons must know from personal experience that "knowledge is power," and in the wild forest education finds her votaries, who build in her honor a rude temple wherein their children may learn how to use their mind's forces and become disciples of that noble creed "Ecce homo!"

Time passes; an epoch in the history of the old log house has arrived. The rovers of old man who has seen his children in study grow in mental stature is about to lose a son. The boy is an aspirant for fame; he has drunk deeply from learning's fountain in his woodland home; his waters are exhausted and his throat yet unquenched, but out in the great world, whither his steps are bent, there are inexhaustible springs of truth. To-day he takes farewell of his respected teacher and the old surroundings. As the two stand together before the lowly building enlivened by so many associations, they form a picture on which the rays of the evening sun linger lovingly. The head of the old man with its crown of silvery hair bent tenderly over the boy, the whiteness of whose lofty brow gleams underneath the raven tresses. An artist might have painted it, bestowing the name "Past and Future." Soon the cracked wall, lowly ceiling and smoke browned rafters will be exchanged for the lofty corridors and grandeur of Alma Mater. A few more years glide into the past—the University's spacious hall is filled with a large assembly of the learned of the land; they listen in breathless attention to a valedictory delivered with speaking fervor and impassioned eloquence. The speaker finishes his oration—and the deafening applause is merited by the country boy. The world is now before him. A "cry from Macedonia" comes over the blue waters, the voice finds an echo, and he makes one of that noble band of whom it is said "Blessed are the feet of them that bring glad tidings." His eloquence might have awayed congregations of the most cultured minds; he chooses rather to proclaim "the good news" to the poor benighted ones whose ears have never listened to the joyful sound, and away in the distant West where the Rocky Mountains lift their towering heads, the unwearied sons of man learn from him the glorious truth "that Jesus died."

Friendly Criticism. Dean Box Buchanan. The March number of the Christian Worker is at hand, and it is, as usual, brim full of good things. Your reference to me as one "fructured with well-pondered truths" is very amusing. The appellation, "mouldspeak," is a very singular, if not amusing expression. I suppose it was borne of the stony parent stock as the word "Campbellite," and has just about as much meaning and force. If you mean by "mouldspeak" one who believes in the absolute necessity of the resurrection of the dead in order to a future life, then I am that one, and should joy, as I trust others of the beloved in Christ, "made" in the best manner of the resurrection, and find that man had been "asleep in Jesus." (See 1st Thes. 4, 14) for one or two thousand years more or less, and did not know it, I trust they and you will be equally honest, and own up that you were "mistaken about this whole business."

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