

who sought not a conspicuous place, yet in every emergency were prepared to act a manly part. Cincinnatus, summoned from his small farm to save the Roman Republic, gladly returned to his modest estate when his task was gloriously accomplished. Washington, the idol of every American heart, joyfully resigned the cares of state in order to retire to his beloved Mount Vernon, when he saw his fellow-citizens on the road to prosperity. There are heroes in the world of which the world knows not: men who do their duty, who in the cause of right and justice are not influenced by the praise or censure of the world. The goodwill of their fellow men is always desirable, yet to obtain it they neither lower their dignity, forfeit their self-respect, nor degrade their manhood. As the gently-flowing stream which waters fertile meadows flows noiselessly to the great ocean, so their lives, fruitful in good deeds, glide on the great ocean of eternity.

Appearances are oftentimes deceitful. Many have been deceived by the honeyed word, the polished address, the insinuating smile. It is not always he who makes the greatest professions of friendship that can be relied upon as the truest friend. It is not always a sanctimonious countenance that hides a gentle spirit and a meek and contrite heart. Piety is often assumed as a mask to hide duplicity. As the diamond is skillfully imitated to deceive the inexperienced, so the unreal is often mistaken for the real, the false for the true. As the flower grows in freshness and beauty, so the rank weed also rears its head although it adds no fragrance to the summer air. Such are those who appear what they are not, who are shams, hypocrites. Nature's noblemen are not those who bedew the earth with blood that they may extend their dominion or gratify their ambition; who look on their fellow-men as mere instruments by which they may attain their wished-for ends.

Nature's noblemen are, alas! too few. Is it because an ideal man with every perfection has been pictured? No, all are sensible of the defects of human nature, yet when one strives to remedy those defects, to break the chains forged by a depraved nature, and to rise to a depraved nature, and to rise to a more perfect manhood, then is he worthy of our respect and admiration, then may he be classed among that heroic band of noblemen. The noble spirit which actuated men in the days of chivalry is worthy of admiration. Men who consecrate themselves as the defenders of innocence and helplessness, who sought to right injustice, who valiantly supported the cause of the weak against the strong; and who did all this without the hope of earthly reward. What nobler examples of disinterestedness could history record? Nature's noblemen may be always found at their posts when duty calls. The statesman, who guides the ship of state, is as calm and collected when fiercely raging storms and billows threaten to engulf the noble vessel, as when she glides smoothly over the rippling,

dimpled waves. The soldier is as bold and fearless in the hotly contested strife, as he is mild and gentle when war's harsh trumpet notes have ceased. The boy who has courage to do right, notwithstanding the sneers of his companions, has in him the materials which go to make up a right-minded noble man. The student, too, who does not squander his time, who seeks to lay up rich stores of knowledge, is classed among this noble band; for he also does his duty. Soldier or statesman can do no more. Nature's noblemen may be found in the soldiers of the cross, who, though poor in earthly possessions, are rich in heavenly treasures, who walk firmly, trustingly and humbly, in the footsteps of their great Guide and Teacher; who appear as messengers of love by the couch of pestilence; and who pour the oil of consolation into wounded hearts.

The happiness which falls to the lot of those who live in such a manner that they have nothing to regret is surely an ample compensation for any sacrifice they may have undergone. As earthly rulers have their select body of men, so nature's noblemen are God's chosen vanguard who march under the glorious emblem of charity. Whether the gallant soldier of right and justice falls in the thick of the fight, beneath the scorching rays of the noon-day sun, —falls in the prime of his manhood and strength, or lingers on to the eve of life, like an aged patriarch who leans on the staff of religion, whom lofty aspirations, deep affections and holy hopes delight, to whom memory is a fresh and verdant garden, wherein the fragrance arising from good deeds done in the past affords a pleasure to his declining years; whenever he leaves the scenes of his labors, he departs, leaving behind a monument more enduring than brass, namely, the record of a stainless life, which is far more precious than all the wealth and honors which men prize so much, and which too frequently prove but stumbling blocks in the path of perfection; leaving behind them also, an example for us, to strive earnestly for a prize which alone is worthy of man's best efforts — the crown of immortal life.

#### FRIENDSHIP.

J. J. L.

"Whoever undertakes a friend's great part  
Should be renewed in nature, pure in heart,  
Prepared for martyrdom, and strong to prove  
A thousand ways the force of genuine love."

*Cowper.*

Friendship is a mutual affection cherished by persons of congenial minds, and founded on mutual good-will and esteem. Man being of a social nature naturally desires to form an acquaintance with his fellow men, which, increased gradually by interchanges of confidence, grows at length into friendship. There is in the heart of every human being a fount of love and kindness, hidden even from the knowledge of the person himself until a time comes when,