

dandies make neither the best generals nor the best kings. When God called Saul, he was looking after the lost asses of his father. When he called Elisha he was in the midst of his farm servants ploughing. When God called Matthew he was sitting at the receipt of custom. He never calls any one who is living in idleness and ease, in dreamy expectation of stepping into some elevated and honourable position, worthy of his distinguished powers. As for ourselves, we may not expect, like Gideon, to have an immediate call to occupy a high, responsible, and useful position, but there are few who are found diligently and resolutely attending to present duty, adapting themselves to present circumstances, and improving present advantages that are not called forth by providential conjectures or the voice of their fellows, to take a place as prominent and honourable and influential as they are competent to fill.

It is melancholy to contemplate the number of talented, accomplished and fashionable young men who sink into the lowest places of society, degraded beyond the hope of restoration, and who, in the outset wanted nothing but somebody to give them a *start*. They would have been successful and opulent farmers, rich and influential merchants, had it not been for a stingy old father who limited their acres or kept back a few hundreds. A hundred acres more or a hundred pounds more, and all would have gone on triumphantly; and for the want of that they have fallen into the ditch! There are others who have qualifications which, brought into full exercise, are equal to the ruling of a province, or even an empire, only that the members of the community are so stupid that they are not able to apprehend real worth, and our embryo rulers would never have been found out if they had not found out themselves; and instead of place seeking them, they must condescend to the drudgery of seeking place! Others are ambitious of distinction as scholars, but their circumstances are unpropitious. They have no money to buy books or to pay teachers; no time to devote to study; they have to perform their daily labour for their daily bread. There is a radical mistake in this estimate of circumstances. Colleges and schools are like the favouring breeze which fills the sails of the steamer. It may relieve the engine, but it can be dispensed with. The progress may be slower, but eventually the power lodged within, in spite of opposing winds and currents, brings the vessel into harbour long before the ship that is depending upon the winds to carry her forward to her place of destination. History introduces us to hundreds who have triumphed over difficulties, sternly met opposition, and reached as lofty a place as might satisfy the cravings of the most ardent ambition, by simply doing with their might what their hand found to do. When they could not do what they would, they did what they could, and in the end found that they had the object of their ambition within their grasp. We may not have thousands, but thousands are made up of dollars, and dollars of cents. We may not have years, but years are made up of days, and days of hours. No money! What supports taverns, purchases tobacco, sustains caravans and mountebanks, pays fiddlers and itinerant lecturers? When we have money to throw away upon vanity and foolery, we have too much money. No time! Every man has plenty of time except the dying man who has made no provision for his last journey.