

and is made to do his bidding; the latent heat is called forth, diffusing light, and warmth, and comfort through the habitations, and generating the stupendous agency of steam, to perfect for him the most gigantic tasks; the subtle vapors and chemical properties of the material world all contribute to promote his wishes, and to gratify his tastes and desires; while he, the seemingly weak and puny being, surrounded by natural agents and forces, any one of which uncontrolled would scatter him a lifeless carcase on the face of the earth, he by his intelligence, skill, knowledge and labor, stands secure, and, like a monarch, subdues and directs them all to his purpose and will. Well may we exclaim, while thus reflecting on his varied faculties and powers, and on the achievements of his industry and labor—"How wonderful a creature is man! How dignified his position! how admirably fitted to rule all inferior creatures, and to assert and maintain for himself that superiority to which he has been destined by the Great Creator!"

The dignity of labor is further shown in its *disciplinary effect on man's life and character*. Man, it must be admitted, is at the best but an imperfect being; but then, in order to compensate in some measure for this imperfection, he is largely endowed with improvable faculties and powers, by the cultivation and development of which he is enabled to advance in a constant series of progression. Moreover, in proportion as this principle of progression is recognized and developed does man become elevated in his moral character, and dignified in his pursuits. There is, indeed, no such thing as standing still in a moral career; man is ever advancing or receding in all that contributes to raise his moral condition, and to the development of his faculties as a reasoning and intelligent being. The very imperfection of which he is the subject necessitates a constant struggle to overcome whatever there may be of evil within or around him. Hence, whatever tends to keep up this struggle, and to brace up

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