

grasping future and eternal realities. I was told not long ago by a friend who had for some years been an enthusiastic and successful student of natural science, that he was gradually losing all relish for poetry, and that the spiritual world in which he used to believe in early life was becoming more and more an unreality to him. He made the frank confession with sorrow. Charles Darwin was too busy in scientific research to look up—to raise his eyes to God and to the spiritual world; and what was the result? He lost his spiritual receptivity; he forfeited the capacity to appreciate the beauty and the truth of spiritual things. On his own confession, Milton's lofty poetry was unintelligible to him, and God was an uncertainty. Others there are, again, who acquire moral strength—who are truthful, honest, temperate, energetic in works of social reform—but they do not cultivate their spiritual natures—they do not recognize God and train their hearts to feel His presence; and they are really further from the Kingdom of God than are the publicans and harlots whom in their zeal they seek to reclaim. There is a very possible danger that men may forfeit their spiritual natures through lack of exercise and nourishment; so that the appeals of the Bible are to them in an unknown tongue—they cannot feel the claims of Christ. Just as blind Tom laughed at the description of the sunset, because he had not eyes to see it; just as Macaulay thought mathematics a senseless study, because he had not a mathematical mind to appreciate it; just as Darwin could not understand poetry, because he had lost his poetic capacity by neglect; so there are men to whom God and eternity, heaven and hell, Christ and the judgment day, have no meaning—no existence. They may be strong physically, mentally, morally, but spiritually they are dead. They are no more responsive to the voice of God, and to the realities of the unseen world, than is the eye of a corpse responsive to

the beauties of nature, or the ear of a dead man to the harmony of sounds. God calls them, but they hear not His "still small voice;" visions of the spiritual world are everywhere about them, but they have no spiritual eye to see them; eternal realities press upon them, but they cannot feel them, for their capacity to perceive spiritual truths has suffered atrophy—wasted away for want of nourishment and exercise. I speak in all earnestness a sober fact when I say that there is danger lest in your worthy pursuits of physical culture and intellectual refinements and moral strength, you forfeit your spiritual nature by simply neglecting it. Now in youth is the time to nurse it into strength. Never therefore neglect your prayers, and the devotional reading of the Bible, and meditation on spiritual truths. Keep looking up to God and heaven; and your spiritual vision will improve. The spiritual, remember, is the completing side of your nature—that which crowns and unifies the whole; without which you are not a real man, symmetrical, perfect. Rest content with no lower aim in life than complete manhood—the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

From what I have said, we must all realize the responsibility which rests upon us who are engaged in religious effort among young men to present in our lives a strong Christianity—attractive and impressive. Quit you like men; be strong. Remember that what Christ asks of His disciples primarily, is to be men. Set forth religion as an intensely real thing—not slavish adherence to dead creeds, but an every day working theory of life—not make-belief, but personal conviction—not conformity to traditional opinions, but a living experience. If your religion consists only in subscribing to theological statements for policy's sake,—assenting to the formulas of the Church, not inquiring what they mean, in order to save your souls,—it can never be attractive to truth-loving youth. Only profess what you actually believe. O