

the ultimate goal of humanity on earth; yea, even strikes a chord whose vibrations reach to other spheres and continue through eternal ages.

But in the case of the vast majority of mankind, the connection of their lives, either with what precedes or what follows, can be traced only for a few generations. A few can point to a line of ancestry extending far back into the remote past; a few have their names linked with events, which on the page of history stand out in brilliant illumination from the dark ground of oblivion; and a few act a part upon the theatre of life, by which they obtain a celebrity which bears their names down to a distant posterity. But of the overwhelming mass of mankind history preserves no record. However strong their desire to connect their names with what is eminent in the past, with events which are famous in story, or with men whom we vainly denominate the deathless great, the desire is vain; their very genealogy can be traced only for a few ages, and their early ancestral history is a blank. Alike vain is their desire for future fame. All remembrance of the vast majority of mankind is destined to pass away, save from that mind which fully knows all beings and all events, which searches all motives, which weighs all actions, which traces all influences, and awards all retribution. Even local tradition preserves any information concerning them only for a brief period. In a few generations their very names will be forgotten on earth,—their monuments will crumble to dust, and nothing mark the spot where their ashes repose, so that all efforts to preserve the recollection of them seems like a vain struggle with the decree of the Almighty.

Yet "the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." Whatever be their ancestral history, the light of their good deeds lingers around the scene of their labours long after they have lain down to their last repose. "Their works do follow them." Many of them have done deeds far surpassing in real greatness those of the warrior on the tented field; and, it may be in some humble sphere, where the voice of worldly applause reached them not, they have achieved results more important