

In this passing from degree to degree in our conditions lies the demand for the recognition of the temporal nature of all present hypotheses, and for a resolute pressing forward from them toward the untried, almost the unloved. But we must

“heartily know when the gods come the half-gods go,”

and bravely bid farewell to our lowlier duties. Delight must give place to duty, habit to discipline, in the development of the spirit. The two activities run always parallel. Every fresh conquest by the organizing consciousness makes richer and broader the system of established relations upon which the moral life rests; and every additional moral activity made organic and habitual leaves the soul free for new advances into the regions still beyond. The progress must be rhythmical, and each step widens the horizon of the soul. Thus no annihilation of consciousness through such a procedure is conceivable, nor any such thing as a fixed environment. The moral situation is a permanent possibility of progress, its process an infinite one, the performance of duty constantly transforming into a labor of love and love evolving new conceptions of duty in an eternal series of ever deeper insights into the nature of the Christ life.

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The lives that make the world so sweet
Are shy, and hide like the humble flowers.
We pass them by with our careless feet,
Nor dream 'tis their fragrance fills the bower
And cheers and comforts us hour by hour.

—Selected.