

every one to consider closely the full value of a good character, as well as the evil effects of a bad one.

A Good Character.

Be it granted, benevolent reader, that you are the happy possessor of genial dispositions, of a good character. Then, allow me to ask what real benefits do you derive from it? In granting you a good character, I suppose that you have taken as the motto of your life never to inflict pain willfully and uselessly. I suppose, also, that, owing to persistent efforts, you have brought under subjection the evil propensities of your nature, and thus given predominance to noble inclinations.

I suppose, also, that, after a long and manly struggle, you have achieved the conquest over self; and that, like a general disposing of soldiers, full disciplined and armed for the combat, you still hold within your grasp your moral energies, for character cannot be termed good unless it bears all these marks. Such is your character. What, then, will it bring you? It will bring you the two things the most coveted by men: happiness and power—the joy of the soul and social influence. Happy will you be! Such is the fruit your “good character” will bear. Your benevolent thoughts, your charitable sentiments long before they don the dress of spoken language and sweet and affable attitudes, will gladden your hearts—“a self-complacency in your company.”

The gladsome beams of joy will neither brighten your face, nor cast their mellow reflection on others before they have illumined with their incondescent glow your very heart, whence they issue as from a centre.

Good humour is pregnant with happy thoughts, smiling perspectives and cheering hopes. Your character is good: then happy will you be, for in return the world will meet you with a friendly smile. It is with a keen death-giving weapon that one goes out to the sharp-toothed wolf, but with stretched-out hands full of sweet herbs one receives the lamb. Your character is good: happy, again, will you be, owing to that order which prevails in your conscience, where sane and wholesome inclinations take the lead and stand firm at the helm of your life, giving all your actions the right direction.

Men are naturally attracted by genial dispositions as by the force of gravity. Spontaneously do we go to men of good charac-