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he may be surrounded by luxuries, and have at his command every sensual gratification; he may affect to regard with indifference or scorn the honest, diligent worker who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow; but, notwithstanding all this vain parade, a proud assumption, if he has neglected to exert his faculties to some useful purpose, he is truly degraded, and, in point of true dignity of character, infinitely below the humblest and poorest of the sons of toil. The usefulness of labor is evinced in the comforts and conveniences of life which it produces, and its consequent dignity is shown in the elevation and refinement of those nations where it is constantly and systematically exercised. Without continuous and well-applied labor, man would ever remain in a barbarous and savage state; he would frequently be left destitute of the first necessities of life, while those refined comforts and enjoyments which contribute so much to elevate the character would be utterly unknown; and instead of rising in the social scale, or progressing in civilization, he would sink almost to the level of brutes.

How widely different is the condition of the working peoples; how elevated and dignified are those industrious nations among whom the laboring principle is recognized and developed! It is only when man becomes a diligent and faithful worker, that he achieves the dignity of usefulness; then, indeed, it may be said of him that he obtains the mastery of the material world, and develops, for useful purposes, all those materials of civilization with which it abounds; then, and only then, is it that, under the influence of his untiring energies, and his indomitable will, guided by his intellect, the intractable earth yields forth her concealed treasures—the pathless forest becomes a smiling plain, covered with his habitations; the arid wastes bloom as a garden, ministering at once to his sense of the beautiful and to the wants of his physical nature: the sea gives up her tribes of animated creatures, and becomes herself the pathway along which he travels to distant climes; the lightning descends from the skies,