

The Home Study Quarterly

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Better to feel a love within
Than be lovely to the sight,
Better a homely tenderness
Than beauty's wild delight.

Better to love than be beloved,
Though lonely all the day ;
Better the fountain in the heart
Than the fountain by the way.

Better to be a little wise
Than learned overmuch,
Better than high are lowly thoughts,
For truthful thoughts are such.

Better a death when work is done
Than earth's most favoured birth ;
Better a child in God's great house
Than the king of all the earth.

—George Macdonald

Brawn, or Brain, or What ?

By Rev. J. B. Maclean, B. D.

Some seven years ago the writer was present at a football match in the town of Selby, England. Of the players on the field, there was one who was the particular favorite of the boys. It was he that got the most applause and that was followed about with every sign of whole-hearted hero-worship. And why was this ? Simply because he was not only an athlete, but a maker of athletes, —the most successful trainer in all England !

It would have been the same in almost any town of England—or Canada. For the average healthy, wholesome boy has a natural reverence for physical prowess. In this direction the boy looks for his ideal of true greatness.

Let a "king of sport" walk into any work-

shop or office and business for the time being would come to a stand-still. This is because so many of us are only grown up boys, and still retain the boy's ideal of what constitutes true manhood.

The schools and colleges of the country stand for another ideal of life. A certain professor, a man of great learning, who in spite of his poor, frail body, was the ideal of his students, made a remark one day that has lingered in the mind of one of them at least, "For those of us who cannot take part in the rougher sports, there are many compensations." He did not mean to decry those sports, only to assert that they were not everything, that they were not indeed even the best things, that a college had to offer.

For, after all, there are better joys than the "wild joys" of living. There is a higher ideal than merely to be a healthy, strong animal. To know things, that, is power. It is not brawn but brain that conquers in the struggle with material difficulties. A man's hand cannot move a mountain ; but a man's brain can. Wolfe, who took Quebec, was a chronic invalid—physically perhaps the weakest man in his army, but mentally, stronger than all his soldiers put together. Brawn can kill or save its thousands, but brain its tens of thousands.

But not even knowledge is the highest ideal of life. The schools and colleges are only preparatory. Conduct is the chief part of life. The moral uses of knowledge are our chief concern. If there be knowledge—it shall vanish away. It is wisdom that is "the principal thing," the practical application of knowledge to moral uses.