

The Profit of Failure

of effort shall ever be wrought into a whole of perfect loveliness.

These facts are troublesome, no doubt ; but we must pay for being made on broader lines than the rest of creation. Even an agony of failure is preferable to that calm indifference from which all lofty aim is gone. Composure would be purchased too dear at the price of the soul's debasement. If denied a happiness that dares to have searching eyes, it still remains for mankind to keep a nobility of sorrow. Anodynes are often dangerous. "The highest calling and election," George Eliot wrote, "is to do without opium, and to live through all our pain with conscious, clear-eyed endurance." Such words have a pathetic melancholy about them, but at the same time they breathe a protest against the annihilation of sensitiveness in any kind of false Nirvana.

Of course, that which ought never to have been must needs leave its baneful