

### VIII.

in time past, resign myself to the lot of a laborer, and be the dog and slave of others who may be my inferiors in all but wealth? My spirit answered, No. Labor I must for a living; but I will be more than a hewer of wood and a drawer of water. I will now fulfil the resolve of my childhood—I will write the long-promised book; I will lose no time by it; I will do it over and above all other work that I can do. Although the task is the most congenial, I would not have done it if I could have done anything else. There are untold thousands of men who are content to labor only; but they are congenial to the life, and never thought of anything above it. I am not; I am a drudge only by necessity. I am not above labor; but I am above labor as the sole occupation of life. So I began my task, and I do not dissemble when I say that I have done very little thus far; but it must not be forgotten that I have done a day's work every day during the five years that have elapsed since I began, save three days only. I think the only place where