

All have their foibles, and this was Mary's. In vain had her mother reasoned with her, in vain had her sister pleaded, and though a storm of this kind was invariably succeeded by repentance, it had never been of that kind which produces "good works." If she "ceased to do evil," she did not "learn to do well," but returned to her old ways the moment temptation came. So on this particular morning, Mary pouted in earnest. Left alone in the room, she began to reflect; but she could not yet bring herself to ask her mother's forgiveness, when the ringing of the bells told her it was nine o'clock. She hastened to school, but of course, was late.

As she entered the class, these words fell on her ear. "There are mightier conflicts than those of serried hosts; there are battle grounds more worthy of immortality than Marathon, and victories more splendid than any which history records. The war of right with wrong, the scene of whose action is the human heart; the victory over our passions, over the 'sins that so easily beset us,'—these are the noblest conflicts, and well may the victor in the moral combat be crowned with a nobler crown than the warrior's; well may his garland be woven from the leaves of the Tree of Life."

Mary stood for a moment as if spell bound. "It is for me," whispered her rebellious heart, as she shrunk to her seat. The teacher continued, "Zenobia conquered; Semiramis reigned; but the lowly woman who subdues herself, whose only ornament is a 'meek and quiet spirit,' rises incomparably higher in true greatness and nobleness than she before whose throne warriors bow the knee. You, my pupils, will not govern states; you may and should govern yourselves; and every noble and womanly aspiration calls on you to do so. Be victors then in this conflict, and leave the blood-stained battle field to armed men." And the history lesson was resumed.

According to a rule of the school, pupils who entered the class-room after the commencement of the exercise, were not called upon to recite, and Mary was thankful for the strictness of a rule which gave her time for reflection. "You may and should govern yourselves, and every noble and womanly aspiration calls upon you to do so." These words were glowing before her. She had a high ambition

to be called "noble and womanly." "Be a lady" is the too frequent admonition to young girls. Mary's parents had higher views and wished her to be "a woman." At night she went directly to her mother, and in the most contrite and sincere manner asked her forgiveness for her rude and disrespectful manner in the morning.

"I readily forgive you," replied her mother, who had done the same thing on similar occasions, "but I wish you would conquer this habit which at times you lament. I heard you admiring the heroism of soldiers yesterday. Suppose you wage a good warfare with your temper, and come off victor. You know where to obtain help for your weakness."

"They are leagued together," said Mary, as her mother left the room. "Both talk of battles and both say I can be 'victorious.' And I will too!" she added with energy.

As a proof of her sincerity, she wore the identical hat which had been the "head of her offending," and when Sarah observed that she was suddenly acquiring a fancy for "brick colour," she simply replied that "persons' tastes might change." Not without some severe struggles did Mary conquer her "besetting sin," but she never forgot the impressive words. "Well may the victor in the moral combat be crowned with a better wreath than that of the warrior; well may his garland be made of the leaves of the 'Tree of Life.'"

#### HOW TO BECOME GREAT.

Some years ago, Edmund Stone, a boy eight years of age, was running about the garden and grounds of the Duke of Argyll. He was the son of the duke's gardener. The little fellow was ignorant of every thing but what grew in the garden, or might be seen in his father's cottage. His parents had no means of educating him; but a servant of the duke's household, out of compassion, taught him his letters, and the elements of reading. Reading became a habit, and formed within him the desire and love of knowledge.

While the boy was thus storing his mind with information of various kinds, the duke built a new wing to his mansion. The lad looked on day by day, as the work proceeded, and seeing the architect make use of rule and compass in his calculations, he enquired what it meant.

The mystery was solved, and he was told the science of arithmetic was explained in books. He borrowed an arithmetic, and by persevering study mastered its contents.

Geometry was then mentioned to him, and procuring a book on the subject, he soon mastered that in like manner. Learning that the best books on this science were written in Latin, he bought a Latin dictionary and grammar, and labored diligently until he had acquired the language. Some one told him there were excellent scientific works in the French tongue; so he got possession of a French dictionary and grammar, and learned that language also.

His industry accomplished all this between the ages of eight and eighteen, while learning his trade as gardener, under his father.

One day the duke, coming into the garden, saw a Latin copy of Sir Isaac Newton's celebrated "Principia," lying on the grass. Thinking it belonged to himself, he ordered it to be carried back to the library. The young gardener stepped forward, and said, "Your grace, the book belongs to me." "To you!" replied the duke; "do you understand geometry—Latin—Newton?" "I know a little of them," said the youth, who felt that he had made but small attainments, in view of the wide fields of knowledge opening before him. The duke, who was a scientific man, questioned him on the subject of mathematics, and was astonished at the force, the accuracy, and the simplicity of his answers. He then asked him of his past life, and learned from the lad's own lips, the history above given.

His account charmed the duke, who drew the unconscious genius from obscurity, and provided him with an employment which gave him time for the cultivation of the sciences. The same talents were discovered in him for music, painting, architecture, and all the sciences which depend upon calculations and proportions.

Such is the history of Edmund Stone, the well-known mathematician. He lived to an advanced age, preserved an unblemished reputation, and rendered important services to science. Among his works are a Mathematical Dictionary, a treatise on Fluxions, another on Euclid, and a work on the use of mathematical instruments. He died in 1768.