

decline. The beginnings of his life have been appointed for him; but what their issue is to be, their fulfillment, depends upon him. In the deepest sense, every man is self-made.

Go outside the immediate life of the individual. Take the problems of our relations with those about us. Our crowding, hurrying social life brings us constantly face to face with human needs of one sort and another,—bodily, mental, spiritual. There are men and women and children to be fed and clothed and housed; there is sickness to be healed and ignorance to be taught; there are men and women who have forgotten, if they ever knew, what their true natures are, and must be shown; there are lives selfish and narrow that are to be touched and made to open, those that think themselves poor and are to be taught their riches, and those that think themselves rich, and are to be shown their poverty, until they know that those are blessed who hunger and thirst; there are men and women who do not believe in God, and are to come to know Him as they shall see the godlike in their fellow-men; and there are others who profess their belief in God, and who need help to live in ways that shall reveal, and not deny Him. And in all this each has his or her distinct, individual, necessary part. For each it is not simply possible, but necessary, that he or she should do something that the life about them may become all the time stronger, cleaner, healthier, more beautiful, in all ways better worth the living.

"And I work." If a man sees evil everywhere, in his own life or in the life about him; if he sees evil anywhere, and desires good—let him be

able to say, with truth and steadfastness, "I work." "And I work." Yes; but there come times when our individual efforts seem fruitless, when the evil we are fighting seems very strong, its growth persistent, times when the sense of weakness and failure and discouragement and loneliness is overwhelming. It has come to men who loved their country as they strove for her righteousness and peace; it has come to men who loved their fellow-men, doing what they could to make human life stronger and more beautiful; it has come to men reaching out to the attainment of the ideal of perfect manhood, and seeing it seemingly as far removed as ever. "And I work." How often it has become the utterance, not of the strength and hope and courage of a man, but of his weariness and despair!

Do we forget! "My Father worketh until now." Into the doubt and impatience and anxiety of human effort comes the thought of God, bringing strength and calm,—the thought that He also is working, not to take the place of our work, but to confirm it, supplying strength to the weakness of our endeavor, overruling in wisdom the mistakes of our limited vision, translating and transfiguring our imperfect successes—nay, that which we had thought our failure—into the eternal triumph of his righteousness and love. "The Lord reigneth."

Under Him, in Him, with Him, we also reign. Over material forces, over the powers of ignorance and selfishness and sin, over our own lives, over height and depth, over life and death, the Lord reigneth; and He gives to us the victory.—*Christian Register*.