

misrepresented, and frankly confess his error and his fault. If you should ever, in some trying hour, specially need the help of a friend, cleave, if you can, to the arm of that man. He that is not afraid thus to go back on self, to correct what is wrong, will not be afraid to go forward with you in what is right. It is a pity that this form of moral courage should awaken so much of wonder from its mere rarity, for truly, occasions are not wanting for it. And my young friends, I beseech you by all that is noble in sentiment, generous in feeling, and sacred in conscience, cherish the manly, honest and christian integrity, which will enable you to confess frankly any fault in conduct, or error of opinion. Truly I think if you have any conscience or honour, the applause of the world for going forward, when your secret thoughts tell you *that you should turn back*, and lead others back, must be a kind of irony peculiarly bitter. It were amusing, and in many ways not a little instructive to know, what some men in their hours of retirement have thought of the applause which greeted them in public, for moral courage to which they knew they had no claim. It must be curious to see how these persons look at their laurels in their bed-room of a morning.

I am very sure, in what I have said, I have not over-rated the importance of moral courage. Tried by results it is hardly possible to over-estimate its value. I appeal to your knowledge of history, if I am not right when I say, that this has been a prominent feature in the character of every man, who has done much to establish truth and enlarge the boundaries of human liberty and happiness? Many of those who have done nobly in the *warfare of right against wrong*, wanted many things, the possession of which would have added not a little to the beauty and completeness of their character. *But not one of them wanted moral courage*; they all excelled in this. It was, indeed, by means of this, "that they waxed valiant in fight,—turned to flight the armies of the aliens." "Wrought righteousness, quenched the violence of fire, and stopped the mouths of lions."

But whatever may have been the field of action of moral heroes, they should be held in lasting remembrance.—That they did not seek earthly fame, is no reason why they should not have the admiration and love of all men. Due admiration for such, has the happiest effects on your own