

be not tossed upon the argument of counsel, they will be tossed upon the waves of Fortune." Strong conviction should be accompanied by a spirit of wide-awake inquiry. Enthusiasm, open-eyed, not blind, will lead one to the truth. The man with a purpose may often be snubbed as intractable, or styled uncongenial. But he can afford it. Whilst these things should never be mistaken by anyone as unerring evidences of genius, yet they should not discourage independent action. The diamond yields with difficulty to an impression; but it may be so shaped as to become a marvel of beauty, dazzling most when exposed to the criticizing rays of the noonday sun. Equal difficulty may be experienced in the formation of the most eminent characters. As examples of patient, indefatigable efforts, surmounting difficulties and achieving notable results, we may point to the stammering youth changed to the prince of orators; to a Wolsey rising from the lower ranks to the magnificence of a papal legate; to a Wilberforce laboring for forty years and finally obtaining emancipation for millions of the enslaved; to a Beaconsfield, from the plebian ranks who became the arbiter of nations. These did not entirely seclude themselves from all pursuits but one; but they had one main object and purpose, acting as a stimulus and engaging their best powers. It is a saying "to take a soldier without ambition is to be deprive him of his spurs." Still more fortuitous must be the fortune of a man without a purpose.

The application of these remarks to the student may not at once be apparent. He argues that a certain amount of general culture is necessary to make him a "full, round man." But still the question remains, if, even in the course of his Academic studies, he should not have some one object chief among its fellows. Though no subject should be treated with neglect, should not the best energies be concentrated on some one subject? This feeling should be so strong as to make him willing, if necessary, to see himself outstripped in other departments. Who can entertain aught but pity for the student whose ideas of true success are so perverted, or whose happiness depends so much upon the applause of the vulgar, that he can not pursue any desired special course even at the sacrifice of the first, second, or third place in his class? A student of true metal would even be content to be deemed singular, one-sided, quixotic, to endure the barbs of sarcasm, or the biting jest, and yet remain

faithful to his honestly conceived policy. Praise, plaudits, favor, he may do without. This he cannot. Foster says: "A man of the right kind would say, they will smile, they will laugh, will they? Much good may it do them. I have something else to do than trouble myself about their mirth. I do not care if the whole neighborhood were to laugh in a chorus. I should indeed be sorry to see or hear such a number of fools, but pleased enough to find that they considered me an outlaw to their tribe." The rule admits of few exceptions, that a man in order to ensure success should become a specialist in early life. In every life one grand central purpose should be found as a pillar of strength, — a majestic oak, towering, branching, flowering, and bearing fruit, whilst offering a strong support for the clinging vines of social ties and household amity.

THE YOUTH'S DECISION.

A YOUTH strayed out one sunny morn
Through brake and bramble, bush and thorn,
With longings to be great.
He found a spot in leafy dell,
And, yielding to a witching spell,
There stopped to meditate.

Although materialistic wights
Have long since slaughtered all our sprites,
And nimble little elves,
Yet in this selfsame shady bower
Endued with some entrancing power,
Such soon displayed themselves.

Fantastic, light, and airy, they,
As figures seen in fleecy spray
Above a sparkling fount—
Now clothed in deepest crimson hue,
In scarlet, violet, or blue,
On gossamer wings they mount.

With mind distraught, and bristling hair,
With quaking nerves and fixed stare,
The youth surveyed the scene.
But round him now they kindly press,
And reassure with fond caress,
Till his delight grows keen.

At once his burning heart's desire,
Now fanned by hope to hotter fire,
Is laid before these guests.
Each answered him with trembling haste
That she could best supply his taste
And answer his behests.