

tions, which some good people find it hard to discern, the only mystery being, that they should not have found out that they have made a wrong choice, taken up a wrong business, and then thrown their want of success to the account of Providence. This is not by any means the only way in which we charge God foolishly; but it is a common one, and it is a wickedness to be repented of, rather than a piety giving us a title to saintship.

A second thing necessary to our happy and useful working is, that our bodies and minds be in healthful condition. The mental and the material in us affect each other, and both must be in proper order. Let a man have ever such vital energy, if he be inclined to expend that energy on other pursuits, of what consequence to the forwarding of labour; that every bone is strong, and every sinew strung. His mind must be healthy. On the other hand, if he be nerveless and dyspeptic, of what use is resolution and will? Many a man is called lazy, who is only weak. Children are oftentimes cruelly dealt with because they cannot learn. Bad health has clouded their intellect, and memory is at fault, and their teachers pronounce them dunces, and treat them as criminals. The physiologist and the physician are required for such children—not the rod. Work—handicraft work—is probably more easily carried on by an unhealthy system than mental labour; but for both, bodily and mental health are requisites. If you cannot work, you want either moral or physical tonics. Stop till you get the machine in order.

Another element of comfortable work is, that you should not have too much of it to do. Intemperance in labour is nearly as bad as drunkenness or gluttony. Some voluntarily work too hard; others are compelled to it. One does it for gold; another for bread. In either case, the man will die before his time.

In regard to the subject in hand then, if you take care to have these three elements embodied in your business; a proper choice of it; a sound constitution for it; and not too much of it, you will get on very comfortably in life. I say