

their future. Yet multitudes attempt this with disastrous results.

One class of people boast that they live in the present:—"The *Scriptures* say concerning what we cannot help, "Take no thought for the morrow"; we say concerning what we can help, "Take no thought for the morrow." "Life is a game of hazard, let us enjoy it while we may." "Foolish and contemptible are they who have lofty ideals, who think serious thoughts, who delight in common-place toil." When the knell of coming disaster begins to echo, these people laugh and say:

"On with the dance! let joy be unconfined."

Another class of people live all in the future. Seeing only *results*, they entirely overlook *means*. The owner leaves his property to destruction; the student sleeps over his books; the thinker applies not himself to the problems of society and of the world. Their time is consumed in *dreaming* of magnificent fortunes, won without labor, of gorgeous castles in the air and of a Utopian world where no sorrows are.

Happy is he who realizes that the *present* is the gateway into the *future*; who realizes that the joys of noblest life, the world wide fame of the grandest character, the fulfilling of the most desirable project, have been won, can be won and can *only* be won by steadily utilizing the resources of the present as a *means to an end*.

Assuming that we appreciate these principles and assuming that no one of us desires to be a cipher in the world, it behooves each to take immediate steps towards becoming what is possible for all, a *centre of real influence*.

What are some of these steps? 1st. Have a *definite object in life*. The present is an age of searching investigation. The light of knowledge is illuminating broad tracks of science which, fifty years ago, were entirely unknown. The natural effect is that science, scholarship and society have become highly differentiated, so that, to be successful, one must confine his energies to a narrow channel. Grasp one idea. Then *learn and live* that.

2nd. *Seek that object which appeals to you as the noblest in all the world*. Cast aside all secondary considerations, go below all momentary passions and find, stamped in your deepest soul, that ideal of living which inspires you most, which will give you the greatest real satisfaction and which you believe you would gladly follow through all vicissitudes.

Seek out from among the world's great men and representative men, him, who, by his life, exemplifies most perfectly that ideal. Make his experience your experience. It is wonderful what a feeling of companionship will spring up in you for this being perhaps of long ago. You will rejoice in his success; you will sorrow with his sorrow; you will heed his example more readily than that of your nearest friend. Learn a lesson from any and every individual that is enthusiastic with life. Laugh not at their opinions, scoff not at their doings: for, in so doing, you are like them that, even before they begin to climb life's ladder, "scorn the base degrees" by which they are to "ascend."

3rd. *Be prompt to seize opportunities*. The world cannot wait for the sluggard, nor can any man "tether time or tide." The world is changing, you are changing. If you are to keep pace with the world, you must suit your development to the world's development. If "A" of the year 1892, keep abreast of the times he will not be the same "A" in 1893. To "A" of 1892 has been added a year's development. If "A" reach 1893 without this year's development, he will have fallen behind in the world's march. Never can he fully regain that place, for every year brings its added possibilities, the fulfilling of which will occupy all his talents during all his available time. Promptitude, perhaps more than any other single quality, is necessary to winning a position of influence. He, who trains himself to think quickly, who "grasps the situation," who is ready to act, is the one who will win his fellow's confidence. Then, be keenly awake at critical times. Sleep when you sleep. Be awake when you are *not asleep*.

Having won a purpose and having mapped out your course, let there be, above all else, *earnestness, enthusiasm, determination*. Without these qualities life will be drudgery and life's purpose will never be attained. With these qualities there will be a place for you in the world. You will be really needed, because you will exert the right influence in the place at the right time. Remember that, while the future may be shrouded in darkness, yet, with that future chance has no concern. If the world go to ruin, it will be the fault of its representative inhabitants, if it rise to the heights of truth and righteousness, it will be credited to the *noble* people of the earth. Then rejoice that you may cast in your lot on the side of right and, by resistless earnestness for truth, may help to work out the world's problems for Godliness and right.

R. S., '91