

of some men of well-proportioned life, it is a pure satisfaction to know that we, too, are men. The misanthrope is untrue to the higher laws of his being, the hermit a traitor to duty. But that is unworthy of our capacities, unbecoming our energy, out of harmony with the clear scope of our being, that claims to be happiness, yet cannot bear reflection; from which one glimpse of reason, one flash of conscience, may suck out all the sunshine, and leave the darkness of Egyptian night.

We need activity, excitement, stimulus if you will, but it must be such as is in harmony with our capacities. It must be conscious and intelligent as distinguished from the semi-conscious condition of the inebriate and the befooled condition of the companion of a meretricious wanton. From such delusive mirage of happiness not a few have turned away and experienced a delightful change, so that on the tomb of the heart once filled with death and the grave-clothes of bad habits is now a garden blessed by Angel's visits.

The philosophy of happiness requires illustration as bearing upon a more widely spread class than any we have discussed.—“The poor ye have always with you,” and many who move in the lowly duties and in the quiet spheres of toil are subject to peculiar tests and temptations. How often are such met with the question and declaration—“Are you a Church goer?”—“I am.” “ah! you belong to those who sacrifice this world's happiness for that of the next.—That does not suit me. You may expect good interest but I don't like the security. I reckon a bird in hand worth two in the bush.”—and so on. Be this reasoning never so good it availeth not if the premises be false. It is submitted that they are. In our view we do not so to speak, deny ourselves of a little happiness now that we may have a great deal by and-by. We look not for spiritual investments that pay the highest dividends. The follower of the Truth as it is in Jesus claims all and everything the world present as well as the world to come can have to bestow, or will yield to the diligent student and indefatigable worker. None but the Christian can make the best of both worlds.

The present is vastly important. It is more solemn to live than to die. This hour is not one of isolated being. In me the ages meet. I am of eternity in the councils of the Creator. Upon the claims of the present we would not cast a single film. But the present had a forerunner and shall have a successor. The future is its expectant