

selfhood to the dominion of physical law, and deny the "Father of our Spirits." To accept the teaching uttered so widely, and with such an air of philosophic authority and finality to-day, that selfhood, personality, character, are the well-nigh passive product of heredity and environment, is to shut the door of hope forever. That teaching has in it no seed corn of virtue, come from whose lips it may.

"Unless above himself, he can erect himself,
How mean a thing is man."

Heredity and environment do not necessarily make us what we are. Our wills are free—they are the mind in liberty. Worldlings, and philosophers so-called, may deny this, but the word of a divine poet and seer speaks to me, and I hope to you, above them all:

"Our wills are ours to make them Thine."

Your will is imperial, and goes behind heredity. You cannot set bounds to its power, when guided by accepted principles. Spiritual law is the final law of the natural world, I doubt not. "Everywhere heaven casts its shadows upon earth, for the laws below are sisters of the laws above." An illumined Greek said that the highest moral freedom is found in subjection to law, as the freest civil government is found where all just laws are most completely obeyed. Obedience is the great condition of moral development and growth—it is to character what exercise is to the physical and intellectual: it is exercise in the spiritual realm. A completely-fashioned, rightly-motivated will is the greatest of all products; it makes possible and includes all other vital products approved of heaven.

The training of the will through life-enduevor, daily action, is the great opportunity. One must moralize as well as mentalize oneself. The reef on which so many all about us, in business, in the professions, in the ministry, everywhere, go to pieces inwardly, is this: they *assent* but do not *do*. But the ground condition of all ethical and spiritual building is obedience. This sort of education, which is the flower of all education worthy of the name of Christian, may be very practically regarded as working against the chance influences of life. Will is educated and character formed by effort, not by acquisition. The consciousness of effort, the outputting of overcoming energy, de-