

enslavement and degradation, is coming into disrepute, and a more healthy and ennobling feeling is gradually, but none the less surely, superseding it, and now our ideal of a hero and a great man is embodied in the Christian statesman, the honest juror, the upright legislator, the man of integrity, in whatever position placed, and to however great temptation subjected; the politician whose vote cannot be bought, the man who dares to do right because it is right, though in face of much opposition; the man whose voice is ever raised in defence of the innocent, whose ear is ever open to the cry of the oppressed, whose lips are unstained by the use of profane or vulgar language, to whom women and little children can appeal with confidence, feeling sure their trust will never be betrayed. Many of these may not be known beyond their own little sphere; their outward condition may be the most humble, yet their daily conduct is an exemplification of the beauty and purity of a Christian life, and *their* footprints are most assuredly such, that others, seeing them, may take heart.

It is said that a stone, ever so small, thrown into a lake or pond, will cause a ripple, small at first, but gradually widening and reaching out, until it finally touches the other shore. So the influence of one good person, however humble will make itself felt on others, radiating indefinitely, till we know not how many are elevated into a more noble existence; and if in humble stations, the effect is so great, what must it be when the sphere of action is broadened by greater abilities, and enlarged opportunities; and, oh, what responsibilities rest upon those who, from their position and capabilities, may be ranked as leaders of opinion and moulders of sentiment. How it behooves these to bear in mind that where much is given, much *will* be required, and let them see to it, that their public and private records are clean, and that their character, no less than their reputation, is good, for the

first is of infinitely more value than the last, and is what we make it ourselves. It is known of God and does not depend upon our reputation, which may in the sight of man be good, but the all-reaching Eye will discern flaws where they exist, which the keenest mortal vision may fail to detect. To gain this character, to achieve this good,

“ We must be true ourselves,  
If we the truth would teach,  
Our soul must overflow, if we  
Another's soul would reach.  
It needs the overflow of heart  
To give the lips full speech,  
Think truly, and our thoughts  
Shall the world's famine feed,  
Speak truly, and each word of curs  
Shall be a fruitful seed,  
Live truly and our life shall be  
A great and noble creed.”

When we reflect that our footprints may mislead a wandering brother, who is striving to rebuild the fallen structure of his character; when we consider the influence we may exert upon him for either good or bad, we may well shudder at the possibility of the effect one false step of *our* feet may have upon those who are watching our steppings. Who can estimate the extent of this influence over others, if the *noble* faculties of our mind are cultivated in accordance with the design of Him who should be the supreme ruler in every heart. We all know that we have failings and frailties, and it is good for us to enquire into the cause of these. He who spoke creation into birth, who said “ Let there be light, and there *was* light,” gave us all the faculties we possess, and designed that their proper training should promote our present and future well-being, as also of those over whom we have influence, and when inquisition is made of us, as to how we have used our influence, what kind of footprints we have made, how happy, if we can say, “ Here am I, Lord, and those whom thou hast given me.”

“ We are building every day,  
In a good or evil way,  
And the structure as it grows,  
Will our inmost self disclose,