

muffling his agency, overlays and smothers it—it is such as these, who go sighing on their way, and tottering through time to tumble into their eternity.

Just as some persons can at no time properly be said to eat, so many spirits can never really be said to enjoy. I say that some never truly eat—not in the right sense of eating—never know, that is to say, from year to year, what it is to feast. As the Scripture says: "And never eateth with pleasure." Nowhere a square meal, really? Do you gulp? Then you miss it altogether. You did not realize how much there could be in that mouthful, or that morsel; how much taste, how much nutrition, how much satisfaction. Do you say, "I ought to know; I tasted it, I certainly had it"? No, indeed, you did not have it; you just missed it. To gloat, to gulp, to glut, to guzzle, is no more to eat than to choke is to breathe; to swill and swig is not to drink. On the other hand, to drink is not to sip, and to eat is not to peck and pick and prink and pine.

Even so, the illustration holds. It is not to have a happy life to have a giddy one. Frivolity snatches something, and hastily swallows something which it cannot relish after all. Dissipation musses with its food, and miserably musses uncongenial fragments. Hollow mirth has nothing that is sustenance or substance. Vain glory feeds on froth. Flattery essays to feed on sugar-plums, and vanity goes famished amid the glittering of fancy dishes and of changing courses. True enjoyment must include the heart's leisure, liberty and plenty, the fullness of the nature in the fitness of the life. Beyond any question, in the development of man under the hygienic laws, the sanitary system, the regimen of righteousness, there is yet to be discovered and displayed a material existence, truer, higher, happier, when mankind shall have better learned to take care of themselves, because God takes care for them; when the laws of breath shall be so understood, that the human frame from infancy to age shall breathe God's air and not manufactured gases; when child-

hood shall not be cramped or crammed, but fed and comforted; when infants shall not be wantonly and recklessly and cruelly hurled into the world, but gently and wisely brought forth and sensibly reared; when educational schools shall not be hot-houses and forcing beds, but gardens, meadows, groves; when a frill grown man shall have time to think; when business shall not be a grinding wheel, nor trade a tread-mill; when dress shall not be a straight-jacket, but a flowing robe, and the tyranny of arbitrary fashion shall be superseded by the candor of philosophy, until the forces of the body shall get the benign rays of the sunshine and the balm of the atmosphere; when the advice of wisdom shall be understood in the fear of the Lord, and the thought upon His name. Men will be brought into judgment for all these things, not as erroneously now we receive it; but *in* all these things. "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thine heart cheer thee in thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart and the light of thine eyes; but know thou that *in* all these things God will bring thee unto judgment;" and when it will no longer seem an impracticable course to follow—"live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest, all the days of thy life;" nor a description incomprehensible of the early Christians who were to be the early martyrs—"they did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart;" but in the goodness of the living God, who hath given us all things richly to enjoy, and in the charm of that company, of the Christ, that tenderness of humanity, who took it and did eat before them. Material nature shall be resuscitated, regenerated and reclaimed, fulfilling in its heartiness that happiness which is permitted and prescribed to you this day as an expression of it all. "Go thy way, eat the fat and drink the sweet, and send portions to them for whom nothing is prepared; neither be ye sorry, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

I am aware that we are lingering too long upon the threshold of our thanksgiving, and that it is time to open ser-