

The true student, therefore, is zealous in study. He puts nothing before it: he allows nothing to appropriate the time and energy which should be given to it. Having wisely chosen his field of study he devotes to it all the strength and enthusiasm of which he is possessed. Were it otherwise his success would be indifferent, and he should even count him self guilty of wasting his time.

We may properly say to the student: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." You are not required to sacrifice your health. You must not neglect those duties towards God and your fellow men which are common to all situations and employments; but, with these reservations, give your heart to your studies. You are mistaken if you imagine that a half-hearted application to them will protect you from the spiritual danger connected with close intellectual occupation. Rather, you will incur greater dangers for then two evils are in your path. You are sinning by wasting your precious time, and neglecting to make attainments which might the better fit you for serving God in after life; and, in the relaxed condition of mind attendant on idleness, you are exposing yourself to many temptations. The house that is empty, swept and garnished will be sure to find an occupant.

Were we seeking for the student whose "soul prospers and is in health," we should not find him among those who take little interest in their studies, and are glad of anything which may furnish an apology for neglecting them. You may indeed discover great students who have no high moral purpose—whose aims have respect solely to self—but amongst the idle and indifferent the Christian graces cannot flourish. The full occupation of the mind with legitimate subjects of thought is good and healthful, bracing and purifying, while it closes many avenues of temptation. In a place such as this there is probably little need to insist upon the duty of earnest study,—so many things tend to stimulate to the utmost; but if any one should fancy that by slackness in intellectual work he secures himself against the spiritual risks of the student's life it is necessary to tell him plainly that no one can well be in greater danger than he.

Nevertheless, devotion to study is attended with danger to the spiritual interests, as every faithful student, who also strives to keep the heart, is taught by experience. This danger besets exceeding application to *any kind* of study,—religious not less, perhaps, than secular study;—the scientific study of the Bible and Theology not less than the study of philosophy or physics. Candidates for the ministry will not think, therefore, that the topic under consideration has no direct bearing on their case.

Wherein lies the danger? In the fact that study implies, for the most part, the activity of the intellectual faculties mainly. The understanding and judgment are in constant exercise, and the energy of the soul is thrown into *their* work, but the spiritual and religious side

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