

Domitian, who after he had possessed himself of the Roman Empire, turned his attention to catching flies. The man who would fain soar beyond the region of the common-place, who forgets not that his soul is an active principle and seeks out worthy objects upon which to expend this activity, who feels that the ambition of acquitting himself well in his present station is truly noble; yet gladly and energetically uses every justifiable means to advance himself to more advantageous ground; such a man is fired with a true ambition. Napoleon was an ambitious man, but that at which he aimed was false. He and Alexander might have made ambition a good servant; but they tarnished the splendor of their reputations by aiming—not too high—but falsely. Their lives are proofs, rather of the evils resulting from misdirected ambition than of the vicious nature of this “secret spring within urging on all men to soar.” The manifold evils attendant on a perverted ambition, only show the greatness of its power, and what a mighty agent it may be made for good. When rightly directed it must contribute as much to man’s advantage as it usually does to his uneasiness. Illustrative of this is Washington, universally acknowledged ‘to be a patriot without reproach.’ Few ambitious men can say with Cæsar: “I am satisfied with my share of life and fame.” Happily Contentment and Ambition are virtues, and only in the absence of the principle which regulates and directs, rather than extinguishes, the passions, do they lead to evil. There is no reason why man should not exclaim with Cowley:

‘What shall I do to be forever known,  
And make the age to come my own?’


And yet possess that contentment which is one of the pillars of happiness around which twine the fair and fragrant flowers of a cheerful heart and generous disposition. Through that wise Providence which has made man a compound of opposites, he may at the same time possess,

“That jewel which no Indian mine can buy,  
No chemic art can counterfeit,  
Which makes men rich in greatest poverty,  
Makes water wine, turns wooden cups to gold,  
Seldom it comes, to few from Heaven sent  
That much in little—all in nought—content.”

Or be fired with the generous ambition to make his power of doing good equal to the desire. Corner stones they both are in the structure of man’s character, virtues, not vices, and it is only when directed towards wrong objects that either is wrong. In such a case contentment ceases to be a virtue and ambition becomes a vice. The life of Paul, indisputably proves that the combined effect of both is to enable and perfect human character. His heart was filled with sanctified ambition yet he exclaimed triumphantly, “I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content.”

A.

### + ITEMS. +

 ITEMS for the last number this season, so make the most of them.

The students desire to know the person who so kindly furnishes information to any in the city, who are interested enough to inquire about the college.

Major Dearnly is quite proud of his calisthenics class, and lately made the trip from Toronto to Hamilton in order to have the same and aforesaid class photographed. It was a great success.

Where did you say you left your heart, Ada?

An abundance of holidays is fast approaching, when we hope all will have a very pleasant time.

The following note was found in the Geology of one of our seniors: “The Ichthyomis Victor very much resembles the birds of the present time in its having teeth.” O, how strange!