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MAKING THE BEST OF LIFE.

Two questions rule the world.

1. What shall I do for self; where go; for bread, or gain, or fame? As a rule that which seems to offer most of these decides the choice.

But in most cases men do not get what they hope for. The distant shines. As a rule men and women see the ill of what is near and do not see its good; while the good of the far off seems a great deal more than it really is, and the ill is not seen.

Hosts rush to the gold fields. A few make fortunes; hundreds get something; and tens of thousands lose all. The gainers and their gain are told world wide; the losers and their loss sink out of sight.

What a book, if the other side were told!

A. had a snug farm; no debt; made a fair living. He took the gold longing; got a loan, spent five years in Yukon, came home broken in health; no money, big mortgage, farm run down, boys idle and bad, wife worn and heart sick, may be dead.

B. a young man with good trade and something in the bank for a dark day. He drew it out, went to the gold fields. Ten years there, could not get back, an old man while yet young; drinks when he can get it, body and soul in ruins. A few years more, gone, lost!

C made money, spent it in fast living, is now a wreck in fortune, health, and morals.

D, E, F, gathered all they had to take them there. They are working for wage as they can get it, and faring as best they may. They long for home, in vain.

Fill up to Z.

The same is true in some measure in other lines of life. There is a steady stream of the young from country to city, from farm to "fortune"? One gets rich. His name and wealth are widely told. A few make a fair living. More drag out a weary life of heart-sick care and toil, with little of the comfort in life that they had before them at the first; and that the farmer, though poor, enjoys.

And the one who gets rich, what of it? If self be the aim, he spends a life of toil and care, and then in five or ten years leaves it all and goes out to begin again in another world, taking nothing with him but the character he has formed.

2. What can I do for others? A good question. None can make the best of life who lives for self. Here too the near is often lost sight of, and the far off is longed for.

"What I would do if I had control of the world's politics, business, religion!" Such thought is good, and the way to carry it out is to do it in the little world of which one has control.

Few can be helpful to the world on a large scale, but every man can purify his own politics and business and religion and bring his influence to bear upon his neighbor.

The most useful men in the world to-day are not the great leaders, but the men and women who by faithful life and work, in the little settlements that make up a great country, are living and working for truth and right. The most useful class of Christians are those who in their families and in their little Sabbath school and church are helping to make their own corner of the world purer and better, and thus making the best of life.