

In the Fire of the Heart

And what a life was the life of this man Emerson who deliberately chose this as his part. And what an influence while he lived, *and truly for all time to come*. Not three months, nor three centuries can forget his name or cease to bless his memory.

Another whom success in the sense of excessive gain develops pride and an itchiness for ostentatious show builds a mansion — a home? costing four million dollars, thinking also that it will be a sort of monument to, a reminder of himself. Within fifty years, or within even a much shorter space of time, it may be the possession of a Barnum and the home of a good up-to-date circus. Such is the security of a man's hold upon material possessions. And how few seem to be able to stand success and remain good, healthy, sensible, normal men. It seems strange that so seldom can a man become successful as to either wealth or power without taking on, mentally at least, the strut of the turkey-cock. A really great man, however, is always immune from this affection. It is rather as Pope said:

*Of all the causes which conspire to blind
Man's erring judgment, and mislead the mind,
What the weak head with strongest bias rules,
Is Pride — that never-failing vice of fools.*

The law seems to be absolute in that "whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Nature seems to abhor an abnormally developed pride, snobbery, too marked a consciousness of superiority. And to the — I am holier