

sickness and summon the doctor. This is an extreme case, but the laws that govern milder forms of the same malady and their resultants, even so mild that they may appear to be righteous are just as inexorable. No indulgence in anger or wrath or indignation can escape the consequent result of injury to soul and mind and body. I find humanity everywhere suffering from an ignorance of this law in its members, and not for mere argument's sake, but for the well-being of my fellows, I am constrained to make clear the truth as it is revealed to me. A poet has said of poets that

"We learn by suffering what we teach to men."

So I know these things partly by suffering as the penalty of violation, partly by experiencing the glory of their fulfillment. This uplift of the soul while yet on earth and environed by matter may be a delusion. It may be a delusion—this sweet atmosphere that envelops us when we live above hate, envy and all their kin. But can it be possible that the soul longs and loves to dwell in an unreality? Can it be possible that the soul is deluded when it thirsts for this upper realm where the storms of passion never rise—this realm of tranquil repose? Can it be possible? Ah, no! This doubt is answered in the "upward look." We see this little kingdom—this that we are wont to esteem heaven upon earth—we see it flooded, like the heaven above, with the Divine effulgence, and so long as the soul abides there, it is invulnerable, and dwells in a kingdom impregnable. Shall we not strive to possess it?

#### DECISION OF CHARACTER.

Decision of character is one of the greatest of God's gifts to man; and every woman and man, girl and boy, has the germ of this quality; but unless it is carefully cultivated, it will remain in a dwarf state, and will be overrun by

the rushing tide of popularity; it will quail before right when the popular feeling does not acknowledge that right.

Decision of character sometimes leads a person into circumstances where he or she will be apparently forsaken even by friends; but do not in the least depart from your principles; do not under any contingency make a compromise which will detract from your decision of right. Many a poor fellow has arrived at a point in life when he seemed to be standing on the brink of some newly discovered river of duty, popular acclamation entreating him to turn from an undertaking which appeared to them to be hazardous, while righteous judgment waved her flag of justice and right to leave the opinions of those who were unable to stand the test of character to themselves; to turn a deaf ear to the trivialities of the world, but to wade through difficulties, bear the cross of criticism unflinchingly, clinging to the decision of right with a tenacity that will even elicit the respect (though perhaps not openly) of all.

Oh, how many are they who have had not the courage to stand on their own convictions, but have been swept into oblivion by the rushing current of unprincipled chidings!

Yet there are those who, while young, have not only swam against the stream of popular favor for the sake of their own notions and ideas of the correctness of things, but have, after undergoing the test of the world, forced back the waves of adversities, and have in the end even been accorded great praise by the populace.

Daniel Webster delivered speeches in Congress, which not only underwent the severe criticism of party opponents, but were spurned by foreign statesmen. Yet Webster had the decision of character to uphold firmly that which he believed to be right. He was highly respected by men of all parties and by every nation.

Andrew Jackson was guarded by his maxim of "Ask nothing but what is