

complimented for a certain brilliant achievement which was considered by his friends as entirely extempore exclaimed, "Nonsense! You might as well have dropped the Greek alphabet on the ground and expect to pick up the Iliad."

The Paris correspondent of the London *Times*, once said to Thiers, the President of the French Republic, "It is marvellous how you deliver long and improvised speeches about which you have not had time to reflect." "You are not paying me a compliment," replied the President. "It is criminal in a statesman to improvise speeches on public affairs. The speeches you call improvised, why, for fifty years I have been rising at five in the morning to prepare them."

It is folly then to expect success without winning it by diligent and persevering effort.

"The heights by great men reached and kept,  
Were not attained by sudden flight,  
But they, while their companions slept,  
Were toiling upward in the night."

Every student should

"Count that day lost whose low-descending  
sun  
Views from his hand no worthy action  
done."

Nay more, he should endeavour to fill with work the whole round of time—

"Forenoon and afternoon and night; forenoon,  
And afternoon and night; forenoon—  
no more?"

We freely admit that precept here is easier than practice, for many like to follow the rustic's advice to "go right around over beyond up alongside of through behind" the hill of difficulty rather than to climb it courageously. It is, however, only by bravely meeting and overcoming difficulties as they come, that we shall be enabled to make them stepping-stones by which

we may rise higher, and there is no way of accomplishing this except by hard work.

But hard work is not sufficient in itself to ensure success. Many toil laboriously from day to day without enjoying this reward. Hard work in order to secure good fortune must be *systematic*. There must be order, else a large amount of energy will be spent in vain. Order reigns everywhere in nature, and the man who would make the most of his natural endowments must attend to this law. It is surprising how many of the discomforts and failures of the student may be traced to the want of system in work. The unmethodical man always hurried, bustling, fretting, blundering, and losing the present in his vain struggle to recover what is beyond his reach, is like some creaking, jolting, ill-devised machine which moves with such an uneasy commotion and din that it fills the mind of the onlooker with apprehension. On the other hand, the course of the systematic man moves smoothly on like some well-constructed and stately engine, the regular and unceasing movements of which seem the fittest emblem of calm self-possessed dignity and power. The man of order finds a time for everything and considers everything in its proper time. He finds a time for recreation as well as for business or study. Instead of being the slave of circumstances he makes circumstances subservient to him. It is not hard study that destroys the health of so many students so much as the want of system in their work. Were more attention paid to method, the strength instead of being wasted would be husbanded until the proper time. The orderly man calmly meets difficulties, and, resolutely applying his well-arranged powers, the thing, which to the disorderly, hurried, and undecided man would appear an almost insurmountable obstacle, yields before him