

because your progress must be slow? Remember that, if you have but one talent, you are responsible only for *its* wise employment. If you cannot do all you wish, you can at least do your best; and, as Dr. Arnold says, if there be one thing on earth which is truly admirable, it is to see God's wisdom blessing an inferiority of natural powers, when they have been honestly, truly and zealously cultivated. Remembering that the battle of life cannot be fought by proxy, be your own helper, be earnest, be watchful, be diligent, and, if you do not win success, you will have done the next best thing,—you will have deserved it.

Is your calling one which the world calls mean or humble? Strive to ennoble it by mixing brains with it as Opie did with his colours. Show by the spirit that you carry into it, that to one who has self-respect, an exalted soul, the most despised profession may be made honourable; that, as we have already said, it is the heart, the inspiring motive, not the calling, that degrades; that the mechanic may be as high-minded as the poet, the day-labourer as noble as the artist. It is related of the celebrated Boston merchant, William Gray, that having, on a certain occasion, censured a mechanic for some slovenly work, the latter, who had known Mr. Gray when he was in a very humble position, bore the rebuke with impatience: "I tell you what, Billy Gray, I sha'n't stand such words from *you*. Why, I recollect you when you were nothing but a drummer in a regiment!" "And so I was," replied Mr. Gray, "so I was a drummer; but didn't I drum *well*, eh?—didn't I drum *well*?" In the words, then, of Schiller:—

"What shall I do lest life in silence pass?"

And if it do,

And never prompt the bray of noisy brass,

What need'st thou rue?

Remember aye the ocean deeps are mute;

The shallows roar;

Worth is the ocean—Fame is the bruit

Along the shore

"What shall I do to be forever known?"

Thy duty ever!

"This did full many who yet sleep unknown,"—

Oh! never, never!

Think'st thou perchance that they remain unknown

Whom thou know'st not?