

study and delight both day and night. It is this: Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves in diligently and prayerfully using all your rising power and talents for the best welfare of yourself and of your neighbor as well. In other words, it is by God's grace to use all your power with equal wisdom and with equal goodness; viz, to grow like God, who is perfect wisdom, power, and love. Never let the envy of society put you into a passion; never let it even discourage you, expect it, and meet it calmly and gently, but wisely and firmly. It must melt like snow in spring before patient wisdom, power, and goodness. Pity your envious rivals and gradually win them over by these divine qualities. Let me show you how your dreams of youthful hope are apt to provoke envy.

"When you find a young rival full of energy and ambitious of rising superior to you in society, do you not feel some jealousy and selfpity, and do you not strive hard to keep ahead of him? How can you wonder then that others are jealous of your progress, and strive to keep ahead of you? Tell me from your own reason and conscience, is it fair that you should try to excel your seniors, and yet that your juniors should never try to excel you? O my friend, do you not see that we must of necessity come to the golden rule at last, 'Do to others as you would have others do to you?' Tell me not that this is impossible. It is possible and practicable if you only strive constantly to use all your power with perfect wisdom and equal goodness. You must come up to this, or you will do worse, and your life will end in the failure of folly, weakness or vice!

"A rising rival is indeed a blessing to you, if you will only stir yourself up to excel him by wisdom and goodness, not by envy and wrong. Let him provoke you to quit your sloth and folly and vices, and to concentrate all your powers to win the victory of virtue. Then you shall be astonished at the wonders you can do. Never be overcome of evil, but overcome every evil by that divine goodness or charity which never fails. Half our young men, and young women, too, (alas!) I fear, and more than half, are almost ruined by opposing envy by envy, evil by evil, and (worse still) set-

ting good against good! In this unequal and suicidal struggle with society you will assuredly come to grief at last. The only way to overcome evil is by goodness and wisdom, using your power well.

"If then you feel a growing power and rising genius within you, be very thankful: for it is God that gives you these gifts. They are a pledge of your future greatness, if you only use them wisely and well. God might have kept these gifts from you, and given them to your neighbor. Now, since God has given them so freely to you, see that you use them as freely, not merely for your own good, but for the good of your brother man and your gentler sister woman too. Then will society begin at last to envy you less and to love you more.

"Again, when your conscious power and talents begin to rise your dreams of hope, beware! Ponder them well in your heart, and rejoice, but with trembling. Oh, do not tell those dreams of hope, for fear they prove but dreams at last! Tell not your waking dreams lest they rouse the cruel envy of your rivals and the fierce jealousy of society.

"Like Jesus Christ, let it be your meat and drink to do your duty well. Let the world find you quite forgetful of selfish glory, but ever busy about your Father's business, without one word or thought of pride. Then will the world itself begin to dream bright dreams of you, and to foretell your future success, from your good character. Then will the envy of society be turned into love and reverence for you at last. Then have you reached the crowning stage of life—the glorious victory of virtue!

"Behold then the very principle of never-ending prosperity! It is to grow daily in the image of God, which is perfect wisdom, power, and goodness. Is not this worth all your toil? Is it not far better than all pride, and vanity, and boasting and all selfishness? Show then your power by your wisdom and usefulness! Let others praise you if they choose, but seek you above all things his love and the praise of God our Father. This is eternal fame.

"One last temptation still remains after your virtuous victory; namely, the temptation of fatal security and pride.