

In life, then are to be found universally distributed, two classes—the productive and the non-productive—the man of energy and the man of lethargy—the man who eats to live and the man who lives to eat.

It is only the few that achieve distinction in anything; it is only the few that are truly honorable, upright, moral, unselfish; it is only the few that are noble, self-sacrificing, wise and good; it was only Noah and his family that God preserved from the waters of a deluge; there were only twelve Apostles; there was but one Solomon; there never has arisen a more self-sacrificing and laborious missionary than the Apostle to the Gentiles; the battles for freedom, truth, justice, equality, liberty, were always begun by a few leading spirits; it is only the twos and the threes that adequately support our churches, fill our pastorates, adorn the professions of Law, Medicine, Arts; Rome only possessed one Cicero; Greece never had another Demosthenes; you could count with your fingers all the great men of Greece and Rome, who could say with Horace, *Exegi monumentum aere perennius*.

If we investigate the causes which enable men to tower high above their fellows, it will be found that decision of character, untiring industry, were their marked characteristics. The biography of that man has yet to be written, who has ever accomplished much for good or evil without possessing these qualities.

The race between men of brilliant talents without energy, and those with intense energy but without extraordinary powers of abilities, has often been seen, but with the same result as that between the Turtle and the Hare.

Stranded on the shoals of time, are to be found myriads of human beings who perished in obscurity, unwept, unhonored and unseen, not because of a deficiency of intellectual powers, but through lack of energy, and decision of character. Had they possessed the spirit of Elijah, when he cried out "if the Lord be Baal, follow him," or if they could have said with Napoleon, "The

Alps no longer exist"—"The Pyrenees are no more," their lives might have enriched and their achievements astonished the world. The Iron Duke would not have been the Hero of a hundred fights, had he not possessed in a marked degree those indispensable qualities. Bunton, the abolitionist, attributed his success not to genius, but to faithful, earnest, indefatigable action. His maxims for reading were "Never to begin a book without finishing it; never to consider it finished unless mastered; and to study every thing with the whole mind." His own words show the character of the man; "The longer I live the more I am certain that the present difference between the feeble and the powerful; the great and the insignificant, is energy, invincible determination, a purpose once fixed and then death or victory."

That spirit is our genius, and alone insures success; without energy, man is a ship without a rudder; an engine without steam; a body without life; he sponges his way through life; his closest friends are the sloth and the parasite.

Like both he is despised; starvation and shame must be his portion, nor does Scripture encourage a different sentiment; for Paul says the "man who does not work should starve;" idleness is the ban of body and mind; the chief author of all sin; the cushion upon which the Devil chiefly reposes. No great men have been idle men. A good motto might be taken from the words of Solomon, "Seest thou a man diligent in business, he shall stand before Kings." Of Hezekiah it was said that "in all that he began to do, he did it heartily and prospered." No man has ever yet, like Minerva from the head of Jupiter, leapt ready armed into fame. When Byron made the statement that he awoke and found himself famous, he forgot the years of antecedent labor. The royal road to success has not yet been found; although Bulwer Lytton's first novel was generally considered a failure, yet he labored on with such assiduity that he has ranked as the peer of Dickens.