

world, for without it the best concerted plans fail. In all branches of industry, in Literature, in Art and in Music, perseverance and patience are requisites to perfection. How often have the inventive genius been about to give up in despair when the execution of some pet scheme seems impossible, but perseverance whispers "Onward" and the result gives not only a world of satisfaction to himself, but is of unspeakable benefit to his fellows. Through persistent and steady scientific researches the world has been greatly benefitted. The uses of steam and electricity were not known and understood in a day. Experiments were made, some successful, some otherwise, and by profiting by former failures and by persistent effort these motive powers have reached their present perfection. Man would be but a poor specimen,—if indeed he could exist at all—without perseverance, for what is said to require none or but little of this great virtue is not worth much, and never gives great satisfaction.

Perseverance should be one of the chief characteristics of a student. In acquiring knowledge one must be persistent and faithful. Some studies appear very difficult at first, and it seems almost an impossibility to master them, but if we carefully and perseveringly try to understand them, we shall soon see stray beams of light flashing over what a short time ago appeared to us a dark page. Therefore, student, labor on, and be comforted with the thought "Rome was not built in a day;" and if one wise old saying is not enough remember the words, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

The common end of life is death, but there are two roads to that final home, the path of success and honor and the broad avenue of misery and shame. It is one thing to select a path in life, another to pursue it. Decision and energy may undertake what they never accomplish; it is absolutely necessary for perseverance to step in and complete what they begin. The ship is dashed from wave to wave, carried from sea to sea at the mercy of the ocean currents, and they who do not persevere are borne by the mercies of a wide stream that must forever carry them on. But they who like the Oak defy the storm win victory ere long. Perseverance in a

right course is attended by many difficulties, but success lies beyond. Everywhere there is a constant looking for some way out of unpleasant circumstances except by the door of perseverance. A difficulty should summon our latent forces to action. The truly resolute and persevering seeker after fortune accepts this rule; the greater the obstacle, the greater the effort required to surmount it. Thus to those who possess the elements of true greatness, obstacles become incitements.

Perseverance crossed the Ocean barrier and saw the new land, destined to mature the greatest nation on the globe. Columbus though rebuffed, rejected, scorned and slighted, still clung to his determined project. The indomitable spirit of perseverance in Martin Luther gave life to the flame of religious liberty. Demosthenes the great Greek orator had early in life an impediment in his speech that seemed an insurmountable obstacle in the way of his becoming a fluent speaker, but through persistent practice he overcame this and gained control of his voice. When Carlyle had completed the first volume of his "History of the French Revolution," his servants by mistake used the sheets for lighting fires, when he became aware of this immediately he set to work and reproduced the volume in its present form. Noah Webster spent thirty-six years on his dictionary. Gibbon was twenty years in writing his "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," and Bancroft spent twenty six years in the preparation of his "History of the United States."

Perseverance in the right, means success, honor, happiness, respect and usefulness. Perseverance is the battle-cry of every true one in the so-called little things of life, as well as in the great. Persevere, for there a sublimity in conscious rectitude which no other cause can give.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.