

As naturally as grow the vines blossoming into flower or ripening into fruit, as naturally as the boy grows to youth, and youth to manhood, so grew the ministry of this life. It grew in the warmth of Christian love and under the organizing power of a noble purpose. There is nothing erratic, nothing strange, nothing dramatic. It was a simple and sincere ministry of public good. The other characteristic is the personal effort invested in it all. That which was done was done as a self-expression. It was not the external persuasion of others imposing their ideas on one who possessed wealth and had nothing but money to give, but the interior persuasion of the worker's own mind and heart and strong, purposeful will. As such it involved far more than the giving of money. It meant the constant giving of energy and oversight, the careful and critical working out of plans, the patient overcoming of irritating and vexatious difficulties. It was work, real work, work that drew on brain and nerve and heart, work persisted in amid weariness and weakness and pain, work not laid down until the day was done.