

For the Torch of Reason.

A Word of Cheer for the Students at the Liberal University, from an Old Teacher, in the Medical Profession.

BY S. W. WETMORE.

The first lessons in student life are apt to influence the character and integrity of the individual through life's entire career. Hence, they should be founded upon facts, truth and morality. At the age of fourteen years, the writer began his academic course, and the great golden embossed letters in the motto, "WE WILL DO RIGHT," which hung in a semi-circle over the rostrum, has influenced my whole life. Not unfrequently one of the professors, after the morning service, would silently point towards the motto. It had its impress, and every student felt it a pleasurable duty to do right. As a teacher, I have frequently felt that I would like to complete that circle by placing under it, "Without Application, No Achievement."

Ambition and energy, with vigorous application, will—'ceteris paribus'—conquer all obstacles. A genius, however, will make more rapid strides with less application, perhaps, than the ordinary student. A genius, like a poet, is born—not made—with that particular aptitude, and he readily frames his intuitive impulses to matters of fact or fancy. Hence, never feel jealous of one who excels you in a quick comprehension or a retentive memory. You may succeed in many attributes where he would make an irretrievable and disgraceful failure—i. e., while you are conquering problems in Euclid, or in your Latin or Greek, he is successful at football, and 'vice versa'. A failure is oft times better than a success. It should stimulate the loser to renewed energy. He should buckle on his armor with a vehemence and a determination to conquer.

Adversity in failures naturally call for factors of a buoyant nature; and necessity, knowing no law, and being the "mother of invention," is always a reserve power. When called into requisition it is a potent exhibitor of latent ability; a touchstone of genius and power, and a revealer of unknown greatness. As quartz yields gold in the crucible of heat, so man yields golden thoughts and reveals his character and virtues in the crucible of necessity. There is nothing like adversity to bring out the character, courage and bravery in a man; as is evinced in battle by the brave soldier and the courageous sailor in a storm. All of the great men of the past have struggled against the billows of adversity and the currents of despair. Think of Copernicus and Galileo, Columbus, Cromwell,

Napoleon, Nelson, Milton, Fulton, Stephenson, Humboldt, Agassiz, Darwin and our own Lincoln; not forgetting Admiral Dewey, and other great soldiers on land and sea. History shows that scholastic attainments without adversity can be traced to the genius, or has been impelled by national pride, or political and professional aspirations. The student in his anxiety to excel should not forget that honor, probity and morality are the great stars that are beckoning him towards the goal of truth, without which success is never success. The crown of honor is the symbol of the highest authority. It represents chivalry, virtue, nobleness, and magnanimity.

"Mine honor is my life, both grow in one. Take honor from me and my life is done."
—Shakespeare.

In your zeal to become learned and successful in whatever vocation you may choose, do not fail to grasp opportunity. Let not your ideal escape.

There is an hour in each man's life appointed
To make his happiness, if then he seize it.
—Beaumont.

"Who seeks, and will not take, when once 'tis offered,
Shall never find it more."
—Shakespeare.

Our most distinguished men of letters, of science, of art, manners and culture, were not slow in comprehending Milton, when he said:

"Zeal and duty are not slow;
But on occasions forelock watchful wait."

Witness the application of Wilkie, who, while in great poverty, began his career as a painter, "by using a burnt stick for a pencil, and a barn-door for his canvas."

Gifford, the triumphant mathematician, began solving problems on pieces of leather while he was apprenticed to a cobbler. Galvani sees the twitching of the limb of a frog, and he goes forth with his wonderful experiments which lead to astonishing results in electricity.

Hundreds of distinguished names might be mentioned, who have sprung up from poverty, and the lower places in society, who grasped the opportunity to become men of utility to the world.

Read the histories of Arkwright and Turner, once barbers, one invented the spinning-jenny, the other became a renowned landscape painter. Hunter, the physiologist, was in early life a carpenter. Cook, the sculptor, was an ordinary sailor; and the poet Burns, a farmer. The bricklayer, Miller, by profound study and dint of perseverance, achieved the enviable title of Master of Geology. Wilson, the great ornithologist, was a weaver; and from the butcher shop sprung Cardinal Wolsey and Aken-side. Benj. Franklin, once a printer, became the greatest philosopher and statesman of his time. By constant and untiring application and industry, these men gained,

step by step, until the doors of honor were opened to them. Think of the sacrifice and poverty, the industry and perseverance necessary to overcome before some even get a foothold in climbing the hill of prosperity or encouragement.

Think of the assiduity and conquering elements required in the lives of such men as Elihu Burritt, the sturdy blacksmith, who became so scholarly and distinguished; of Chas. Lamb, of Hugh Miller, of Chaucer, of Herschel, Ferguson, Spencer, Grote and Mill. We should not forget our own Edison and Tesla. The majority of these conquering heroes were men of liberal thought. Their analysis of the mystified conditions existing between life and death were unbiased and rational. They did not take the "ipse dixit" from any man or set of men; they were not religious, but righteous. The great problems they labored so assiduously to solve were how best to elevate mankind and increase the happiness and welfare of humanity generally. They gave Christianity very little credit for civilization; "the ethical life in nature" was their guide as educators. Had all of the old teachers been as rational, the world would be filled today with better men and women, and there would be happier firesides, more joy, pleasure and mirth, more wealth and prosperity.

From the brief histories of a few of the distinguished men who gained their world-wide renown by delving profoundly into their respective studies, conscientiously weighing every thought and problem, we learn that knowledge can only be gained through the channels of rational thought and diligent "application," virtue, honor and truthfulness.

Remember, then, that the first lessons in life should be truthfulness to ourselves. Conscientiousness should guide our footsteps, should be the landmark, the beacon light, as well as the incentive, of all our future actions. Then wisdom, truthfulness, prosperity and goodness will predominate. Goodness, like all virtuous blessings, necessarily involves a purity of purpose, a principle and desire to avoid error and all evil incentives. It teaches us the "Will do Right" motto, without which we are constantly subjecting ourselves to the incredulity of our fellowmen and associates. If we are true to ourselves, we will conscientiously be true to others, and thus true ethics will be established. Guiding our frail rudder by the old motto, we will be enabled, in drifting down the tide of life, to evade the billows of despair, the crags of wantonness and disappointment. Our wayside thoughts may err, our transient and erratic minds may linger o'er the driftwood, scum and dross of a wayward world; and at

times 'twill seem the overpowering surf, in its retreat, will take us with it. But, like the retreating forces of a despondent army, by good generalship we are sure to rally and call to aid the old motto and all is well, the victory is won, the battle o'er, the enemy ours.

Without these qualifications and endowments, acquired by our own will, desire, effort and persistence, we are but little better than the uncultivated native; devoid of self-respect, principle, honor or distinction, and subject to disappointment in confidence, in life, in business, in friends and in the future.

Keeping in mind, then, that conscientiousness is the goal of goodness, and goodness and purity the principles in the "golden rule," and the motto of "right" our beacon light, we will be enabled to "paddle our fragile bark" through the billows of adversity, despondency and despair, and gain the shore of distinction and honor; true to ourselves, our friends, our neighbors and the whole world.

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"Educated Suffrage."

BY ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

Let us attack every block in the way of woman's emancipation.

Walking in Paris one day, I was deeply impressed with an emblematic statue in the open square Chat-eau d'Eau, placed there in 1883, in honor of the republic. On one side is a magnificent bronze lion with his fore paw on the electoral urn, which answers to our ballot box, as if to guard it from all unholy uses. Having overturned all pretensions to royalty and nobility and all artificial distinctions between class and class and declared the rights of the people to have a voice in their laws and rulers, they exalted the idea of republican government and universal suffrage with this magnificent monument, the royal lion guarding the sacred treasures within the electoral urn, more valuable than crown or scepter, the votes of a great people. As I turned away, I thought of the American republic and our ballot box with no guardian or sacred reverence for its contents among the people. Ignorance, poverty and vice crowd its precincts, thousands from every incoming steamer march from the steerage to the polls, while educated women, representing the virtue and intelligence of the nation are driven away. I would like to see a monument to "educated suffrage" in front of our national capitol, guarded by the goddess Minerva, with her right hand resting on the ballot box, her left on the spelling book, the declaration of rights and the national constitution. It would be well for us to ponder the Frenchman's idea, but instead of the royal lion representing force, let us substitute wisdom and virtue in the form of woman.