

mind as the bright visions and fancies we entertain in childhood in regard to futurity.

If we were to take a retrospective view and dwell for a few moments in the recollections of our childhood, what a beautiful picture we would behold! Our sphere would become enlarged, and our hearts enraptured with the desires, hopes and beliefs we then entertained. Every one of us has some bright hopes or noble thoughts to recall. All of us, in childhood, cast our eyes beyond the horizon in whose radiant delineations we discerned great prospects and possibilities. Some of us cherished a vision, in some future day to become great generals, others philanthropists. Some entertained a bright fancy, in some distant day to become millionaires, while others found in the radiant beams hopes for something still greater.

When we arrive at manhood we realize that all our early imaginations and conceptions were only transitory. All our cherished wishes disappeared. All fancies blighted, all hopes vanished, and that we were only building castles in the air.

Thus the first act of a drama in life is closed.

The curtain rises again, and a second act is to be performed.

God contemplated all creation in goodness, and man especially. He invested him with some of His own attributes. It is, therefore, characteristic of mankind to long to achieve something worth while. We all realize that we have been placed in the world to accomplish something great. In the rising of the sun we discern in his radiating rays new hopes, new prospects and new possibilities; every object around us is ready to

do our bidding, nature smiles upon us, opportunities invite us to receive them. Notwithstanding all this, how unfortunate it is that so many men, when emerging from the prime of life, realize that they have been building castles in the air, that all was a dream, and in the utmost despairing pronounce the awful verdict that "Life is a failure."

It is, therefore, of great importance to ask ourselves what we must do in order to reach the pinnacle of our aspirations. This is the all-burning question which ought to be agitated in our hearts at the threshold of life. The solution of the problem can only be found in the cultivation to the utmost, the gifts the Almighty has given us, of which Truth, Honesty, Perseverance are pre-eminent. If we are sure that the desire to make something out of ourselves is not transitory, that it will not vanish at the moment opportunities may present themselves, which will enable us to carry out our plans, then we must not falter in our course. We must step out boldly and say "I will conquer as far as it lies in my power." We must act as though there were no obstacles in the way. It is the apparent lack of opportunities that spurs us to stronger exertions and animates us to higher activities. It is our moral duty to leave no stone unturned which will aid us in the work for which we are adapted, and thereby benefitting our fellow-men. As Horace Mann strikingly and very truly says, "beneficence is Godlike, and he who does most good to his fellow men is the master of masters, and has learned the art of arts."

After we shall have pursued a course like this there will be, I doubt not, a continuance of higher opportunities, an