

### Courage.

The eager interest with which we listen to tales of bravery and endurance illustrates the high esteem in which we all properly hold courage. The pioneer's sturdy conflict with the untried wilderness, the explorer's battles with arctic ice bergs, famine and cold, and with tropic fevers and the mighty beasts of the jungle; the soldiers' gallant charge or heroic defense amidst showers of bullets and the vast machinery of death; all these arrest our attention and claim our praise. All nations justly exalt their heroes. Into song and glory, into splendid monuments of art their achievements and victories have been wrought. Each age has some peculiar type of courage which exalts it above the rest, and we can trace something of the world's progress to the men to whom from time to time have been awarded the laurel crown of greatness.

As we advance in civilization we come to admire the higher and finer forms of courage that manifest themselves not only in the field of battle, but in the arena of daily experiences and life; courage that exhibits itself in the moral heroism that endured trials for truth, that sacrifices happiness for nobility, and love, that accepts conditions of lowliness and hardships for the sake of divine charity.

Caesar is at the head of one age because his conquests over-ran the world, Luther is deemed the lion hearted one because for liberty of conscience and the propagation of truth he defied the powers of Rome that then held sway over the civilized world; and Florence Nightingale, treading softly among the

slain and wounded on the battle field ministering to them the angel's blessings of mercy and peace is still a later hero, as grand and imposing as any of them. These were the strong hearted, the brave whose courage exhibited our nature in the loftiest attitude and action.

Columbus was a true hero, with the true courage in his heart. Alone and animated only by the great faith that was within him, he fought the prejudices of his age through a conflict that lasted nearly a lifetime. He never thought of surrender or despair. He was undismayed by the trackless unknown waters over which superstition pictured infinite perils, but pushed on with fearless and resistless will and gained his conquest. He knocked at the gates of the West and they opened to him the glory and the wealth of a continent.

This is the history of many a courageous life. In solitude, against prejudices and adverse conditions, against prejudices and adverse conditions, against temptations and in spite of loss, the moral hero wins his victory, maintains his virtue and faith and ultimately attains the triumph of a complete and noble character.

Again, there is a courage of character that is brave enough to be what it ought to be; it makes no pretention that it cannot sustain. Hypocrisy is the coward's refuge. Only a brave and true man can dare show himself what he is. Young men who resist the enticement of companions, who turn the lofty purpose against the sword thrust of a sneer, who choose some high and noble mis-