

Whenever for a while our thoughts turn upon self, what we are doing, and what we might do, we come to realize the fact that we are not doing as much as we might; that we have a tendency to indifference, to sluggishness, or to doing just what we have to and no more. The great majority of mankind will find this to be the case. Not, however that they let this hold them back in the world, but there is the tendency and it is to be overcome as it is by many many people, and it is to this class we wish to call your attention.

Man's first duty is to keep himself from the poor-house, from being a burden on society, to take care of himself soul, mind and body. And in one sense I mean by this that he is if possible, to get rich. Many good arguments are brought forward against this thing of getting rich, yet it is the duty of every person to do so if he can honorably. He is not to be content with having just enough to support himself and those dependent upon him, but is to have a surplus something with which to help others and



thus help himself. You may ask— if this is a duty of means, show us by what method he can best meet such a requirement? And the answer comes, among the many paths to wealth is the one of contriving, planning, or doing more than is necessary for any given time at any work you may be at. This applies everywhere, to all trades. You may be a carpenter, if so, then you are not only to strive to do the required work in the desired manner, but to do it better than is required.

If working ten hours a day it is not necessary just as the clock gives the first stroke of the hour six to stop half way across a board if drawing a line. Your employer will very soon see your manner of business, you will be honored, trusted, respected, and very soon rise high in your trade, and the discipline acquired in so doing you will find worth more to you, individually, than all your wages.

But this brings us to another point—that of skill acquired. For many years all kinds of work have tended to run into specialties. Instead of having one person doctor ears, eyes, every part of the body (besides setting



dislocations and amputating we have persons for each of these special cases and they are far better able to do good work. They have skill, and how was it acquired? Did they simply learn what a great many people know, what they necessarily have to know if they have any education in the line of surgery or doctoring? Or did they, besides the general, take one special thing, study, practice, observe, experiment, in fact doing all sorts of unnecessary things, that is things without which he would probably have lived, and made a living. Not only striving to do what might be done easily but what was difficult and to know how it could best be done. Let us for a moment follow out what must have been the life of some inventor as Robert Fulton. In his youth I imagine I see him a poor boy attending a public school. In his classes we find him, where, never at the bottom in any thing and in some things far from it. Developing his tendencies all but the indifferent ones. Finding out more than was to be found in his text books, they were his guides. Forming and



combining theories of his own. As he grows older his wealth accumulates thus enabling him to continue, and to better purpose, his great work. And what is the result? One of the greatest blessings ever conferred on mankind. And yet it was the result of a lifetime of toil simply for the advancement of the world. Or if you will take the archeologist or discoverer. It was not absolutely necessary for Robert Schliemann to spend many of the best years of his life unearthing ancient Troy and yet he did. From his very youth he mastered all indifferent tendencies he may have had, studied Greek, Latin, and many other languages after work hours and when older and by his untounded energy, weary, he did the unnecessary work that has done very much to throw light on ancient Grecian civilization. He has made the world far richer in knowledge than it ever was before. Nor was it at all necessary to the health or wealth of Christopher Columbus that America be discovered. Yet undaunted by sneers, undismayed by difficulties he carried out his beliefs and the world



afterwards recognized his victory.

A good example of the effects of doing and not doing the unnecessary things of life is furnished by the difference between the works of a man and a woman. We often hear and speak of the deeds and accomplishments of the great men of the world. Far less frequently does the work of a woman call forth praise from our matter-of-fact people.

Various reasons why such is the case have been given so I, also, will venture to give one. Woman has not done so much work for the advancement of civilization except in a moral and refining sense, as man.

She has not had the opportunity. No time or place for unnecessary work in her life. The great majority of women do house work and what house-wife finds time to develop her inventive or speculative tendencies and, as we all know, it is the carrying out of these that make the great and improved works of the world.

Man's work is all necessary. Man chooses his calling so the great things done in the world have been attributed to him with the idea that woman



could not if she would have done so much. So with the farmers, with them it has been routine work. No time or place for experimental, unnecessary, or speculative work. Thus their position now. Yet people wonder why they do not rise higher in the industrial scale.

Common politeness even requires us to do more than is absolutely necessary. It is not compulsory that any man (I do not say gentleman) lift his hat in speaking to ladies, or perform the many other little courtesies that mark him among people as a gentleman, and yet we know most of them do it. So it is all through life. It is the unnecessary things that have been done, that have made and so widened the gulf between the present civilization and man and primeval civilization and man. Our artists our surgeons our inventors in fact all our great and good men were not, could not, be content with doing just what they had to. But like all truly great people they have not only their own advancement but that of the world at heart.

Carrie Stingley.