

The Career of Life.

Every member of the human family, being the master-piece of a great workman, is endowed with the fundamental properties of a physical, moral, and intellectual development which characterize him from all other individuals.

What influence he is to wield in this world, what his ability to control, what will be the character of his usefulness to mankind, must depend largely upon the outgrowth of these endowments.

A rule found in the universe is that no two of anything are created alike. It is true that no two persons are to be found with the same tastes and desires, or an equal adaptability to fill certain positions in life. From this it is to be supposed that each individual is given some mission to perform aside from that of others.

When life is given to the infant mind there comes with it, no doubt

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of its meaning or realization of its extent. No tears are shed for the new life, it seems to be almost forgotten that it is placed in a broad world to contend with foes in the form of desires and passions which tend to rob life of all its pleasure. With blessings showered upon him he begins, in his innocence the career of life on earth's broad battle field.

Were it possible for him to be possessed of a far seeing eye that he might compass look forward and compass a life time, he would not find it one simple problem but a succession of parts made into one great whole. Each part having duties and responsibilities which belong to it alone. Were it possible, I say, would he not close his eyes now in the days of his infancy and hope never again to see the light.

But, as it is, he lives on unaware of all except what is found in the present moment. So only by degrees

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will he come to see what life holds in store for him. Now, he has but to gain a hold on life, whether after this he will pursue the course which will bring the best results must be determined by the environments he becomes subject to; these will either suppress the qualities he possesses or strengthen them.

From infancy he passes into that period of his life where he begins to grasp the meaning of surrounding things. It is youth, the time of preparation for life's work; it is the beginning of manhood. Now the idea of his relation to others dawns slowly and peacefully upon the still feeble mind and with this idea comes the comprehension of right and wrong.

The clay of which the character is to be moulded is now in a condition which will yield to every touch whether it be for its destruction or its upbuilding. Let the clay be touched by a firm but pure hand and kept

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unstained from the world and thus will result the lovely character of a perfect man, God's image. But let it harden and it becomes a useless mass of clay; hardened then marred, perhaps, by the cruel hand of destiny and its unfitness for the good of man is confirmed.

So we see the importance of a careful training or discipline in youth. This duty of the formation of character devolves mostly upon those connected with the home, the mother more often performs this task. In no other period of the life of an individual is it of so much importance that the influence exerted upon him be for the best. Under the guidance of a mother's wise counsel, if it be so, the young life so like a tender flower bud begins to unfold, to develop. Here is the first work of education, it is the leading out of the natural powers given him

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by his creator.

With sadness do we review of
the life of one whose youth was
spoiled by unkind hands. Nor
was only the life of the youth made
unhappy but the wonderful prospects
of a useful manhood were blighted;
— those of Lord Byron. Had the
genius he possessed been encouraged
and his better qualities been culti-
vated instead of the baser ones, Eng-
land might now point with pride
to her sons name and call him
her greatest poet. As it is, she
says to read his poems there is
genius there; we add, nothing
more. No beauty of character, no
consciousness as to right and wrong.

The youth must not be taught that
it is human to err by which he
may do wrong and hold all human-
ity accountable, but instead he should
be instructed that we do not err
of necessity but as a matter of will.
Thus he is taught of the accountability

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of his actions.

In youth physical training must be given due attention. Firm and rigid laws have been laid down by nature and they must be obeyed or punishment will follow. It is to be understood that the body is a delicate piece of mechanism which is to produce work according to the care with which it is regarded, and too, that it cannot be forced to produce more work than was intended. Youth as well as manhood has often disregarded this latter fact. It comes from the desire to accomplish too much in too short a time. Young America has often done two days work and study in one, regardless of the evil effects on mind and body. Intemperance in any direction makes the will feeble, the mind learns to despise its work and the senses refuse to act quickly as manhood approaches.

Youth is so full of expectations, so eager to take up the full responsibilities

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ties of life that it sometimes pushes ahead of its years. We Americans people now constituting a part of our life as a nation may be said to be in our youth. We push forward with our work till the whole world rings with the results of our energies. The ~~to~~ whistle of the steam-engine can be heard over nearly the whole extent of these United States. Cities come into existence without a brief struggle, are maintained, and made to grow by the persistency and push-forwardness of the American people. Casual observers say that is the way of the world, the law of youth being exemplified in the life of a nation.

In the life of an individual this period of fervor somewhat wanes, education ceases to some extent, the opportunity comes to exert his power in public affairs; this realization of natural and political powers is manhood, what will be

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his position is determined in the New World by the education of his natural powers, in the Old, by his birth.

We find some to be possessed of attributes far superior to the ordinary intellect of mankind. All cannot touch the human heart with the sweet melody of poetry; that was the mission of Tennyson, Bryant, Longfellow. But few can produce wonderful inventions for the world's good as did Morse and Edison.

Michael Angelo and Millet could paint beautiful pictures, it is for others but to admire. In other

If one is may be the power to give comfort to those around them.

If one is endowed with qualities which make him a creature apart from and above his fellow-men the world will soon evidence of the fact. As some one has expressed it "Nature never sends a great man into the world without confiding the secret to another soul."

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Many a true and noble soul has been urged on to its life work by the encouragement given him by his fellow-men as perhaps by the sympathetic spirit of the public. But as often too has public opinion allured the mind from some ennobling purpose to stop to the "whims" of the public. We find this to be an important influence upon a man's career, more especially perhaps in the political world.

Now, perhaps is the most important part of a man's life as the right of citizenship devolves upon him and he becomes subject to the laws of the government which gives him this privilege. Under the government of these United States he is given protection to life liberty and property. Life in so far as it is a privilege to enjoy the freedom of its laws but it declares this right no longer his if he might his life for the maintenance of the union. What true citizens of this great nation would cling to this right at such a time!

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As the career of life draws to a close, old age comes as a time for completing the work begun here and so nearly ended. The rounded life of usefulness is full of good works throughout all periods, youth, manhood and old age.

In looking over the accounts found in history of the lives of those whom the world calls great we find but few who completed a great work while young. Henry Ward Beecher, after long years of toil, went to his heavenly rest in the very midst of his great work here on earth.

It is not just to believe that all were created for some purpose and that he gives to mankind the richest blessing who leaves here the record of a useful noble life. (Finis)

Maudie E. Knickerbocker.