

How suggestive is this bit of history in view of the struggles, the trials and temptation the present failures but final victory of the true earnest man of the nineteenth century, who has an alleviating aim in life towards the accomplishment of which he bends his every energy. Take for example, the life of Abraham Lincoln.—Born in extreme poverty, he early learned the blessedness of toil. At the age of twenty he could but barely read and write; yet he felt that there was that in his mental which would one day make him famous provided it had but a chance, to use his own words "he gained his education as it became necessary." Noted for his uprightness, his manliness, and his justice alike to friend or foe; he was firm in his convictions and ever true to himself, his purpose and his God. Thus unknown and unappreciated he struggled to make for himself a name. Is it any wonder that he succeeded? We see conferred upon him the highest honors that nation can bestow upon any of its citizens. Lincoln reached through his own earnest efforts, that pinnacle of worldly fame, which to the poor rail-splitter must have seemed a thousand times more difficult of attainment than did Italy seem to Hannibal. Finally, when death came, the soldier and statesman was mourned as America never mourned for another of her sons.

Lincoln raised himself from among the thousands by toiling on while others rested. Like the Carthaginian he climbed his Alps having success for his watchword, and at last beheld spread out below him;—all that a loving nation could offer in honor to his ability: truly

"Honor and fame from no condition rise,  
Act well your part, there all the honor lies"

I glory in being of a nation so enlightened by God's mercy as to make such a life possible.

That he who was born on a soil so poor that naught but chickweed would grow there, could by his own earnest efforts raise himself to be chief ruler of the nation whose government is, "of the people, by the people, and for the people, is a thing of which an American may justly be proud.

I thank God that we who are so surrounded with other blessings have Lincolns and Washingtons and Franklins and Grants to whose examples we must look for encouragement and help when we feel our courage waning in the struggle of life. Then it is that we should remember that our deeds are but stepping stones on the one hand to something higher and nobler, on the other to something lower. Every man has thus his Alps and his Italy, and in so far as his motives lead him upward and onward to manly effort in just so far are they a blessing to himself and those around him.

Had we no high motives and were there no obstacles to the attainments of wishes we should be but little better than the beasts of the field which neither sow nor reap.

The world needs no more drones, for a life of ease is conducive neither to a noble career nor a brilliant man. If you wish to see the great minds of to-morrow, look upon those youths of to-day who are putting forth their best efforts to secure for themselves that training so little prized and sought after by their so called more fortunate brethren; those who plunge heart and hand into their work with the purpose of making the world recognize them.

He who sits idly by waiting for "a chance" has a long wait; but the youth who grasps to-day's difficulties with a firm hand and does his best to succeed is bound to do so. "Quit ye like men, be brave;" brave as Hannibal was brave; have a purpose and let naught swerve you from it; climb slowly and steadily, never looking back and time will tell the story.

Says Col. Geo. W. Bain; "So find me the poorest boy in Philadelphia; let him pledge me that he will be industrious, honest, economical and sober and in twenty years hence you will find him honored and well to do in life."

Such are the opportunities of the American youth. Who does not envy him his birthright? surely the poet must have had him in mind when he said;