

tests of life, we see men, alas! how often, who fail for lack of reserve power, who fall short of success from early exhaustion, from the lack of that accumulated power which alone can fit them to meet any unexpected draft upon their abilities. In the composition of an army, one of the first essentials to effective action is a well constituted reserve force. It must be composed of picked men, well trained veterans, with a cool, sagacious leader who can at any moment be thrown into the thick of the fight to sustain a faltering legion or to overpower a momentarily victorious enemy.

Such a force, its numbers, and the perfection of its discipline often determines whether a battle shall be gained or lost shall end in victory or in defeat. Who, acquainted with the campaigns of Napoleon does not know how often conquering legions were turned back and faltering battalions cheered and strengthened by the timely assistance of the resistless Imperial Guard and that his defeat at the battle of Waterloo was owing to a great extent to the diminished and enfeebled condition of that brave band. Life is a warfare, and in this warfare are many decisive moments, when success or failure, victory or defeat must hinge upon our reserve power. In the senate, in the pulpit, at the bar, in every sphere of activity, he only can be successful behind whose van and corps of battle is heard the steady tramp of the army of the reserve. Do we realize this truth? Is it one which young America emphasizes and acts upon?

Do we, in laying our plans for the campaign of life, stationing our pickets and our guards, make provision for the reserve corps, or do we, marking out one line of procedure, throw all our powers into the fighting line of battle, with the vain hope that nothing will interfere to thwart our plan, and that therefore we shall succeed in life? Do we lay in abundant stores of knowledge, with which to begin professional life and by constant

effort add daily to the sum, or do we intellectually speaking, live from hand to mouth? Do not many of us, even in our school life, cram for each special occasion like a fat turkey stuffed for Thanksgiving and starved for the remainder of the year? Do we not invest our physical mental and moral capital in our business, rather than reserve a part in the bank to fall back upon in case of an emergency? I fear we do. But when I assert that the reserve power is the great essential to make life successful, I am prepared to give good reasons for so concluding.

For instance: it is the easiest and most economical way of carrying on life's campaign. To serve a long and weary apprenticeship to any calling, to spend years in training one's self for duty, we know costs effort and self-denial. But is it not the cheapest in the end? Is it not easier in the long run, to be than to seem? Does not every lazy schoolboy and every shiftless student spend more time and energy in trying to avoid showing his ignorance, than would be necessary to master his lessons. Does not a mechanic, who slight his work, really take more pains to conceal this slight than he would need to take to do his work well? Is it not the case in all pursuits of life that the half informed man, the man who has no reserve power, must do infinitely more labor to conceal his ignorance than he would do to acquire the general knowledge, which he lacks? Add to this the constant fear of having one's ignorance detected and is it not far easier to prepare the reserve power with which to withstand dangers? Conscious of its possession, we can brave them without fear. We need not run from them.

But in the age of "fast men" is this the popular doctrine? Is it the belief of American youths, generally, that it is better to toil painfully and slowly up the hill of science, gleaning a fact here and a fact there, and accumulating besides the little stream of ideas in our line of business, a vast reservoir of knowledge upon