

which to draw in case of an emergency? Or do we, as a nation, hastily gather a few facts, and, with them as a fighting squad, rush hurriedly into our profession, whatever it may be? Such is really the case.

And this is one reason,—not, of course, the only one, but quite a formidable reason,—for so many failures. This is one reason why so many young men choose the profession of the law and after a short trial conclude that they are too honest to be lawyers. Why so many authors, so many poets, so many teachers, ministers, so many men in every profession utterly fail. Again, reserve power gives greater force and effect to power in action. No effect, however great, ever makes a grand impression upon us, unless we can feel that behind the power shown therein is a still greater force capable of producing nobler results. No one can look with admiration on a race horse that shows by his panting that his powers have been exerted to the utmost, nor can we reverence the locomotive that, seemingly, writhes and groans beneath its load. However great any accomplishment may be, we can not regard its author with profound respect, but rather with a feeling mingled with pity, unless we can feel that he is capable of greater things, that his powers have not been exerted to the utmost, but that he has still a reserve power waiting in readiness for any emergency. I might illustrate this by the public speaker. You can not reverence his production, however able it may be, unless behind it you see in your mind a man capable of producing better. You cannot love a picture that indicates to you that all the fountains of the artist's power are exhausted therein. The beauty of a piece of architecture, however grand it may be, is marred, unless you can conceive its author as a being capable of better things.

In the late Prussian war it was not the Prussian needle gun, destructive as it is that achieved such brilliant victories, but the well disciplined Prussian soldier,

the man behind the gun. And gazing upon its terrible effects and seeing also the man capable of making them more terrible, when the necessities of the case demanded, we pronounced the gun itself wonderful. And so I might go on and give scores of examples but space forbids. Reserve power, again, even when it cannot prevent defeat, will save rout and despair. When a military man throws all his force into the fight he has no resource in case he is beaten. But the man with a well arranged reserve force, will fight more and more valiently after each overthrow, and though, like Washington, he may lose more battles than he wins, will organize victory in defeat and will triumph in the end.

So a man possessed of a broad reservoir of reserve knowledge may fail in an attempt time and again. He may be defeated in his efforts, but the consciousness that fresh energies are still at his command will permit him to retire gracefully from the field of action and will, moreover, cause him to renew his efforts, time after time, till they are crowned with success. As an example of this I would cite you to the Rev. Rob't Hall, one of the most celebrated ministers of England. His first and second attempts in the pulpit were ignominious failures. But, knowing that he had reserve power, had knowledge not yet called into play, he tried the third time, and from that moment took his high stand both in the English pulpit and in the renown of the world.

A memorable illustration of the value of reserve power was given in the U. S. Senate in 1830, in a debate concerning the sale of public lands. The man who illustrated this was Daniel Webster. He had made a few remarks upon the subject, to which Mr. Hayne replied in quite a brilliant speech. In fact, he attacked Mr. Webster and his arguments even to bitterness. But Webster, conscious of his power, sat calmly by, and, as the eyes of his anxious friends were cast upon him