

they almost reproachfully pronounced him calm even to indifference. But his calmness was only the repose of conscious power, which was afterwards to show itself in might. At the close of Mr. Hayne's speech every one would have pronounced Webster vanquished. But not so. He rose, and throwing into action at this emergency those well equipped latent powers, his reserve force, he replied in such a speech as has seldom been known in the annals of history. And swelling with eloquence, his arguments bore down all opposition and made him completely victorious.

But, do you ask how this reserve force is to be gathered and trained? I answer, in many ways. It may be acquired by hard study. Capital, whether financial or mental, is the result of hard labor. And, in order to acquire and maintain this capital, we must put forth constant efforts. It is idle to suppose that, because you are not a born genius, you can never rise to eminence. If you could see the minds and the hearts of those, to whom the world applies that name, if you could know their secret trials and conquests, you would realize that, to a great extent, genius lies in the will. Show me the young man, who exerts himself to the utmost in acquiring knowledge, and I will show you the man that will make his mark in the world, one who will gain reserve power, and one that will be prepared for any emergency he may encounter.

Again, it may be gained by meditation. Americans, as a nation, do not take time to think. We are the most impatient people under the sun. Amid the click of the telegraph, the whistle of the locomotive and the whirl of machinery, we "either take no time to gain knowledge or else we pour constantly into the cask, and leave no time for arrangement." Many men possess stores of knowledge, but for want of logical arrangement it is of no use to them. "Wisdom," it is said, "cometh by opportunity of leisure," and the

ripest thought comes from the mind, not always on the stretch, but fed at times by a wise passiveness. Then let us take time to think.

But the great method of acquiring reserve power is by the concentration of the energies upon some one thing. And yet while this is done, you must be careful to avoid mental narrowness. The mind, like the body, requires variety of food. There is no calling or profession, which, if followed exclusively, will not warp and contract the mind. And here a great many mistake concentration of energy for energy in one direction. I will illustrate the difference by an object in nature. The end to be attained in the growth of a tree is height and to this end all the energies of the plant are concentrated. But do they develop height exclusively? No. By a harmonious arrangement of forces too numerous to mention, it puts forth spreading branches and forms the beautiful well-shaped giant of the forest. This is the concentration of nature's forces, but if, interfering with these, we had pruned off the branches, leaving only the naked main-stalk, we should have had what? An illshaped pole, perhaps taller by far than nature's beautiful tree, but, for the lack of symmetry despised, and useless. This represents the exertion of force only in one direction.

Then choose your calling, whatever it may be, let your energies tend to develop you through it into a strong, symmetrical being. As the oak puts forth its branches on every side, so let your channels of knowledge reach out in every direction.

Rest assured that when the hour of trial comes, no fact you can acquire and logically arrange, will prove itself unworthy either of the effort required to obtain it, or its position in your battalion of reserve forces. Exerting yourself thus, cultivating all the good and noble qualities that would make you useful in any direction, choosing and nobly pursuing any just calling and securing yourself with the reserve power of knowledge on every im-