

portant subject, you will not, can not fail to arrive at true success. J. P. A.

Concentration.

By concentration we mean the act of adhering to some definite and well defined aim. One of the most important requisites to success at this period of advancement, is the directing of all one's efforts to one thing, then steering straight through, allowing nothing to draw him from the road which he has marked out for the journey.

It has been said: "A great deal of the wisdom of man is displayed in leaving things undone, and a great deal of his practical sense by leaving things unknown." The truth of this is inevitable. The day for universal knowledge has passed. Man can no longer leap to fame at a single bound. All can see at once the fallacy of advocating universal education, when they consider the complexity of the work to be performed at the present day.

A man may have the most brilliant talent, but if he attempts to excel in too many things, his work will result in failure. The steam that is seen, as it slowly and gently rises, expanding, filling such a vast amount of space, seemingly powerless, when confined in a boiler, becomes a giant force, causing the earth to tremble when it moves.

"Be a whole man at everything" was the advice of a celebrated Englishman to his son at school. Mathews says: "It is just what distinguishes the shabby, half-hearted and blundering from those who win victories." We have but to consider the numerous failures resulting from the lack of concentration to concede the latter statement. At this period of strong competition, man should use his force in the most effective and economical way, and this is done by bringing all his power to bear on one point. In speaking of the importance of sticking to one one thing, we do not mean for a man to be simply a teacher, or a preacher, and nothing

more, rather take in all that tends toward his object, being careful at the same time not to lose sight of the more important items by having a significant one too near the eye. Switch off and travel different roads as long as they lead to the same object, and thus have varying activities conducing to the same result.

He, who would strike the world forcibly must stick to one thing. In the vocabularies of such men there is no such word as fail. Lord Chatham, in reply to a colleague, who told him that a certain thing could not be done, replied: "I trample upon impossibilities." He, who would succeed in his well chosen occupation, must not start out in life's active march expecting to glide along on the merits of some one else, but it is necessary that he should, rely on himself for his knowledge and constantly renew his energy, not too anxious for results, but learn to be patient, for this in itself is a noble quality, which few acquire.

How many at the present day fail to complete our common college courses, because they grow too anxious for something else for which they are not prepared. There was never, probably, a time in the world's history when such thorough preparation for any profession was needed, as at the present time. "The world," as Emerson says, "is no longer clay, but rather iron, in the hands of its workers and men have got to hammer out a place for themselves by steady and rugged blows." H.

Improvement.

This is a subject upon which we may well pause and reflect. This age is one of improvement, yet while many great and cultivated minds have been engaged in this work there is still much need of laborers in this vast and unbounded field. Individuals make the nation, and in order to facilitate its improvement socially, morally and politically, we individually must look carefully to our own progress.