

well her capacity, and without some extraordinary obstacle, his trip is sure. So we, before entering the active strife of life on our own responsibility, before launching our bark into the great unknown, are tried. Yes, are tried in our social intercourse, in our daily walks, in the various class rooms, in the society halls, all this is but a preparatory course, employed as a means which, says Emerson, "will bring success." The College is the means of developing special faculties. Some we see employing their mathematical skill, others excelling in Literature, still others in Science, while all who show extraordinary ability in one direction at the same time display a weakness in others. The cases are rare where you find one excelling in all these branches of culture. Hear Emerson: "A man is like a bit of Labrador Spar—which has no lustre as you turn it in your hand until you come to a certain angle, then it shows deep and beautiful colors."

There is no universal applicability in men, but each has his special talent and the mastery of successful men consists in keeping them where they shall be most often practiced. Says Mathews: "The first thing to be done by him who would succeed in life, is to make a wise choice of professions." And this, we apprehend, is one of the most difficult, if not the most important, problems which he is called upon to settle, now he is to decide which angle shows the deepest colors. This he cannot trust to parents, friends or teachers. Long should he ponder the broadness of his shoulders, learn accurately the weight they can sustain, for, on this decision depends, to a great extent his success; and, how often is this decision biased by ambitious parents, who desire that their son should forsake the more lowly walks of life and display his greatness by the choice of some noble profession. So, he is prodded through a course of Latin, regardless of his own choice and fitness, settles down in his profession to drag out a miserable existence

and is chagrined in the end by a failure in life. Thus, results innumerable cases from this and similar causes. I presume, in making this choice, at least two questions arise, out of which spring others.

First, will it furnish us a respectable living?

Second, will it serve as a means for pursuing that course of study giving us that degree of culture for which so many seek?

These things being favorable, the question must be settled as to ability, course of preparation, physical strength, natural adaptation. For, says Mathews, "'Our wishes are presentiments of our capabilities' is a noble maxim." How often do we fail to see both sides of the picture in any profession, looking only at the brightest lines, repelling the darker scenes, smoothing over the most unfavorable parts. And enter the calling only half awake to some of the stern realities. But ere you have followed it long you realize the real nature of your profession, and find it not what you were looking for.

"If you choose to represent the various callings in life," says Sidney Smith, "by holes in a table of different shapes, some triangular, some circular, some square, some oblong, and the persons acting the various parts, by bits of wood of the same shape, we shall find generally the triangular bit in the oblong hole, the oblong bit in the triangular hole, the square bit trying to squeeze into the same hole." We are all desirous of bettering our situation, eager to grasp something higher, anxious for something better. It was this desire that led the Pilgrim fathers to cross the wide expanse of water, it was this desire that led Panthadolaon to wander over Florida in search of the fabled spring, the waters of which would cause the burden of years to fall from him. It is this that leads the son of the farmer to the counting room, it is this that induces college students to abandon their course on the very threshold to engage in Law, Medicine or Journalism. Let us look to it that by this