

that the cities are filled with those out of employment, that professions are overstocked and that pay is inadequate.—Many persons, finding that the way to the calling, for which they are by nature intended, is by no means devoid of difficulties, supinely succumb, and either fritter away their time in some calling for which they possess neither ability nor enthusiasm, or they sink still lower and get along in the easiest manner possible. These complaints are assigned as an extenuation of idleness, and are productive thereof.

Now, with respect to the first, we ask: is there any real need of flocking to the city, simply because of the allurements it holds out, and these often fallacious? It is too often the ambition of the young man to go to the city and get a place as the employee of some business firm, rejecting the prospects of humbler yet oftener more solid advantages to be attained in the country. As a natural result, the respective growth of country and city is disproportionate. In the latter, the crowds of competitors force compensation to a very low level, and, when business suffers, a general stringency is the consequence. The recent plague of tramps, to which we have already alluded, was owing to this cause.

Now, much of this can be avoided. Let the young man about to start in life carefully examine the comparative advantages of country and city before he yields to the alluring glamour of the latter. He will then find that the former holds out more and better openings for him than the latter,—we have reference chiefly to the large city. If he does not like the neighborhood in which he has been placed, let him remove to another, yet he need not necessarily go to the verge of civilization. There is a demand, in most parts of our country, for people to settle in them and develop still farther their resources, for, as yet, they are by no means exhausted.

Now, as to the second complaint, that the professions are overstocked, it is only

a few that are in this condition. If nine-tenths of our collegiates, instead of rushing to the bar, regardless of the eternal fitness of things, would turn to other professions,—and such there are,—that stand in need of diligent and faithful persons, we would hear less of this cry. There is no need of yielding to the allurements of a few overstocked professions, while others, just as honorable if not always so lucrative, await one. The complaint of insufficient reward is dependent on the two causes just given, and the remedy for all these would go hand in hand.

For the crowds of idlers from principle, which we everywhere find, the remedy lies only in a proper education of the young which involves a due observance of the Hebrew maxim.

It is a curious as well as noteworthy fact in the history of the Hungarian city of Debrotin, that previous to the Hungarian revolt, it did not contain a single beggar in its population of fifty thousand while none were rich and none felt the stings of poverty. This singular prosperity was attributed to an old law which forbade that any citizen should own more than one hundred and sixty acres of land. The facts that we have considered teach us the instructive lesson, that were all parts of the body politic expanded in a more due proportion, were a proper judgment exercised in the choice of a calling, and were the young habituated more to habits of industry and sobriety, and the necessity of early choosing an honest calling, idleness could be almost entirely avoided.

Scripture and reason alike condemn it; the former everywhere extols and enjoins honest industry, while reason and experience tell us that agreeable employment of body and mind is in the highest degree beneficial to both. There is occupation and room for all, were a little pains taken to find them.

M.