

expectation that he will be able to guide them through the storm. And as the sky is darkened by the growing tempestuous clouds, finding themselves suddenly plunged into the foaming sea of rebellion, they lay their lives, and their fortunes at his feet, asking his time, his talents, and his skill to lead them into port. Leadership of this kind, we may say, never devolves solely upon one individual, yet they who lead are few and they who follow, many. Who then shall attempt to measure the responsibility of the leader, upon whose decision in a particular crisis may depend the happiness or misery, life or death of a whole nation. When he accepts his position, he accepts its responsibilities, and must meet them in order to be loyal to his trust. He who assumes these duties should be one of those whose clear perceptions and keen insight enables him to observe the coming tempest in the cloud, when no larger than a man's hand, and whose precision of reason and calmness of judgment holds in check the impetuosity of himself and advisers, which otherwise might plunge the people into needless rebellion at a useless cost of life.

Men have been found, even in the short career of our American republic, who were capable, willing, and perhaps anxious, to take their places at the head and lead the people on to success. Such were Washington, Green, Wayne and Putnam of the revolution. Not only do they work for fame, but they feel that these are incumbent duties which they must discharge, in order to acquit themselves creditably before the bar of their own consciences. What was the self-sacrificing spirit of Hugh Mercer? A day or two before his death, he said: "We are not engaged in a war of ambition, gentlemen, if we were, I should not be here. Every man should be content to serve in that station where he can be most useful. For my part, I have but one object in view, and that is the success of the cause. God can witness how cheerfully I would

lay down my life to secure it." Such a sentiment uttered by a leader has a wondrous effect upon subordinates. It gives the leader power in his command, and character with the world at large. The humble soldier in his private capacity, inhaling the same atmosphere, imbibing the same sentiments and being inspired with the same faith, courage, and hope, by such utterances, fills his office with equal merit. The grander and nobler impulses of his soul seek the accomplishment of the desired end. He serves faithfully and honestly till the oil of life has burned away, and now as the light is extinguished and he enters his grave, let us not withhold that which is due.

What has been said of military operations applies equally well to the intercourse of men in all its bearings and aspects. There are the leaders and the led, the governors and the governed, the protectors and the protected, the teachers and the pupils, all members of the human family, demanding a share in its joys and pleasures, as well as its sorrows and griefs. The leaders are called upon to bring order and beauty out of the chaos of conflict. In other words, they are, to a great extent, the adjusters and protectors of society, and the moulders of human character and destiny. The legislator, the jurist, the journalist, the moral and religious teachers and the professors of all our higher institutions of learning—these have all taken a stand as leaders in the progress of the world, and consequently have assumed the corresponding responsibilities. They have positions high and sacred. They must therefore execute their work with the utmost fidelity and caution in order to sustain pure and irreproachable characters. They should be advancing, adjusting and developing in order to draw out all the latent forces of society, thus securing the blessings of civil and religious liberty to men. They should be men of wisdom and integrity, and worthy of the confidence and trust of the common people.