

Wealth may secure many an enviable position; but he who courts her favors alone, will find her ever a fickle goddess. To-day you may be her most favored subject, to-morrow banished from her dominion. Who bases the security of his position upon her caprice—be it political or social,—will find to his sorrow, sooner or later, that he is resting upon a sandy foundation.

Knowledge may gain what wealth never can. For the world is ever charitable to him who may be the happy possessor of this jewel, for:

"Man's genius flashes brighter
Than the diamond of an Earl."

Knowledge paves the way for the greatest influence; she opens her portals to the great mass of humanity through which they may pass out from darkness into the light; from the low and grovelling up to a higher plane of excellence and beauty. She leads the mind out of bondage into freedom of thought; dispelling superstition for the exercise of reason; depending not upon blind assertion, but by penetrating investigation piercing into the hidden mysteries of things around, converting the narrow and selfish into broad and charitable beings, elevating, refining, ennobling until she has transformed the narrow and contracted minds into the broadest of intellects. But he who seeks to win his way through the world by her fostering care alone; who climbs to high eminence by no other than the mighty power she places in his hands, will find that he yet lacks the true touchstone of greatness. The very element that makes him a man. What are all the world's honors, if, in gaining them, we lose the world's esteem?

It is character alone that elevates. What is the greatness of wealth, the glory of high rank and distinction, even the reverence and esteem which knowledge may beget, in comparison with nobleness of character? The lives of many of our public men in whom we have placed the highest confidence, whom we have been

ever willing to honor, reveal many a dark and defacing blot over which the world has kindly thrown the mantle of charity. Webster, the champion of American rights and liberties, to satisfy an unconquerable ambition, sank so low in the scale of honor as to draw from the pen of Whittier the most scathing rebuke. Burr worked his way to the second place in the gift of his country, only to fall to the degradation of a traitor, a victim to a jealous spirit, that could brook no superior. If the veil of obscurity, that hides the actions of some of our present public officers could be lifted, it would reveal many a secret plot for bribing and theft; men selling their birthright of honor and esteem for the mess of pottage of a few paltry dollars and a false and short-lived glory. To whatever eminence we may attain, if, to attain it, we have sacrificed the greatest of all manly virtues—a noble character, we have failed. But, in keeping the character unsullied, we have more than conquered, though the world never hears of our existence; for God and angels will give us glorious approval.

Then, to attain to the highest position is but to live nobly, meeting manfully every obligation, fighting bravely against all obstacles, holding truth and its cause dearer than personal gain.

"What is noble?—to inherit
Wealth, estate, and proud degree?
There must be some other merit
Higher yet than these for me!
Something greater far must enter
Into life's majestic span,
Fitted to create and centre
True nobility in man!"

What is noble? That which places
Truth in its enfranchised will!
Leaving steps—like angel's traces
That mankind may follow still!
E'en through Scorn's malignant glances
Prove him poorest of his clan,
He's the *Noble* who advances
Freedom and the cause of man."