

tracts appetite, and thought digests them, carrying their debilitating poison into the soul's structure, distorting, perverting and dwarfing the moral nature. But instead of being thus prostituted, the mind may be trained to such modes and habits of thinking as to admire the really admirable, to love the good and true, and to find expansion and exercise in communion and real sympathy with the most beautiful objects in nature, and the noblest productions of art, a persistent culture of which is needed before the higher results will appear in its elevating influences upon the mind, rendering the soul sensitively alive to such impressions.

Soul structure is the most important interest we have—requires the most strenuous personal effort, and that effort directed to the full, free, and harmonious development of every spiritual capability of our nature. *Here*, if anywhere, we are to regain our likeness to God, and here it is most emphatically true that every human soul must be its own architect.

C. T.

The Struggles of Life.

Standing on the verge of a Rubicon of doubt, are many who pause, undecided whether to cross and enter into the great battle of life with an earnest zeal and purpose, or to retrace steps already advanced, hopelessly giving up an ambitious desire or longing, which may at one time have been the all-absorbing interest of their minds. They fear to leap the gulf of uncertainty for fear of disastrous consequences, and therefore remain silent spectators of the strife beyond.

In the varied phases of life, much is seen to stir and excite to highest longings the aspiring nature of man, and lend encouragement to those not the most bold to do and dare. Much also is observed to discourage even the boldest heart, who would aspire to reach the "lofty heights of fame." For one without influence, and yet surrounded by a world of indifference,

as well as by the embarrassment of poverty, who is desirous to attain to a certain sphere of eminence and usefulness among the learned and great, the outlook indeed is not the most favorable. Struggles which will demand almost superhuman efforts to pass through; temptations to be borne, and their allurement's to be overcome; and multitudinous difficulties to be encountered, that tower to prodigious heights to overshadow the highway of success.

But should that spirit in man which is ever seeking after something better and nobler, be crushed in its earliest aspirations for something higher, and all because the highway of attainment is not smooth and unnumbered by obstructions? Common sense teaches us the contrary, and that all should set before them a high standard of attainment, and endeavor, by noble, vigorous exertions, to reach as nearly as possible the object in view. A nation's welfare, even existence itself, depends largely on the aspiring, striving nature of its people.

The experience of a young man in his attempt to rise from poverty and obscurity to renown, is often one of discouragement. Friendly manifestations toward him, and cheering words, are apt to be deferred until he has attained distinction, and shown his ability; and not accorded him when such would be indeed a blessing. In deciding a certain pursuit of business, in which we would engage, natural inclination should be consulted before the unsolicited advice of others. "Know thyself" is an injunction directly applicable here. If it is desired to lead a professional life because of inclination rather than of pecuniary consideration, the better is the prospect of success. "The professions are crowded" are words to be heard on every hand. It is true: filled to overflowing with men who seek to live without labor, and so lower the standing of the professions with their inability and indisposition to energetic work. There is room for proper talent and industry in