

Caesar is made Dictator for life, he asks the question, will Caesar be satisfied with the conquests already made? Will the doors of the temple of Janus be opened? Or will one-half of the world be heavily taxed to require the rest of the world to submit to the same grinding despotism under which they were groaning.

In modern history we see Napoleon, arising from the lowest ranks of society, overcoming obstacle after obstacle, and raising himself by his own will to a height where the imaginative novelist would not dare to place his most ambitious hero. It is often said that no practical use can be made of history beyond the mere knowledge that a certain event happened one year, one hundred or a thousand years ago.

Cicero said: "that to be ignorant of what happened before ones birth is nothing less than to remain in a state of childhood." I believe that man was created into this world for the formation of character. If the aim, the true end of life is to form character, then the study of the lives of persons either present or past as a guide to form our own characters, is one of the most important and useful of the studies of science. \* \*

### IDLENESS.

Of those habits which foster the lower desires of man, and are productive of turbulence and crime, one of the most powerful is idleness. It tends to make him a cipher in this world of ours, when he was designed to be industrious and useful. Labor, though originally a curse, is an incalculable blessing. By furnishing man with useful and ennobling employment, it helps him to become intelligent and virtuous, and tends to prevent him from giving way to those degrading motives which otherwise would govern his actions.

The most industrious communities will always be found the most vigorous, prosperous and intellectual. The nations which have most distinguished them-

selves in the paths of civilization have occupied countries possessing a temperate climate and a soil but moderately fertile. Hence, they were compelled to struggle for a maintenance, and this very exercise developed their inventive talents, taught them habits of industry and enterprise, and, by promoting intelligence, paved the way for a higher culture. But where climate is more genial, soil more fertile and nature consequently more lavish in her gifts, man is less compelled to make use of his own resources, and, thereby, acquiring habits of indolence, becomes less progressive and, without external assistance, does not reach so high a plane of culture as the less favored denizen of the North. It is in temperate regions that civilization has reached its highest development.

Idleness has ever played a prominent part in the causes that have operated to hurl nations once powerful into degradation and ruin. Look, if you will, at old Rome. In the early days of the republic, when its people were strong, hardy and comparatively poor, her vitality was great and her power irresistible. And though the early Romans were averse to manufacturing pursuits, they yet held agriculture in the highest esteem, and their chieftains were not ashamed to be found at the plow. But when the wealth of their conquered tributaries began to flow into their coffers, labor was regarded as beneath the dignity of a Roman citizen and was performed chiefly by slaves or neglected. As a result of this cause, the capitol was flooded by swarms of innumerable idlers, who were often supported by the government. They constituted a restless, turbulent class, ever ready when the country was shaken by civil commotions, to serve the highest bidder, no matter what his cause might be. A disturbed and ruinous condition of government followed as a natural consequence.

But this illustration, though forcible, is remote. Other and similar scenes have often been enacted in the world's history and serve to illustrate the turmoil and