

capable of doing much good in the cause of humanity. Then if we possess these qualities, may we let them shine out before the world, that our hands may not be stained with the blood of a fallen race.

Look in yonder orchard. Just admire that beautiful tree loaded with delicious fruit. Here is the large, plump and fair apple which you long to taste as soon as the eye falls upon it. There is another, which presents a far different aspect. It is small, knotty and badly formed. Once thus bid as fair to be large and fine as the other. The bud and blossom were there, but from some unforeseen cause it was, as it were, nipped in the bud, and behold the result; one beautiful and longed for, the other withered and despised.

Again, pick up an ear of corn. It presents a fine appearance, yet it is somewhat defective. Here you find a grain missing; there, one partly developed, and so on. But as the grain of corn stands related to the ear; as the apple to the tree; so we stand related to the world. Yet, while the apple, or grain of corn, which corresponds to the mortal body, may not be fully developed, and for which nature must answer, yet, for the developing of the nobler part of man, the great elevating principle, we, standing as we do amidst the intelligence of the universe, are, to a great extent, individually responsible. This is a duty which we owe to our Maker. Has not he who holds the waters in His control a perfect right to expect fruit from the planting of His own hands? And are we not under the most solemn obligation to requite the care of an indulgent parent?

For a moment, let your attention be centered upon the little cloud as it ascends from the peaceful bosom of yonder ocean. See it as it nears its destination, larger, larger, still larger, it grows, carrying the visible effects of a guiding hand, and soon the voice of the Almighty is heard to speak out in thunder tones, giving the signal of an approaching storm. Shortly, this messenger of the heavens is seen to begin its work. It sweeps along, giving

drink to the parched earth, in obedience to the Providence that guides it. Being developed, and its mission accomplished, it passes by, leaving the world and its inhabitants rejoicing on account of its recent visit. Ought we not, then, to be willing to go where the unseen Hand shall lead us. We see the stars, those gems of evening, sparkling in the ethereal vault of heaven's own blue, each keeping its appointed place in the gorgeous ante-chamber of the Almighty, speaking in unmistakable terms of the harmony of his handiwork. Each star, according to its size and brilliancy, throws light on all sides. Just so with men. And as the only way our true and intrinsic value can be known is by the development of our mental as well as physical powers, then it becomes our duty to develop, so far as possible, in order that our mission may be accomplished, and that we may, to some extent, liquidate this debt which we owe to ourselves, to our fellow men, and to our God.

As the influence of a faithful mother lingers with the child long after her last sun has set, as the water is carried far from the fountain head, so that which shall emanate from this central spark of intelligence shall not only shed its effulgent and beauty-beaming rays to-day, but shall hover over the future as a lamp to the feet and a light to the path of posterity. But it is a law of gravitation that the river can never rise higher than its source. This is a principle that always holds good, and it comes to us here with more than usual interest as being particularly applicable to our theme. Of what can you conceive which has a higher source than the mind, which has been plunged down, as it were, from its high and lofty estate, and given this mortal clay for its habitation, only to be fitted for a glorious beyond. Then, if this is the case, it is capable of rising to a very high degree of perfection, and the higher the order, and the more cultivated the intellect, the more nearly it conforms to the demands of its giver.