

man, yet will the fact be unobscured and plainly visible under the reflecting light of reason, that man works not his way unaided through life, but must needs be dependent, directly or indirectly, on his fellow man for the inspiration that is within him to do good: for the mighty impulse to grasp the sceptre of fame.

Circumstances control the actions and the career of men. Applause greets one individual as he weeds his way on the highway of life, and his journey becomes as a walk into verdant fields and beautiful dells, blooming with fragrant flowers and abounding in the riches and beauties of nature.

Opprobrium and sneers greet another, and despair settling on him with its every discouragement, sends him reckless and frenzied to a life of crime, or to a premature grave. Thus do we find that inhumanity toward humanity at times, predominates.

But there is a law of compensation in connection with the character of mankind. On one page of his history, we find a record of dark deeds; on another, a record of worthy deeds, and a career of intellectual and moral splendor, on which the angels in heaven look down with approving smile.

Many, knowing full well the facility with which one is borne along on the tidal wave of public opinion, pull out into the stream and drift with the tide, without having in view any fixed destination, being subject only to the winds which toss them at their pleasure.

To gain a public notoriety and popularity, we observe men executing many maneuvers, and concocting various schemes. Under the motive for applause and power, peculiar transformations take place. The selfish politician "in the twinkling of an eye," becomes the liberal benefactor of the poor, and an earnest advocate of reform and economy, in the administration of government.

The minister in order to please the people and thus stand eminent among his con-

gregation, often preaches that which is averse to his conscientious view. He lacks the courage to refuse their imperative demands, and thus do we find, that instead of lifting the people up to its doctrines, orthodoxy weakens and so modifies objectionable features that they might be handed down to the people.

But does it not often happen that those who worship and manifest the most servile humbleness and devotion at the shrine of public favor, suffer, at times, most humiliating ill success?

While shrewd men are endeavoring by the application of the arts and methods known to the science of politics, to obtain a smile of recognition and approbation from the public; endeavoring so to act and speak, that they might strike a popular chord, and by this means, be exalted amid the plaudits of thousands to some famous position — some office of trust and honor, they suddenly find themselves confronted with the mild request to step aside and applaud with others, some comparatively obscure personage, who perchance is about to be installed in the highest office in the gift of the people. This exalted individual perhaps is very little known to the country at large; never exhibited any brilliant talents, and whose earlier days were spent, not amid the conveniences afforded by fortune and affluence; not within the walls of some famous college, but on an Ohio river, rafting logs, in a Kentucky wilderness, splitting rails, or on an Illinois prairie, earning the necessities of life by the humble occupation of tanner. Some may call this a freak or caprice of the people to thus bring into national prominence and significance, men who never exhibited talent to any great extent.

Let this be called by any appellation as may seem fit, it has never failed in a time of peril, a national crisis, to give us men, who, at the helm, have guided the "ship of state" through the storms that have raged on a billowy sea, into a harbor of safety.