

desires and aspirations which are born in our souls are the ones which will guide us most safely. Is there a time when before God, and alone with him, there has come into your heart an earnest desire to accomplish something for him? You have gone out into the world and come in contact with your fellowmen and your ardor is diminished. Do not be alarmed for that which was to you so real in the secret place is the genuine thought; it is the touch of divinity; it is the still small voice, speaking in your soul. You remember the prophet Elijah; he was a downcast. The Lord gave him evidence of power; Elijah then lifted up his head; presently there came another reverse and he was downcast again, till finally we see him languish under the juniper tree. Then he goes to the mountains, and while he is there what does he hear. There comes a storm, and in the great gale as it swept over the mountain top, tossing the trees and the rocks as if they were play-things, Elijah expected to hear the voice of the Lord; he listened, but the Lord was not in the wind, neither was the Lord in the earthquake. Presently all was still; the hurricane had past and the earthquake had become calm, and the voice of the Lord spoke to Elijah in a whisper; it was the still small voice. When the clamor of the world sounds in our ears, we must not forget the promptings of the little voice which spoke within our heart.

We may, however, go forward with knowledge and with faith, and yet fail to build aright; we need something more. What is it? What more can we need than knowledge and faith? It is trust in God. We need to have a clear eye to see God; we need a clear vision, a vision that can take in more than what we see with the natural eye; a spiritual vision, a spiritual eye, which can see the Holy Spirit standing near us and speaking to us, indicating to us that we should do; we need that vision which will enable us under all circumstances to look high, to look away and see God. Dr. Miller, whose works many of you have read, tells a story of a lady friend of his who went to an oculist and told him of trouble which she was having with her eyes. She thought she needed to have her glasses changed, for she could not see to work long hours. The oculist, after examining the glasses, told her what she needed was a rest for her eyes; she replied that she could not afford the time. Then the oculist asked her if there was near her home any beautiful view within reach of her eye; she said there were beautiful mountains about her home, whereupon he told her if she would frequently drop her work and gaze at the far-away landscape, "the far look would rest her eyes." The same may apply to our spiritual vision; our spiritual eyes get worn out looking about us at sin and misery; but if we lift them to God, "the far look will rest our eyes." We want a vision by which we can look towards God; and if one says, "Ah, I have looked in the dark time and could not see God," let me say, you have not looked long enough, you have not looked steadfastly, or you would be healed. It is said by travellers in the Alps that the best place from which to observe the sun-capped peaks is a little valley. Very many travelers on a bright morning will go out to see these peaks; they arrive very early, before sunrise, take their places and look up and turn their heads away with disappointment, for almost invariably there will hang over those tips a heavy cloud of mist. But someone who have been there before will say to his

neighbor: "Do not go away, wait, keep looking," and so they look, and presently when the sun has lifted his rays, the mist will disperse, and there in the glint of the morning sun the icy peaks sparkle most brilliantly.

Let us not forget as we build our ideals to put into them a sure foundation of knowledge, and to carry with us as we enter our work a determined and strong faith; but remember, we must know how to sit down quietly and see God; we must know how to commune with him, face to face as friend to friend. There is nothing that can take the place of communion with the Almighty, with our Heavenly Father and Friend; there is nothing that can take his place.

But so much for the material of which we are to build. May I speak just a word concerning the realization of our ideal. That old saying has always appealed to me, that a wise man may build air castles, even must build them, but only fools will attempt to live in them. I have seen men who have been so foolish as to believe that the very building of air castles would be all that they would need in order to succeed in life. I have seen students who would sit down and talk with you an hour, two hours, three hours, about what they intended to do, and would not spend an hour a day in doing anything, and the result was unavoidable; they failed. It is very essential that a man have a good plan; but it is absolutely essential that he execute that plan, if there are to be any results at all from his effort; and the execution of the plan will not be done without hard work, determined work. The man who is the most inspired has to work hard in order to succeed. A story is told of Rossini: As a princess visited his house one day, she was admitted without the great artist learning of her presence. She stepped into his study and found him at work at his piano; she exclaimed with delight, "Ah, I have caught you in a moment of inspiration." He turned with a frown that betokened anxious thought and labor, and said to her, "Yes, you have; but this inspiration is thundering hard work!" It is the hard, determined work which put to it, sticks to it until it is done; sometimes fame tempts us on and we become all excited and earnest, and struggle forward at a mad pace, but we do not accomplish a great deal; it is the faithful daily plodder who wins the race in the end; the reward comes to the one who may be slow, but who has succeeded.

We must not attempt to realize our ideal, expecting that there shall be no disappointments. There may be many brothers like Joseph's, who will speak to us the sneering word, who will determine to cast our plans to earth and crush them under their feet. Disappointments will come; we cannot expect to go out into the mine and quarry the pure gold; we may take the rock and the gold together, and much more rock than gold, and then think ourselves lucky. We cannot go forth into the world and expect to gather up all the good things without gathering up some of the evil, some of the hard, some of the unfortunate circumstances (?). But what if we do? What if we do? Is not that all right? Yea, is not that of benefit? How we do build our ideals sometimes as we look out over that future land. Perhaps it is so to-night; the future, a fair land lying before it and the shadows playing over it, and all the inducement of uncertainty hovering around it. We think of it as a land where we shall build our hopes; upon its plains we rear many a fine castle, and on the mountains beyond we rear

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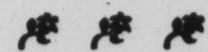
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So let us as this year comes, as a League, rear our hopes high, have high ideals towards which we strive to attain, and in the attaining of them struggle forward, no matter what the cost may be. How noble it is to build a high ideal and struggle towards it, even though it be like those nuns who labor on fair tapestries and finish with their lives, working out their very lives in the beauty, or like the artists who paint the vaults of old cathedrals, and there as they lie upon their backs spread on a hand-breadth at a time of carmine and azure, painting out their lives, but when it is all done, how it does show symmetrical and glorious.



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People grow old by thinking themselves old. When they reach the age of forty, fifty or sixty, they imagine they look like others of the same age, and that they soon will be useless, unfit for work and unable to perform their duties. As surely as they think this it will come true, for thought is creative.

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