

Written for this Paper.

ONE THING AT A TIME.

Concentration is a prerequisite to success in the average man or woman; it is given to but few to master or be profound in many directions; when proficiency is thus presented it is dignified by the name of genius and vast numbers do homage to such an approximation as is exhibited in a Gladstone.

Such are called great in their day and age, but there is greatness in single directions, or two or more kindred fields of labor, as seen in Michael Angelo, Edison and others. These seem by special gifts to outrank all their predecessors, and to secure an immortality denied to others; Homer and Shakespeare were types in literature, though some aver that "Homer nodded" and that the "divine William" was not perfect, however vast his vision.

Manysuch men were without succession; nature seems to have exhausted herself in their development, for they died childless or left a posterity guileless of genius. Some men make tremendous individuality in business; this country is rich in specimens of this class, such as Armour, Studebaker, Carnegie, Stewart and Wannamaker, who have all achieved a more than national reputation; in these instances the beginning was small, and with gradual growth, ability (personal or purchased) seemed to increase with the necessity; it is doubtful however, whether such vast concerns outlive their founders very long, successors in these gigantic houses or manufactories seem to lack the inspiration or ambition which created.

Wesley was not long dead before Methodism became respectable and commonplace; Cromwell made the name and person of an Englishman respected around the world, his successors lost this magnificent country from sheer inability to control; Russia freed its slaves by peace because of autocratic rule, this Republic did the same at the cost of thousands of millions as a war measure and paid nothing to their owners.

The personal idolatry which was lavished upon Joseph Smith, is much diminished for his successors; it is evident that times, seasons and necessity produce the man for all human interests and progress, but the fire of his advent cools down to moderate heat and a lessened activity in after years. Patriotism, religion, science, seem to have their periods of ebb and flow, the strain of mental activity cannot be sustained at an undue tension; first impressions often fade, first love sometimes cools, and a first enthusiasm, having accomplished its purpose, flags after effort, and some who were among the most earnest, warm and devoted, would almost conclude that part of their labor was abortive, and success was far from being as great as the first flush of purpose fully expected.

Who does not know of the exuberance of youth, of first experiences in married life and first associations of toil in an untried direction? Who has not observed nature in the glory and beauty of spring, marked its forces silently but slowly aiming at perfection and reproduction, or seen the blossoms expand, mature and fall? Cut these early and new force is aroused

for re-blooming and if this is continued beyond the normal limit, busy nature wearies, and there is no increase; by and by there is a general stripping of leaf and flower and fruit, and an appearance as if of death, the close watcher sees though in the bare twig, the swaying branch, the prophesy of a future resurrection, leaf buds are there, fruit buds are there, the sap in part may have descended below the earth, winter is the time when roots and fibres reach out, spread far and wide, storing up ability for the coming spring and summer, for leaves and bloom and fruit again. So many a principle, many a man, many an organization, after special activity seems bare of life or beauty; but it is not so, there is rest or change, a time for the storage of added and needed force; there is life, increase, vitality, but it is unseen by the common eye; the eye of faith, of understanding knows that beneath the surface, hid from the force of winds and storms of persecution, there is yet the power of an endless life.

Even booms and panics have their law and orbit, their periods (as it were) of revolution or reaction—ten years, or thereabouts, as financiers assert; and science affirms that "perpetual motion" is beyond man and cannot be discovered in mechanics, though nature shows it time and time again. Man is subject to routine and to forgetfulness; they remember not the "winter of their discontent," until somewhat similar conditions quietly return again; the days and months of 1873, when banks collapsed and old houses went down before the financial simoon was forgotten soon after it had spent its force, and in the sunshine of prosperity few counted on a repetition until it came to us unheralded, "as a thief in the night," and today, when the tide of prosperity is once more setting in, there is already partial forgetfulness of the hardly past.

Not because persons in business and in debt have not seen—do not see, wherein they made mistakes, were unwise, were too easily led, were too hopeful, speculative and sanguine; but the lesson of restraint is not fully learned, the ability to say, No! is not quite acquired; so at this particular season, with holiday times and expenditure at the door, men in business may order goods too largely, buy again from too many places, increase their indebtedness and give credit as of old. This is the evidence that the suggestive future is being discounted by hope, anticipated by the anxiety for trade, and peril is continued when it should be averted and destroyed; concentration is as yet only partial, dealers are far too diffuse, their business is not as well in hand as it should be, nor as it must be until the danger line is past; when that is turned if wisdom rules, there will be greater security, more abounding financial health, and such a foundation as means the continuance and perpetuation of prosperity.

Much of Utah indebtedness was incurred when wool was fifteen cents per pound; wheat, seventy-five cents per bushel; potatoes, sixty cents, and wages twenty-five per cent higher than they are today; so it takes more produce and more labor to cancel an account than it would when made, and a mortgage

is practically doubled if the money is to be raised from the farm or rented for accruing interest.

The remedy is patience, but a fearful transference of property is weekly taking place, and the only remedy for indebtedness is to once get square and then keep so, in spite of temptation, desire or opportunity; "too many irons in the fire" is an old story, and hundreds of apt, stirring and successful business men have failed from investing in mines, real estate, unfamiliar lines of business, when the one thing, well understood and well-looked after was coining for them wealth and independence.

"Keep thy business and thy business will keep thee," poor Richard said, and an older proverb claimed that "a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush," so men in business have proved, that "goods on the shelves were better than gods scattered out on credit;" that indebtedness to one house is better than when distributed with from ten to forty, and that while animated business is healthy, boom times partake of the nature of fever, and relapse is as fatal in one direction as in the other; while conservatism at times may be in excess, it possesses the merit of safety, and results generally justify the method. Unlimited capital with good security may be diffusive and bide its time, but trade generally is like Ezekiel's vision, "wheel within wheel;" like it, though, they are "filled with eyes within and without," so that every weak cog and wearing pinion or heavier wheel is noted and remedied by oversight, that the general machinery may be preserved intact.

Many men in business have no doubt been lured by political excitement into partial neglect of personal interest; a few have wanted place for themselves or have worked for others; politics as now practiced are demoralizing to social, business and religious life, and many a wound given in its battles will take years and some will never be healed. The science of rule and government is a grand study, but the motives of a campaign are often more personal than from principle, and issues have been presented in our local affairs that can no more be remedied here or by us in that capacity than can the war between China and Japan.

Whatever may be the outcome of individuals, firms or parties, concentration, unity, honor and righteousness must be the foundation of success, or the forces of a coming civilization, standing like Samson midway "between the pillars" the past and the future, will bring down the present into destruction and chaos, to the grief of many souls.

IRRIGATION IN UTAH.

Colonel C. L. Stevenson and C. E. Wantland, of the Irrigation Commission of Utah, are among the busiest men in the city. They are carrying out the instructions of the commission to issue to the public a new work on Irrigation in Utah.

A partial list of contributors is given as follows: Caleb W. West, Governor of Utah; Hon. Wilford Woodruff and Hon. George Q. Cannon, Presidents of the Mormon Church; ex-Governor Arthur L. Thomas; Judge L. W.