

SUCCESS

Success is something which may be found quite near to us, but not everywhere that we look do we find it. It is a gem whose brilliance most people try to perceive, yet only a few enter under its radiance. It never comes to us. It is we who must do the moving, and each of our movements must be made with care and diligence, for success is at the exit of a straight and narrow path on which are encountered many steep hills, thorny thickets, and deep ravines. In order to attain success, we must first think wisely what to do, and then do well what we have chosen. Once we have made up our minds, it remains that we go straight ahead, yet pause long enough to think over our important steps. Men, generally, do not fear a battle if they are determined that they will have victory. Thus we must always bear in mind that we may have victory if we will. Moreover, everywhere on the road to success is written purpose, for it is the foundation of character, culture, position, and attainment.

Success is won by striving patiently, putting forth all our energy, and remembering that just as a gymnasium is a place to develop muscles, so, daily life is a gymnasium where we can develop will-power. Opportunity does not come often, so that when it does come, we must grasp our chance,—putting all our power into our first lunge; and continue to urge ourselves on, forgetting those who remain at a standstill. If, in the start, we meet with a defeat, we should not forget that early defeat is but a challenge to put us in fettle for winning. It is intended to galvanize nerve, to bring our resources to focus, so that we may show the world that we can fight life's present trials, undaunted; that we are made of soldier stuff, fighting on till the last inch of our sword's blade is broken, and continuing to fight with the hilt.

Another guide on the road to success is self-sacrifice. Never fear, if needs be, to forfeit some cherished hope or goal, because that may be the only means of obtaining better things. Nor must we forget good deeds. They are immortal. They have many "springs" in which they live, and bud, and bloom again. If we could but be convinced that the only true satisfactions are those which result from efforts, to be generous and kindly, to discover and value the best in everyone, and to treat all as we should like to be treated ourselves, almost all our difficulties

would disappear. We must not be downhearted if we make mistakes; because the man who does not make mistakes, usually does not make anything; and, after all, our worst misfortunes never happen. They lie in anticipation. We must often recall the old maxim: "despair is the greatest of mistakes."

The word success is sometimes used interchangeably for words meaning one or another of those things which are expected to accompany success. Let us not confound it with happiness, for, if success consisted in being happy, we would never attain it, because, in reality, we wish not only to be happy, but to be happier than other people; which to us is nearly impossible, since we usually overestimate other people's happiness. Nor must we understand success as meaning prosperity. "Prosperity has been the ruin of many a man." We may be in a business or a profession and make nothing out of it but money. Then we have made the highest kind of failure.

In climbing the ladder of success, we must not try to catch the fellow above in order to pull him down. True gentleness is stronger than violence, and the kindly action is usually more than a match for the angry one. Looking at life in a general way, we often see that the fighters have a way of obliterating themselves, while the meek, "inherit the earth."

Probably the most essential quality which we must possess in order to attain success is discipline in life, and it is because of its importance that I treat of it last. Life is a discipline. It is folly to loose the moorings and dare the open sea before our ship is adequately manned, equipped, and loaded. Life is discipline, not only at the beginning, but throughout its entire course. When our ship is ready, we must embark, even though we may be fearful of the shoals and swift currents of the sea of life. Let it be an encouragement to us, then, that the greatest creative periods of human history are those in which courageous spirits abandoned tradition and dared uncharted seas.

Finally, let not the lust for money, the love of glory, nor the fascination of power draw us from the noblest service. Success in life does not consist in owning something, but rather in becoming something.

—C.J. M., '31