the massive pyramid or stately column. The constant dropping of water, says the proverb, hollows out the stone; or, to use an Italian adage, *Che va piano, va longano, e va lontano*,—Who goes slowly, goes long, and goes far. We must train ourselves for continuous labour, like the athlete, accustoming the mind to systematic exertion. No work is well done that is done by fits and starts. The irregularities of genius, on which some writers enlarge, are not its necessary concomitants, but its blemishes, its imperfections; and while the world may wonder at and pity an Edgar Allan Poe, it will bless and reverence a Walter Scott.

The faculties we possess were given us for cultivation. Whoever suffers one of them to lie dormant or but partly developed, sins against Him who gave. We must work while it is yet day, for the night cometh when no man can work, and life is not long enough for idleness. The old poet finely says:—

> "The chiefest action for a man of spirit,
> Is never to be out of action; we should think
> The soul was never put into the body,
> Which has so many rare and curious pieces
> Of mathematical motion, *to stand still.*
> Virtue is ever sowing of her seeds,—
> In the trenches for the soldier; in the wakeful study
> For the scholar; in the furrows of the sea
> For men of that profession; of all which
> Arise and spring up honour."—WEBSTER.

When Demosthenes was asked the three great qualities that were needful to a successful orator, he replied, firstly, Action; secondly, Action; thirdly,