

of view. Change the motto to "*the softening influence of use,*" and you will recognise the merciful law of nature, which (provided he does not stubbornly resist) enables a man to bear up, even with cheerfulness, under trials the most distasteful to his nature.

What evil equals that of a bird, with its large lungs, broad wings, and capacity for flight over land and sea, pent up in a narrow cage, where all use of its powers is impossible? Not many. And yet in time the poor little thing sings even there. Afflicted ones, the application is for you! Be sure that nature works herein with grace—that there is no ill the flesh is heir to which will not be modified by *the softening influence of use.*

