WHEN HE NEEDED HELP

significance to life, and makes it a thing which a wise and brave man will be able to persuade himself it is right to endure."

It seems to The Craftsman that work and love must be dominant factors in any religion that will meet the needs of this nation. It is generally conceded that the world’s workers are closer to things spiritual than the world’s idlers. Labor keeps vital our contact with nature and our consciousness of the common lot. Carlyle never tires of driving home the idea that “the best worship is stout labor,” but many a thinker before and since has preached the gospel of “work for work’s sake.” In toil we discover brotherhood. It would almost seem as if spirituality were a by-product of labor, and that as civilization is born of a nation’s surplus wealth so character is born of a certain spiritual surplus that the individual unconsciously accumulates through work.

WHEN HE NEEDED HELP

THERE was once a young man who felt that he needed help. When he was poor in spirit and saw that he must needs prove himself, he comforted himself by saying: “This is my own town and here are my neighbors and acquaintances. Their good-will must bear me up.”

And he leaned on them, but they were as a broken reed under him. They did not support him. Then he said: “I will go to my best friend, who is a very powerful man. Surely he will carry me through.”

But his best friend gave him only sympathy, and it was easy to see that by the very giving of that sympathy, doubt was augmented. And the young man called his best friend a traitor and left him, for he could not win his support. And then the young man said: “I will go to those of my own blood, my family, and they will be my strong staff on which to lean. Surely they will not leave me in the lurch.”

But though his family offered him much advice and a little money they did not support him, nor did they encourage him. And he left them sadly. And, finally, because he could think of no one else who would be likely to help him, he sought out the Sage Who Never Slumbers and told his tale disconsolately. And he did everything that could be done for the young man, for he said:

“None will bear you up or carry you through because you are not sufficient for yourself. Why should they have confidence in you, when you have more confidence in them than in yourself? What else have you but yourself to guarantee your undertakings? Rely on your own strength, support yourself!”

MARGUERITE O. B. WILKINSON.