

Address

No 5-

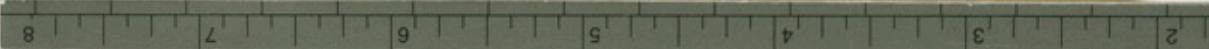
Subject
The medicinal value of Chamomile

5-

Johnson

No. 2

Johnson
University of Chicago
Chicago



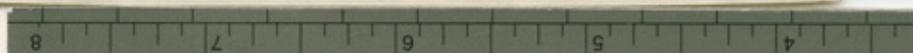
With a view of adding, perhaps a pebble's weight, to the balance in the interest of a true manhood, the subject of this address has been selected, to wit:

THE INESTIMABLE VALUE OF CHARACTER.

January

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THE INVESTIGATIVE VALUE OF CHARACTER.



1 1/2

~~_____~~

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One hundred and fifty-seven years ago George Washington was born. His name is as familiar in America to every child of ten years as that of his school companion or playmate. A halo of preciousness and sanctity clusters about ^{that word} ~~_____~~, so that among ^{sixty} ~~_____~~ millions of people within the boundaries of this country who speak, and write, and print ^{his} ~~_____~~ name, it is invariably done with a peculiar show of reverence and affection.

There is a hidden meaning in ~~_____~~ Washington, for it excites a singular, a unique interest among all the civilized nations of the earth. This preciousness, this sanctity, this reverence, this peculiar and universal interest which no other mortal name has yet attained, though Abraham Lincoln approaches it ~~_____~~, has for foundation, CHARACTER.

No mere physical superiority, neither feats of strength nor suppleness of frame-work, could have produced such an accumulation of noble virtues. Neither the powers of

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Hercules nor of Vulcan could touch them.

No expansion of intellect, whether massive like Webster's, crafty like Jacob's, grasping like Napoleon's, or shrewd as Loyolá's, has produced a similar lasting impression.

The nobility of form, manly presence, and vigor of constitution, we are thankful to say, belonged to our first general and first president.

The well-balanced mind, sound judgment, and fair culture have left their welcome record in the ^{written} history of his eventful life. But oh, how like nothing would these, the mere scaffolding, appear were there not behind them the solid structure of uprightness, genuine honesty, purity, love directed without, within, above; in brief, that wholeness of soul which the word integrity has garnered, solidified and crystalized!

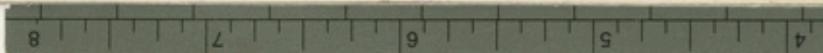
Who of us is not proud of ██████████ Washington?

Whose heart does not go out toward him, toward his faithful and devoted mother, and his well-beloved wife, and all the intimates of his boyhood and youth, with unwonted in-

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1830

Wyllie



terest and singular affection? If in the years of contention we, the people of these United States, forgetful of his "line upon line" and "precept upon precept", forgetful of his warnings and self-denying example which ~~was~~ ^{were} left to us for our admonition, have cherished and sometimes idolized other names more than his, both the worthy and unworthy, let us to-day turn back to our earliest and best hero and to the contemplation of some of those qualities which made up his character,- qualities which, if we steadily imitate and steadfastly follow, we shall each fill no mean place in history, and at least have the consciousness that somebody is happier and better because we are living in the world.

It is a good thing for a young person to learn early in life the distinction between character and reputation. Certainly one's reputation should, if possible, be good; it is important to have a fair record; a good name is better than rubies, more precious than ointment and delightful to our friends; but how many thousands of men of

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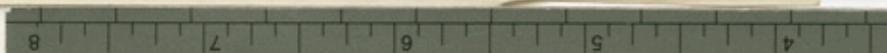
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grand powers and brilliant requirements have made their reputation the object and end of existence, and have not been sufficiently careful of the means of acquiring and preserving it! They have finally, wofully failed in the keeping and enjoying the fruits of their efforts; whereas the man in serch of a genuine character, the man who makes his character the object of his thought and his toil, can never really fail.

The REPUTATION which one enjoys is rather what, to his companions or other men, he appears to be.

A man's CHARACTER, in its true sense, is what he actually is.

As the branch from the vine, so the reputation proceeds from the character.

The character of every man is complex, of course, and has epochs in its growth and development.

These epochs are very important. They are forks in the roadway of life; - go one way, your life grows better, stronger, and happier; go the other way, and your life becomes the worse, the weaker, and is perpetually

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troubled. How wise, then, to study these epochs and examine well every pathway that branches to the right and to the left!

With what interest have I observed these turning-points in my own life, and in the lives of those who were my companions thirty years ago!

It is not my object to give an abstract homily, or a dogmatic discourse, often so ~~repulsive to the flesh~~, *unsalutary to youth*, but to put as much of my thought as possible into a concrete form. *So* Let the mind rest upon the noble, the exalted character of Washington. *Ⓢ* I invite you first to the cradle of its formation. It was with that best gift of God, a good mother. *The mother planted the seedlings.*

We enjoy Irving's reference to his early years. He says, "George, as his intellect dawned, received the rudiments of education in the best establishment for the purpose that the neighborhood afforded," . . . "an old field school-house;" humble enough in its pretensions, and kept by one of his father's tenants named Hobby. "The instruction doled out by him must have been the sim-

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plest kind,- reading, writing, and ciphering, perhaps; but George had the benefit of mental and moral culture at home from an excellent father."

But shortly after this teaching his father died. *The son*
~~George~~ was then but ten years old.

That is about the age when a boy begins especially to need a father's discipline, and is most sensibly affected by a father's example. The father dies; it is a great loss,- I have felt it in my own life,- but thank the Lord; *He*
~~she~~ spared to our Washington the best of mothers. The same author remarks of her, "Endowed with plain, direct, good sense, thorough conscientiousness, and prompt decision, she governed her family strictly but kindly, exacting deference, while she inspired affection. George, being her eldest son, was thought to be her favorite, yet she never gave him undue preference, and the implicit deference exacted from him in childhood continued to be habitually observed by him to the day of her death. He inherited from her a high temper and a spirit of command, but her early precepts and example taught him to restrain

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1820

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and govern that temper, and to square his conduct on the exact principles of equity and justice."

These glimpses into the nursery and home-life afford all the revelations that we need.

I. It is an academic custom to take pupils back to first principles, to axioms.

It would be very plain, even if we did not know of the positive moral and religious teaching given by his father and mother to this child, so full of promise, that he early learned one fundamental principle of character.

It is one which the late "scientific method" ^{has} attempted to reduce from a divine precept to a mere human maxim.

It is one that a Herbert Spencer would derive from cultured selfishness, delicately refined.

It is one that the infidel, who holds up to public contempt the shortcomings of his parents, has long since learned to despise, honor to parents!

Yet the undisputed fact of history is written in our Scriptures, "And God spake all these words." Among them in the second table we find, "Honor thy father and thy

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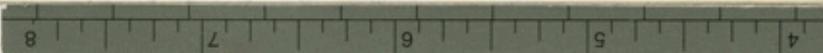
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Yet the undoubted fact of history is written in our

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in the second table we find, "Honor thy father and thy



mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord, thy God, giveth thee."

These ancient words with other precepts were graven upon two tables of stone, and the same inspired authority declares, "And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God graven upon the tables."

I knew a fine appearing, manly youth of about twenty years; he ^{was} ~~is~~ a student away from his home. A friend of his family living near his academy thus told his father: "I heard your son say that he would not willingly do what he knew his father would disapprove." God will bless and prosper such young men. They have a rich inheritance in the only commandment of the ten with a promise.

Washington was so studiously observant of this divine law of reverence and love toward his careful and judicious Christian mother, that he denied himself a much coveted position, which was offered to him before he was fifteen. It was the warrant of a midshipman in the British navy. There was much entreaty by his brother and himself, many powerful friends urged it. The mother was ever-persuaded

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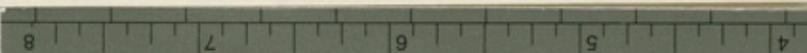
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and about to yield, when a letter from her brother, then in England, reawakened her former misgivings and solicitude. The mother's heart, like that of the mother of Jesus, often has prophetic impressions for the child of her love. She again made strong objection, and Washington, who in time became the man of a wonderful decision of character, yielded then to a mother's persuasions, and gave up the prospects so delightful to his young and ardent wishes.

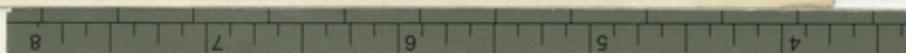
If he could have opened the windows of the future, and have seen events in the order and color in which they were to appear on the stage of his life, he could not have decided better.

General George H. Thomas, who, a Southern man, had to make his most important decisions in the line of self-denial, and who, perhaps, above any officer in the late war of Rebellion ^{obtained and} held the abiding confidence and love of his soldiers and companions in arms, was unceasing in his devotion to this principle of loyal duty, "Children must be made to obey their parents. Obedient children will not

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grow up to despise and resist a proper authority." When ^{appealed} ~~to~~ by a college ~~school~~ in his district, and informed that the college boys were made restless and ungovernable by the presence of certain United States colored troops, and that it would be best to withdraw the offensive cause of trouble, he replied,-

"There is but one way to deal with refractory and disobedient boys. They should be properly punished." Then turning to his adjutant, he said, "Increase the troops till the bad conduct ceases."

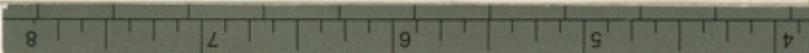
than any compulsion

A far better way ^{is} that inaugurated by Washington, namely, Honor thy mother, and yield her obedience, because it is right so to do. It is the law of God written in the book and on the heart.

II. A second principle of character is contained in the words, "Her (Mrs. Washington's) early precepts and example taught him to restrain and govern that temper,"- that "high temper and spirit of command" which he had inherited.

How prone is a man, who has a high temper, to yield to

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a sudden impulse, and contravene the best purposes and plans of his life! This temper unrestrained, like an unchained tiger, usually leads to dire calamities, terrible destruction, and sudden death.

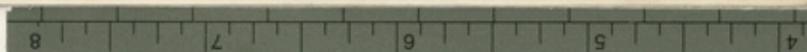
Where is there described a brighter specimen of noble manhood than the ancient king who stood head and shoulders above his comrades? Yet the power of an unmanageable temper threw Saul, the sovereign of Israel, from the pedestal of his glory, and has left for him an ignominious record of injustice, failure, unsurpassed ^{ru}wisdom, and, finally and fittingly, self-destruction.

Charles the Twelfth of Sweden, who for a time shown like a meteor, lacked the self-control that his country needed. His boldness, quickness, and genius gave him extraordinary victories, and left to his great enemy a disastrous defeat; yet the victory and self-confidence of Charles were but the beginning of the end. The meteor, remembered only for its brilliancy, disappeared as suddenly as it came; while that enemy and rival, Peter the Great, profited more by defeat than by victory, for he brought

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under restraint his own fiery temper, and forced himself to labor and to wait till he obtained a substantial triumph and reaped its abundant fruits.

Of Washington, in a higher and better sense, with a soul under self-control, because loyal to duty and to God, no adverse circumstances, no suffering of his soldiers, no unexpected defeats, and no treachery of supposed friends, ever so disturbed that high temper, till, like a noble war-steed under rein, it carried him safely and successfully through all the battle fields of his wonderful career.

III. A third element of character is plainly deducible from the mother's early teaching, and enforcing that teaching by her own example, viz., that of "the exact principles of equity and justice."

This equity and justice constitute the righteousness of the Bible. In the French Testament the word which we translate justice is always used for our term righteousness. There is a good old word that I used to hear in my

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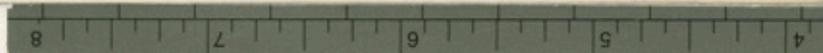
boyhood which perhaps better expresses the thought,-
 RECTITUDE. One of our old professors [redacted], amid the
 honest workers with whom I have served, whose face I miss^{ed}
 on my return to the military academy, because he had gone
 to his reward,- the reward of the good and faithful public
 servant,- especially comes to my mind in this connection.
 I mean Professor Albert E. Church, ~~an~~ professor in mathe-
 matics. Rectitude was stamped on his forehead. In his
 heart and in his life the scales of justice appeared del-
 icately poised.

It is one thing to love justice and quite a different
 thing to do justice. To do justice needs clearness of
 moral vision, a developed faculty of penetration, and
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from their judgment.



By the study of such lives now familiar to us, the lives of these men whose monuments adorn our public squares, and give interest to our consecrated grounds, we can bring into closer observation and sympathy the uprightness in the life of Washington. We can rejoice that his noble mother held him so steadily to the practice of just dealing in his early youth, in that formative period, so that he ever after the more easily conformed to the claims of duty.

In every
~~There is no other~~ institution in this land ~~more than~~
including yours, ~~where~~ *must* the officers and pupils take upon themselves ~~some~~ solemn and imperative obligations to be just and to do justice. No mere espionage will answer. The sense of rightness must be in your own individual hearts. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." No mere eye service will make uprightness of mind.

A right regulation is for the good of your academy. It is established in justice for the benefit of all who come under its operation.

Had Washington, possessing the character that he had,

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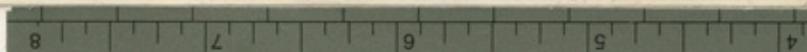
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Had Washington, possessing the character that he had,



been a student here, he would have said to himself, "~~The~~
^{Every school} regulation is to be kept, and I will do my best to keep
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Had he been the President or a Professor, he would
 have said, "^{Each} regulation is to be enforced, and my duty
 is to contribute to its enforcement."

IV. Another element of Washington's character to be traced to the earliest years, perhaps inherited from both parents, is a constancy of purpose.

"Carlyle once asked an Edinburgh student, who tells the story, what he was studying for. The youth replied that he had not quite made up his mind. There was a sudden lightning flash of the old Scotchman's eye, a sudden pulling down of the shaggy eyebrows, and the stern face grew sterner as he said, 'The man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder; a waif, a nothing, a no man. Have a purpose in life, if it is only to kill and divide and sell even well, but have a purpose, and having it, throw such strength of mind and muscle into your work as

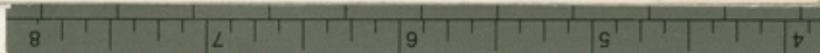
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God has given you'."

Daniel, as a child, purposed in his heart that he would not eat of the king's meat, forbidden to his people, nor drink of the king's wine. He purposed in his soul to call upon his God for wisdom and knowledge. He obtained his request. He purposed that he would never bow down to any graven image. He suffered the penalty, but with inflexible courage, trusting in the Almighty, he met the extreme dangers of his position, and received for reward not only the approval of his God and his conscience, but of the king and the nation, whose rulers were so lately eagerly and fiercely seeking his life.

According to Captain F. V. Greene, ^{The Russian} Skobelev, of whose ^{have} victories we read ~~in his history~~, ^{was} is a man of "stupendous military genius." Among the youngest, unjustly held back from his proper command, he obtained permission to go to the great Turco-Russian war as an aide-de-camp of another general. At the close, his reputation was the brightest on the page of its history. Greene ranks him beside Wellington, Grant, and Von Moltke.

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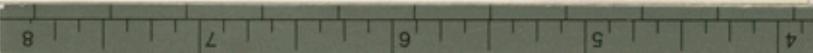
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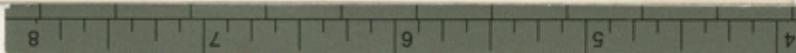
He uses this expression with regard to him: "His one thought was how to use his life so as to make an impression on his men and gain such a control over them that they would follow him anywhere." In this he had abundant success. For he fulfilled Napoleon's four ideal requirements: 1, greatness of character, or moral courage, which produces resolution (purpose); 2, coolness, or physical courage, which masters dangers; 3, knowledge of his profession; and, 4, a capacity to see things as they are." A maxim, that he carried out in his own conduct and enforced in those under his command, was, "Never hesitate in what you have to do." The author further states concerning Skobelev: "Though he has lived but thirty-five years he has commanded twenty thousand men in battle; he has received the surrender of an entire army of nearly forty thousand men; he has led more assaults than any living man, except Grant, and in no one of them has he failed to carry the line he assaulted, though in one case he was subsequently overwhelmed with numbers and driven out."

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These examples show what I mean by fixedness of purpose.

You will trace the same marks of genius in George Washington,- in his steady application at school, in his surprising industry when left to his own guidance, working successfully at the driest problems of mathematics, surveying, geometry, logarithms, forms of business, copying and recopying with exactness; in the games and sports of his childhood and youth, preferring even in them to tax his manhood to the utmost until he excelled; in the arduous work of surveys in the valley of Virginia, requiring accuracy, knowledge, and great physical endurance, performed while yet a boy; in his perilous expeditions among wild Indians and white enemies to the then far West; in his ⁱmaden battle, where he moderated the effect of Braddock's terrible defeat; and then ever after, through ^a ~~his~~ marvelous career of disappointments, defeats, and inconsiderable victories, which, like the discipline of the children of Israel in the wilderness, prepared the way for all the glories of the future for this great,

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prosperous, and happy ^N nation, ~~of freemen.~~

We see these results, and we may well recognize the fact that our leader always had a plan in his mind and a purpose in his heart.

The famous Dr. Bushnell gave a discourse on the subject, entitled, "The plan of God in every man's life." Our Lord, doubtless has in each of our lives his plan to be developed by our co-working.

A young man starts out in the dimmest dawn. He sees, at first, but a few yards before his face. He will often make mistakes in his projected journey. But God himself, in providence and action, will surely mould and shape the plan, if the young man ^{enters upon it and} does his best. I am not sure that the divinity is not always present in the breast of a sincere youth to give the requisite light just as soon as it is needed.

However this may be, it is absolutely necessary to a young man, who would make anything of himself, to have a plan and a purpose of his own.

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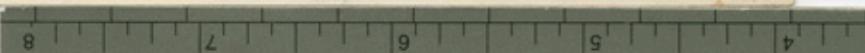
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However this may be, it is absolutely necessary for a young man, who would make anything of himself, to have a plan and a purpose of his own.



There are other elements of character which give strength and consistency to the thoughts, words, and acts of ~~Washington~~ Washington, which, for the benefit of the example, I had purposed to speak, but I find that such discussion will cause my remarks to be too much extended for this occasion, so I content myself with simply naming them.

1. Truth,- consisting in simple, straightforward, candid statements, that became more and more weighty as knowledge of the man widened and respect for him increased.
2. Reverence toward God. Profane words did not pollute his lips.
3. Faith in an ever-present and helpful Divine Master,- one that satisfied his pressing wants, especially in hours of darkness by the appointed method of prayer.
4. Love, sincere and devoted, from the home circle to the nation in whose creation he ^{had} ~~had~~ so prominent a part; from the Saviour, whose self-denying image he bore to all the children of men for whom that Saviour suffered and died,

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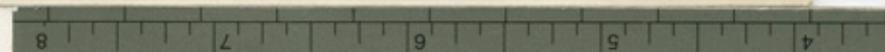
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One has to study closely and search long to find evidences of the weakness and faults that George Washington doubtless had and manifested, as do other true, brave, generous, high-minded, noble, God-fearing men; but the fact that such weakness and faults have gone into oblivion, disappearing with the party spirit that at one time ~~did~~ ^{made} ~~make~~ handle of them, shows us the superior advantage of living such a life.

When Washington stood upon the pinnacle of his highest ambition, and whitened with age, looked forth upon a free and happy people, of whom he was very soon to take the final leave, he spoke concluding words that we may always repeat with profit:

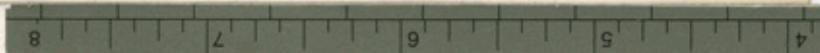
"The situation in which I now stand for the last time, in the midst of the representatives of the people of the United States, naturally recalls the period when the administration of the present form of government commenced; and I cannot omit the occasion to congratulate you and my country on the success of the experiment; nor to repeat

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my fervent supplication to the Supreme Ruler of the universe and Sovereign Arbiter of nations, that his providential care may be still extended to the United States; that the virtue and happiness of the people may be preserved, and that the government which they have instituted for the protection of their liberties, may be perpetual."

Doubtless my main object, suggested in the outset, has been very plain throughout. My desire ^{was} to do something to lift up our minds and hearts, be it ever so little. For this purpose, on this day of graduation, nothing appears to be a better exponent than reference to the elements of Washington's character.

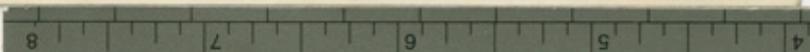
Yes, though we name such a remarkable series of virtues which enter into the composition of his character, such as uprightness, genuine honesty, purity, love for God and man, integrity,- though we dive into the depths and search out and find the elements, the very seeds of his growth, as obedience to parents, restraint of temper,

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faith and truth, justice and equity, and constancy of purpose,- still with all, this name, this man, is but a stepping-stone to a greater, to Him who, on the earth, became the embodiment of manhood, the epitome of all character,- I mean, as you instantly see, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I am often asked by a parent, "Would you advise that I get a commission for my son in the Army or Navy?" Invariably I say: "I ^{ought not} ~~can~~ advise you,- but should he choose either of these professions, let him be sure that his Christian principles are already established." And certainly for the ministry, the law, medicine, civil-engineering, banking, merchandizing, mining, steamboating, or any other lawful business the answer should be the same. Be sure, my son, that your Christian principles are already fixed before you commence the duties, the trials and the obligations of your proposed calling.

It were a wearisome thing to hunt up and imitate the morals, the virtues of ^{different} great men, ^{job} even the best. Our Heavenly Father has given us an easier and better way.

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And how glad we are that it is so.

He sent us word by his son.- Ye must be born again.-

The Holy Spirit, which is given without stint to every
 seeker after a genuine Godly character, will teach you all ^{things}

Is it not a glorious fact, that the Lord, our Saviour, not

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 of the noblest manhood, but that He has sent an unfailing

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