

to be, *a man*; for while his laziness shows him to be a human being, yet

“ 'Tis the mind that makes the man.”

On this account a lazy man will condemn himself; unless to think of his condition would require a mental effort quite beyond the capacity of his paralyzed powers. Of this class there are examples of men so deeply sunk in the slough of sloth as that they can not even properly disrespect themselves.

The search for the cause of this powerful trait in man need be neither protracted nor tedious. In nothing else than in selfishness can it consist. Than God, no being is more free from selfishness; so none is more exempt from laziness. The cure, then, for laziness is to be sought in the antagonist of selfishness, benevolence. It is beyond my comprehension, that a truly generous heart can belong to a lazy man. Facts will not allow the supposition. The Savior had a heart for the race, and “he went about doing good.” Howard was enriched with sympathies for all sorrows, and, angel of mercy that he was, he was ever on the wing. The love as well as the eyes of the Lord, is upon all his works; and that Spirit, which in the beginning “brooded over the face of the great deep,” not grown weary or lazy, still hovers over man, warning, inviting, comforting and blessing him. Would you, then, like God, be busy like him, be benevolent.

What can inculcate and cultivate benevolence? Nothing but Christianity. This is the angel which by its constant visitations, preserves the purity and vitality of the sacred pool, wherein the impotent and the inefficient are enlivened and invigorated. May the gentle ripple starting beneath its continual footfalls, widen till the silver bands run round the earth!