

## Comment by the Editor

### *GOOD FORTUNE*

If a man's reach should exceed his grasp, then the course of life must be uphill. Aspiration looks aloft, not below. Supreme accomplishment is never effortless: the heights can not be scaled by coasting, nor the wilderness subdued by wishing.

As the youth, hopeful of achievement and distinction, hurries forward toward the goal of his ambition, he cultivates his talents, welcomes opportunity, and observes the mishaps of his predecessors. He seldom pauses for a backward glance. There is no time for retrospection: his eyes are fixed on the future and his place is on the frontier. He is conscious of many others on the way, striving as valiantly as he — contemporary pilgrims on the broad highway of human progress. Some tire or turn aside, many seek the easy grade that leads around the hill, others follow the deep-rutted path their fathers trod, and only a few unfaltering pioneers climb directly toward the pinnacle of their vision. He who is steadfast and bold deserves the rewards of wealth and honor.

Eventually, when the summit is attained, the erstwhile youth, grown philosophic in the years of

his maturity, may welcome leisure, which is the recompense of age. In that calm period of relaxation, he will contemplate the meaning of his long career. Instead of a financier, he may become, perchance, a connoisseur of words, or patronize the arts. From the vantage of purpose satisfied, he may review events and calculate the worth of men and things. Wars, panics, booms, and other fashions he sees in true perspective. Through his magnificent accumulation of experience, the panorama of the times may be interpreted. Distinguished people are within his own acquaintance. In the course of his activities, he has discovered boon companions whose friendship outlives life itself.

At the age of ninety-four, a man may be serene indeed, in the satisfaction of having seen and known and been esteemed.

J. E. B.