

THE SUCCESS OF DEFEAT

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The success of defeat by Maltbie D. Babcock

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MALTBIE D. BABCOCK

**THE SUCCESS OF
DEFEAT**

*Speak, History, who are life's victors? unroll thy long
annals and say—
Are they those whom the world called the victors, who
won the success of a day?
The martyrs, or Nero? the Spartans who fell at Ther-
mopylae's trust,
Or the Persians and Xerxes? his judges, or Socrates?
Pilate or Christ?*

10 VICTIS: W. W. STORY

o *THE SUCCESS OF
DEFEAT*

BY

Maltbie D. Babcock, D.D.



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PREFACE

THIS Address was first given in the city of Baltimore in 1893, before the Convention of the Maryland Christian Endeavor Union—students and wage-earners, young men and young women. Its issue in printed form in the Report of that Convention, and later as a separate pamphlet, has been so eagerly sought for that for some time it has been entirely unobtainable. This new edition is therefore put forth in further response to the strong demand for it.

Dr. Babcock's habit of rarely putting his sermons in full on paper, but almost invariably confining himself to brief, almost cryptographic notes, gives

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to this the added interest of being one of the very few of his public addresses to be had in its entirety.

This sermon stands preëminent as a revelation of its author's courage and hopefulness, and of his power of communicating these qualities to others. The day following its delivery an anonymous note came to Dr. Babcock with this question,—“Could you have given that address, and meant every word of it, if you were living in a loft on seven cents a day?” Unlike the usual fate of such notes, it escaped the wastepaper basket. Every possible inquiry was made, but no trace of the writer could be found.

Six months or more afterward, in a distant city, the same sermon was given, with the story of the anonymous note

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told in full. After the service a man came forward saying, "Dr. Babcock, I think I know your seven cents a day man. In fact, I know of two men struggling in your city for a medical education on just about that sum."

The search again began, and after months two men were found living in the belfry of a Church in a distant quarter of the city. Wellnigh crushed by their circumstances, cynical as to their future, they were almost in despair when they heard this sermon. Under the inspiration which that gave, and under Dr. Babcock's personal influence, their new courage and hope soon gave a further illustration from real life of the truth and power of this address.

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