

infallible instructions, which all the promptings of Nature and all the searchings of wisdom fail to discover. There we can ascertain not only the way to please our Maker and Ruler, but to obtain pardon for the past, grace for all the time, and glory when time is ended. On another occasion we shall go more fully into this matter.

ALPHABET OF LIFE.

By the Best Authors.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Accomplishments are sociable; but there is nothing so sociable as a cultivated mind.

BEHAVIOUR.

There is hardly any bodily blemish which a winning behaviour will not conceal, or make tolerable; and there is no external grace which ill-nature or affectation will not deform.

CONVERSATION.

Conversation is the daughter of reason, the mother of knowledge, the breath of the soul, the commerce of hearts, the bond of friendship, the nourishment of content, and the occupation of men of wit.

DUTIES.

Be not diverted from your duty by any idle reflections the silly world may make upon you, for their censures are not in your power, and, consequently, should not be any part of your concern.—*Epicætetus*.

EARLY RISING.

I would have inscribed on the curtains of your bed, and on the walls of your bed-chamber, "If you do not rise early, you can make progress in nothing." If you do not set apart your hours of reading—if you suffer yourself or any one else to break in upon them—your days will slip through your hands unprofitably, and frivolous, and unenjoyed by yourself.—*Lord Chatham*.

FIRMNESS.

Firmness, both in sufferance and exertion, is a character which I would wish to possess. I have always despised the language of complaint, and the cowardly, feeble resolve.

GENIUS.

The three indispensables of genius are—understanding, feeling, and perseverance.

The three things that enrich genius are—contentment of mind, the cherishing of good thoughts, and exercising the memory.—*Southey*.

HABIT.

Unless the habit leads to happiness, the best habit is to contract none.—*Zimmerman*.

Habit, a second nature, which often supersedes the first.

INDUSTRY.

If wisdom is the head, and honesty the heart, energetic industry is the right hand of every exalted vocation; without which the shrewdest insight is blind, and the best intentions are abortive.

JUDGMENT.

In forming a judgment, lay your hearts void of foretaken opinions; else, whatever is done or said will be measured by a false rule, like them who have the jaundice, to whom everything appeareth yellow.—*Sir P. Sidney*.

KNOWLEDGE.

It is never too late to learn what it is always necessary to know; and it is no shame to learn, so long as we are ignorant—that is to say, so long as we live.

LEARNING.

That learning which is got by one's own observation and experience, is as far beyond that which is got by precept, as the knowledge of a traveller exceeds that which is got by a map.

MANNERS.

Graceful manners are the outward form of refinement in the mind, and good affections in the heart.

NO.

No is a wonderful word. Be not afraid to use it. Many a man has pined in misery for years, for not having courage to pronounce that little monosyllable.

ORDER.

Order is the sanity of the mind, the health of the body, the peace of the city, the security of the state. As the beams of a house, as the bones to the microcosm of man, so is order to all things.—*Southey*.