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Brains and Energy Count.—The United States Commissioner of Labor remarked some time ago that "the men who achieve the highest success are those not particularly favored by influential friends, but who have carefully qualified themselves in the technical knowledge of their chosen vocation." That is the testimony of all who have had any practical experience of business life. Money, position, influence,—these are as nothing compared with brains, energy and perseverance.

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An Appropriate Appointment.—"Whom shall I make Lord Treasurer of France?" asked Louis XIV. of one of his councillors. "The Librarian of Rheims, your majesty." "Why him?" "He has been all his life in the library and has extracted nothing from it; he would, no doubt, take as little from your treasury." There are many like this man who spend their whole lives in the midst of fine opportunities for mental improvement, and yet get nothing from them. Their example is a wholesome warning to young people.

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No Past.—"There is no pest so long as books shall live," exclaimed Lord Lytton. "I go into my library, and like some great panoramas, all history unrolls before me. I breathe the morning air of the world while the scent of Eden's roses yet linger in it. I see the pyramids building. I see the sphinx when she first began to ask her eternal question. I sit as in a theatre; the stage is time as play is the play of the world. What a spectacle it is! What kingly pomp! What processions pass by! What cities burn to heaven! What crowds of captives are dragged at the wheels of conquerors! I call myself a solitary, but sometimes I think I misapply the term. No man sees more company than I do."

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The Care of Books.—Never ill-use a book. If it is worth owning it deserves careful handling. To abuse a book is evidence of the reader's thoughtlessness or cruelty of spirit. Children should be taught to handle books carefully, and with loving appreciation to preserve them. Yet too many are utterly indifferent or maliciously destructive in their use of books. A glance into many of our Sunday School rooms is enough to prove this. Hymnals on the floor, or untidily thrown into a heap, dog-eared, torn, or defaced Bibles, mutilated copies from the so-called library, and other signs of a destructive habit, are all too common in many places. The proper handling of books and the careful preservation of them, should be insisted on by both superintendent and teachers in all our schools.

Not only is the ill-use of a book wasteful of good property, but it develops a habit of destructiveness that may work much of ruin in later years. Treat books as you would your friends—with a kindly heart and tender affectionate touch.

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A Non-Conductor.—Rev. F. W. Macdonald in his delightful little volume, "In a nook with a book," in speaking of his early experiences as a boy, says "We had no book-cases with glass doors. These I have never been able to endure. The locking up of books in cupboards is poor-spirited business. It is resented by the books themselves if I know anything of their nature. The glass front through which they must look out must alternately chill and irritate them. Glass is a non-conductor, and effectually breaks the current of genial intercourse."

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A Chinese Motto.—The Chinese have a saying: "If you have two loaves of bread,

NOW is the time to begin the campaign for new subscribers to this paper. Let it be generally known that the "Era" will be sent to new subscribers from now until the end of 1908 for 50 cents. An "Epworth Era Evening" in every League, followed by a vigorous canvass, would undoubtedly increase our circulation. Try it and report results.

sell one and buy a lily." It is not the body alone that needs to be fed. Mind, heart, and soul grow hungry, and many a time they are famishing when the larder is full. There are homes where the lilies are entirely crowded out by the loaves; where there is no room for beauty or enjoyment, or even for love, to grow, because of the mad scramble after wealth. Fewer loaves and more lilies—less of the rush after material good, and more time for the gracious and beautiful things God has placed within reach of us all—would make happier and nobler lives.

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A Surprising Discovery.—The Brockville Times says that a writer in a specimen "popular" United States magazine has made the surprising discovery that Charles Dickens took Lord Stratheona as an original for one of the Cheeryble Brothers, in Nicholas Nickleby. This is truly a wonderful discovery, inasmuch as Donald A. Smith was an obscure Hudson's Bay Company clerk when Dickens por-

trayed his characters. Furthermore, the Cheeryble Brothers were taken from English characters. But it all goes to show how fearfully and wonderfully made are the magazines upon which Canadians have been mainly nurtured for so long.

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Follow it Up.—If you become interested in something of which you know but little, and your reading about it gives rise to a desire to know more of it, follow it up while it is fresh in your mind. Do not postpone investigation and study until you have more time. Probably you will never have a better or a more convenient hour than the one then present. If you put your search off to some indefinite future time, your interest in the subject may cease, and you drop it altogether. Any subject worth knowing about is worthy of instant attention, and if you look into it when fresh in your mind, it will grow in value and use to you. The pursuit of knowledge is not a vain and hopeless following after a receding phantom, but the steady following up step by step, and little by little, of the living and growing store of wisdom that increases our capacity for both knowing and doing.

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The Ally of the Church.—The pastoral letter sent out by the Newfoundland Methodist Conference to all its congregations, contains the following suggestive words: "Education is a potent and honored ally of the Church. The Scriptural injunction reads: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy mind.' And intellectual culture is necessary to a full compliance with that demand. We are especially ambitious that the young people of Methodism should be 'polished after the similitude of the palace.' Literature has been termed the greatest of the fine arts and certainly its importance cannot be overestimated in relation to the art of righteous living. The kind of books we read is a mighty factor in determining the kind of life we lead. The true university is a collection of good books and in these days of cheap and numerous publications, such a university is substantially within the reach of all. It is not necessary that we exhort the young of the congregations to give attention to reading. They are already doing that. But there is serious reason why we should urge them to cultivate a taste for the best literature. Much of present day novel reading is wholly pernicious, and excessive indulgence even in good fiction tends to impair the mental and moral life. The Epworth League in its literary department aims to effect true Christian culture, and we recommend the yearly League Reading Course as a cheap and valuable addition to the family library."

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