

walks which he was wont to take along the New England coast.

An article in the Independent, entitled "The Ideal School System," gives Los Angeles, California, the credit for having established a school system more nearly perfect than that of any other city or district in the United States. To begin with, the lowest classes, the kindergarten, have been turned right out of doors, the only structure approaching a classroom being a platform, provided with a roof and sliding sides, which may be drawn in case of a storm. The mildness of the climate permits of the use of such class-rooms during the entire year. One department of the school is devoted to study of the child himself, with the aim of finding out, by experiment, what he is good for, and what special activity he most enjoys. This department has been instituted for the purpose of preventing misfits in life.

A hygienic department has also been installed. Hygiene is a part of the curriculum. The child is taught to be healthy. There are seven school physicians, four of them men and three women, and there are seven school nurses. The physician in charge has elaborately equipped medical offices, and his work covers all phases of medicine and surgery, nervous, as well as purely physical disturbances, being cared for. Here is a solution of the sex problem. It is not yet safe to put this in the hands of untrained teachers, but a school department of hygiene covers the case. The board has even erected a hospital, where those children can remain and be provided for whose cases cannot be cared for in a single day.

Hope's Quiet Hour.

Faithful unto Death.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.—S. Luke xvi. 10.

"In Life's small things be resolute and great,
To keep thy muscle trained: knowest thou when Fate
Thy measure takes, or when she'll say to thee,
I find thee worthy; do this thing for me?"

—Lowell.

A young man once applied to an old friend of his father's for a position in his store. He was offered work which seemed very trivial and below his powers, but accepted the situation with cheery good-will. There was no slippity because he had to work with his hands, in stead of sepping at once into the more important brain-work for which his natural talents and thorough education had prepared him. Week after week he attended faithfully to his various unimportant duties, and apparently his employer had forgotten his existence. Six months slipped by, and—like a new broom—he still "swept clean."

Then he was unexpectedly offered a splendid position in the business. His employer had been quietly "taking his measure," and was convinced that a man who was so steadily faithful in little things, could be depended on in larger matters. A straw shows, far better than a cathedral, which way the wind blows. If you want to judge character, study men in their way of doing little things. Our Lord knew human nature thoroughly, and He has told us that one who is faithful in trifles will be faithful in important matters; and one who is unfaithful in trivial matters is not to be depended upon in anything.

What a splendid recommendation it is of any one when people say of him: "He is absolutely reliable, and to be depended on." They never say that about the person who is often late for an appointment—carelessly stealing the precious time of others—or who constantly neglects to return small loans, or who forgets a promise as soon as it is made. Such a person may be very faithful in the performance of some important work which he knows will be noticed. To do a conspicuous thing splendidly does not

always prove that a man is faithful. Sometimes it is only the outward sign of his ignoble ambition to be admired. "A man really is what he is when alone," not what he appears to be when he is wearing company manners. A wise man said many centuries ago: "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"

It is not strange that God takes notice of such small kindnesses as the giving of a cup of cold water to one who is thirsty. It is always the motive prompting the act which makes the act beautiful or otherwise; and there is little chance of self-display in such a small

on the right hand of the King are blessed because they gave to the rich and great. It is their gifts to "the least" of His brethren that especially please the King. So, also, those condemned because they had neglected "the least," may possibly have attended very diligently to other things which they considered important.

Life is built up entirely of little things. A great tree owes its greatness to many little acts done by its small and insignificant members. Day after day, year after year, the leaves and roots and drops of life-giving sap did their unnoticed work, secretly and faithfully. It seemed so little for each one to do, but

cept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."

We are beginning another year, and we desire earnestly to make it a precious and beautiful gift to God, and of real value to our fellows. Don't let us feel discouraged if the work pressing upon us each day seems trivial and unimportant. The one thing of real importance is that we should do it faithfully. Christ could easily feed the five thousand hungry people, but the five little loaves and two small fishes must be given freely if great things were to be done by their means. God could multiply the loaves—that was easy—but it was a fine thing for the lad to give away food he needed for his own hunger. He might easily have said: "My loaves will be enough for me, but they are not worth giving away." Even St. Andrew, who had been so long used to his Master's power, thought that the lad's gift of loaves and fishes was not worth considering: "What are they among so many?" he asked, faithfully. But JESUS answered his despairing question promptly and hopefully: "Make the men sit down." He had asked: "Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" and the lad's whole-hearted offering of his scanty supply of food was all the answer He needed. The feast was ready—let the men sit down.

We are so disappointed if we have to "waste" our lives in doing unimportant work. How blind we are! God can easily do the "large" things—through our gifts or without our help—but He can never force our faithful service. If He did, the service would be no longer faithful. We have the power to give Him something of priceless value—our faithful service unto death. The kind of service that can be depended on.

When I was in charge of a social settlement, the volunteer workers were a constant problem. Some of them were very enthusiastic at first, clever and interested and eager. But when the novelty wore off, and the work became monotonous and uninteresting, some of them became careless and unfaithful. The weather, a headache, or another engagement, would be considered sufficient excuse for neglecting the work they had undertaken. One stormy day I had to look after seven classes at once. But a few volunteers were absolutely reliable. I was confident that they would be on hand, rain or shine, unless absolutely unable to attend.

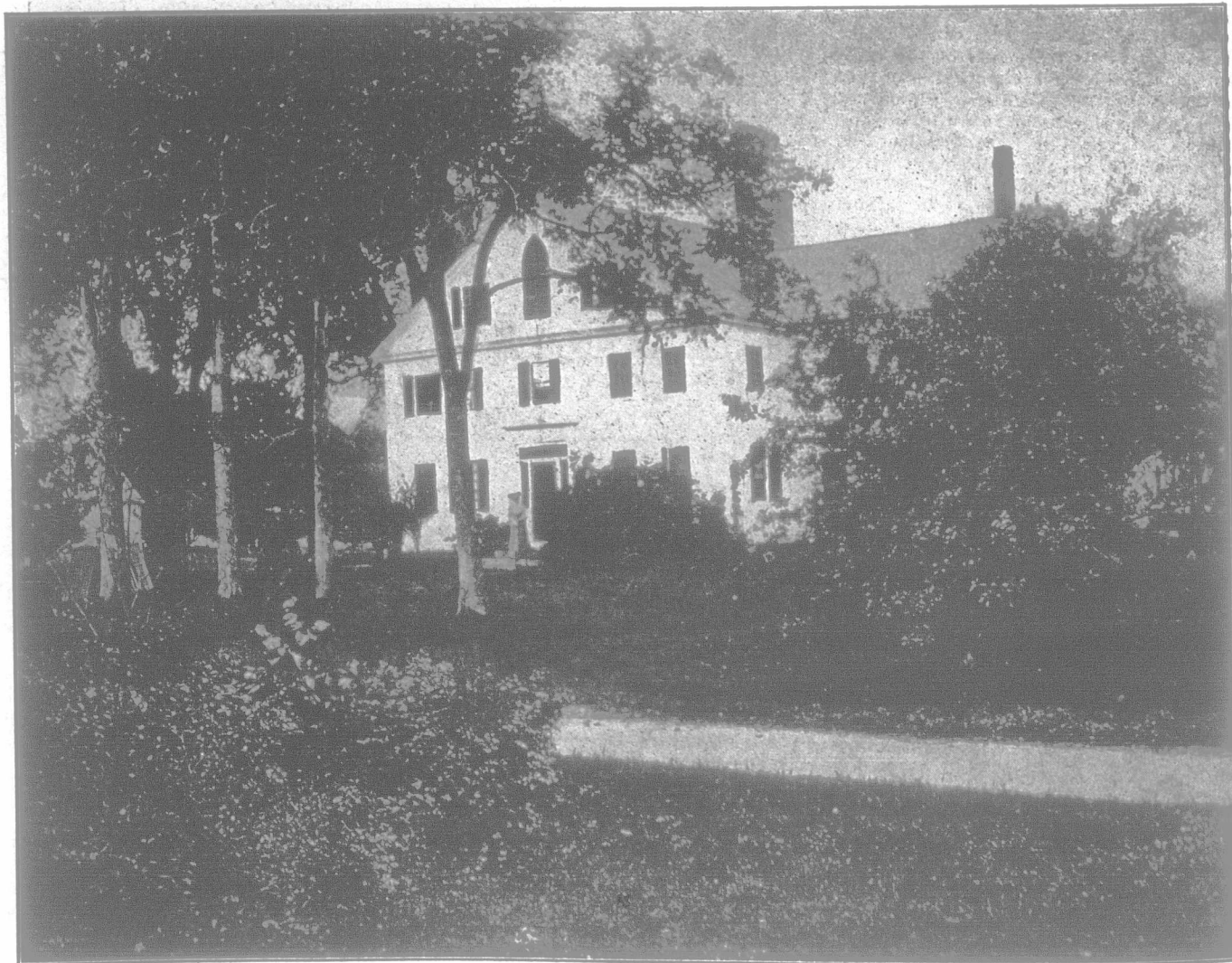
Genius, beauty, or charm of manner,



The Study at "Quillcote," where "Rebecca" was Written.

kindness. A woman once decided to be especially kind to the people who go from door to door trying to sell small articles. She was poor, and could not buy much from them; but she spoke in friendly fashion—instead of saying curtly: "I don't want anything to-day." Sometimes when they looked very weary and sad, she would ask them to rest, and would offer a drink of water or a cup of tea. Such a beautiful service—hidden from the world—must be very dear to the King, Who accepts as a gift to Himself any real kindness shown to one of the least of His brethren. In the story of the Last Great Day (S. Matt. xxv.), we are not told that those

if it had not been done there would have been no splendid tree. No baby can become a man by one great effort. It takes years of faithful work done by the hidden servants—lungs, heart, etc.—to build a man. No one can become a scholar, a musician, a painter—or anything else of importance—unless he goes through a lot of patient drudgery. The city of Jericho was taken by Joshua's army; but not until the army had marched round and round the walls, day after day, patiently and faithfully. An ignorant child may become a learned man, but the great result can only come from years of faithful work. "Precept must be upon precept, precept upon pre-



"Quillcote," Maine, the Summer Home of Kate Douglas Wiggin.