

so is freed from vulgar applause ; and knowing that his ability is only in his courage, he is too fearful of himself to become proud. Like the sun in the early dawn, he hardly rose above a hill-top, and for a long time seemed a tardy traveller ; but steadily gaining his meridian, thousands who once looked down, now gaze upward at him.

Take twenty boys of like ages from the form of any school in the kingdom, and their tutor will tell you, all along that the chief difference in their mental progress is merely the result of industry. Nay more, that in by far the majority of cases, the promising boy not only defeats his hope, but seldom draws an equal trace with his steady fellow, and as seldom reaches his repute for sound and solid acquirement.

This constitution of mind is not desirable, as it is mostly the indicator of a restlessness which can never hew long enough to get to the ore : if it be done at all, it must be by the fire, the combustion of intellect. This restlessness often degenerates into a vagrant and wandering mind, that begs at no door long enough to get good, and departs satisfied with the merest trifle. It is flighty and changeful, and seldom sees more of a country than its first glimpse of beauty and sunshine ; leaving its real possession and true value to be entered upon and realized by others.

I have said all this not only to remove a general and erroneous impression that your petted, precocious, promising boys are ones to reflect unusual credit on intellectual training, and to take the quick way upward ; but especially to encourage the diligent, and offer a guarantee to every ordinary mind, that the *key* of *industry* will find its way into all the wards of the lock that fast the *treasury of knowledge*.

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## THE PERIOD OF YOUTH: ITS IMPORTANCE AND DANGERS EXHIBITED.

Youth is a term of a somewhat indefinite meaning ; and is used in a sense so comprehensive as to include the whole of that period of human life which lies between mere childhood and the years of manhood. Even in that largest acceptation of the term it may undoubtedly, with all confidence, be affirmed, that youth is a period of inestimable importance. Not even the earliest subdivisions can be otherwise regarded by any reflecting mind. Obviously, however, it is in a more restricted sense we are to