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The Dignity of a Calling is its Utility.

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Ex students will confer a great favor on the Editors of this Journal by sending news, particularly experiences of practical value.

EDITORIAL.

When the sun rides in Taurus, and the earth is endeavoring to look as gay as the garlands of spring can make her, with what new energies they seem to inspire us. While these two, father sun and mother earth, have been doing their utmost to make things beautiful and pleasant for us, and have been causing the leaves to gradually expand that they might also assist in the work, we thought, as we watched the Syringas struggling into bud and then into leaf, how much they resemble the intellect of the student which is being gradually unfolded until the parts are developed.

Sometimes development is hindered by frosts which are the discouragements a student receives in life, but he should imitate the plant and pursue his course with a determination to produce leaves, then flowers and fruit. Sometimes the weather is very changeable in spring and so is the mind of the young, but as sudden and many changes of atmosphere are not good for plants, neither are sudden and many changes good for the development of the intellect. Have an aim in life and pursue that with the tenacity and persistency which is characteristic of plants, for example, an oat will produce an oat; barley, a barley, and wheat, a

wheat; and if given suitable conditions all the power of man cannot make them produce any other than their own kind; so, if you intend to be a farmer, resolve to be one of the very best farmers, and this you cannot do if you are a farmer to day, a mechanic next week and a merchant a month after; and so it is with every occupation. "seek to make thy course regular so that men may know beforehand what they may expect."

* * *

While in one of our cities on a Saturday evening not long ago, we watched for a few minutes the throngs that kept promenading up one side of the walk and down the other, and as we looked upon them we thought what a great waste of time. Young people who ought to be improving every moment to fit them for life's sterner duties, seemed to be sauntering back and forth with no thought, apparently, for the future. The crowd still keeps on its ceaseless round - but see! On the other side of the street is an old man clothed with rags. As he goes along he too, doubtless, glances at the idle multitude and reflects upon the time when he was young and wasted his energies in a frivolous way as these are now doing.

Young people, stop! On the other side of the street is a type of the person you are likely to become if this needless waste of time is persisted in for a few years.

What hours and hours are wasted by young men and boys in loitering around the corners, villages and streets. If this valuable time were improved in developing the physical part of their nature or in cultivating the intellect, how different would be the persons that soon would inhabit our villages, our towns, our cities and our farms. What need would there then be for houses of refuge or jails, constables or police, turnkeys or guards? All these might be dispensed with and their labor directed into more profitable channels. Idleness is the great cause of crime. If means could be devised to occupy the whole of the time of young people while not engaged at their occupation, either in pursuits tending to elevate them physically or intellectually, the moral standing would be raised and a great many persons who now obtain their living from the results of crime would be compelled to seek employment elsewhere.

But all time that is wasted does not occur outside college walls. Time is idly spent in the halls, in other fellows' rooms, in silly conversation and in many other ways which college men, if they wish, can find to kill time. Not to dwell on these, but when we consider the great amount of time that is almost wasted in cramming for examinations, would it not be better to make as few as possible in a year. Two in a year are plenty (one, better still) and it would have the effect of making better men, men of broader knowledge, wider reading, and better able to grapple with a subject. They would learn how to read and digest, instead of performing feats of the memory, such as memorizing three months lectures, which, as Bacon says, may be classed with exhibitions.