

Such happy little creatures they are, filling the house with song through the dark winter days, and now in the time of sunshine and flowers attending to the duties of feathered-life with cheerful serenity. That roomy cage is not a prison, it is their "home," and often after investigating all the cosy corners of the room they return to it with contentment.

Birds, flowers and children fill the old school with beauty, fragrance and vigour, but the daily routine of life is very unromantic. Meals have to be cooked, clothes mended, rooms swept, beds made, lessons learnt, lessons taught; there is no hour without its own prosaic duty, and if we are sometimes tempted to grow weary of this daily round, let us try to remember that—

"The finest life lies oft in doing finely
A multitude of unromantic things.
The heroism of all such true endeavour
Shall gild the common place of common days,
And God Himself shall guard such work for ever,
And crown it with eternity of praise."

Friendship.

"They seem to take away the sun from the world, who withdraw friendship from life."

It is very hard for me to find an adequate definition for that little word "Friend," which contains so much and such wonderful meaning. I will simply tell you what my idea of a true friend is, and how we ought to make choice of our friends.

Most people have some hobby which gives a certain amount of interest and color to their lives; some have horses, some dogs, others care for books or flowers, etc., but to me all these put together would count as nothing beside the dear companionship of my friend. The former can be quickly obtained by any one who possesses a little wealth, and can, perhaps, even be easily replaced when lost, but a friend is sometimes won after years and years of waiting, and often it is only after death we realise the bitter measure of our loss.

In life we come in contact with hundreds of people to whom we must show courtesy and kindness; but we cannot call them our friends, for we know little about their characters, thoughts, or feelings. In selecting a friend we should be very careful to choose one who will advance us and not drag us down. When buying a horse one always enquires about his age and pedigree, his temper and other good points, but many people take less than no trouble in