

Mothers' meetings; and finally, she should be pleased with everybody and everything, and never desire any reward beyond the satisfaction of having done her own duty and other people's too."

### HOW TO GET THE BEST PLACES.

There are in society a great many *good* places, but the *best* places are few, and not easily reached. Who shall have the best places? Let any boy look about his school-room and ask which of these boys are to have the best places, and he will find it hard to decide. In all the schools there are many thousands of boys, and some of them will get the best places. Who are they? that is the question.

I wish to speak to the boys of one trait which often decides which of the two boys, who want the same place, gets it. I refer to accuracy in scholarship and practice. I do not refer to absolute accuracy, which belongs to the all-knowing mind, but to that habit which strives to think the thought and do the act as nearly accurately as possible. Some boys use the word 'about' too often. 'The area of a certain field is *about* so much;' or a certain city is '*about* on such a line of latitude;' or 'the sum of certain quantities is *about* so much;' or a certain sentence in a translation or composition is '*about* thus and so.' If they spell a word, or solve a problem, or keep an engagement, that pestilent little word pushes itself into notice. The second class of boys cultivate the habit of accuracy. They try to 'hit the nail on the head,' and do it every time. If they add up a column, or multiply, or spell, or make a promise, they aim to do the thing precisely right.

Let two boys of these two kinds apply for a position as book-keeper, or superintendent's clerk, or any other office of trust. The one is *about* right, the other is right; the one does his work *about* right, the other does his right; the one may be *about* accurate in his business, the other is accurate. The accurate boy, other things being equal, will surely get the place, whilst the other one will *about* not get it.

I saw a young man in the office of a western railway superintendent. He

was occupying a position that four hundred boys in that city would have wished to get. It was honourable and 'it paid well,' besides being in the line of promotion. How did he get it? Not by having a rich father, for he was the son of a labourer. The secret was his beautiful accuracy. He began as an errand boy, and did his work accurately. His leisure time he used in perfecting his writing and arithmetic. After awhile he learned to telegraph. At each step his employer commended his accuracy, and relied on what he did because he was sure it was just right.

And it is thus with every occupation. The accurate boy is the favoured one. Those who employ men do not wish to be on the constant look-out, as though they were rogues or fools. If a carpenter must stand at his journeyman's elbow to be sure his work is right, or if a cashier must run over his book-keeper's columns, he might as well do the work himself as employ another to do it in that way; and it is very certain that the employer will get rid of such an inaccurate workman as soon as possible.

I knew such a young man. He had a good chance to do well; but he was so inaccurate and unreliable that people were afraid to trust him. If he wrote a deed, or a mortgage, or a contract, he was sure either to leave out something or put in something to make it imperfect paper. He was a lawyer without business, because he lacked the noble quality of accuracy. Just across the street from him was another young lawyer, who was proverbial for accuracy. He was famous for searching titles; and when he wrote out the history of a title to a piece of property, it was taken for granted as just so. His aim was absolute accuracy in everything. If he copied a conveyance, or cited a legal authority, or made a statement, he aimed to do it exactly. The consequence is, he is having a valuable practice at the bar, and is universally esteemed.

"But," says some boy, "when I become a man, that is the way I shall do. I mean to be very accurate." Perhaps so. I could tell better if I knew just how you do your work now. There are several ways of getting a lesson. One is to get it "tolerably well," which does not cost