

# The WESTERN SCHOOL JOURNAL

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— INCORPORATING —

*The Bulletin of the Department of Education for Manitoba*  
*The Bulletin of the Manitoba Trustees' Association*

## THE DAYS

The Days steal softly through the curtained door,  
One at a time the Warder lets—no more,  
Each with his gifts close-veiled from human sight,  
And lays them at my feet upon the floor;

Then waits, while I discover what he brought,  
Great things and small, with good and evil fraught,  
And watches quietly while I make play,  
For good or ill—and all too oft for nought

So speeds the great procession of the Days,  
Too fast, too slow, but nought its progress stays;  
Each gives me back, that which I first have given,  
But what each takes my endless future sways.

Extract from "The Days"  
John Oxenham.