

### Always Learning.

Waste not your precious hours in play—  
Nou. it can recall life's morning;  
The seeds now sown will cheer your way;  
'The Wise' are always learning.

Nor think, when all school days are o'er,  
You've bid adieu to learning;  
Life's deepest lessons are in store;  
'The Meek' are always learning.

When, strong in hope, you first launch forth,  
A name intent on earning,  
Scorn not the voice of age and worth;  
'The Great' are always learning.

When, right and wrong within you strive,  
And passions fierce are burning  
Oh, then you'll know how, while they live,  
'The Good' are always learning.

### A Grateful Cat.

I was once on a visit to a friend in the country, who had a favorite cat and dog, which lived together on the best possible terms, eating from the same plate, and sleeping on the same rug. Puss had a young family, and Pincher was in the habit of making a daily visit to the kittens, whose nursery was at the top of the house. One morning there was a tremendous storm of thunder and lightning. Pincher was in the drawing-room, and puss was attending to her family in the garret. Pincher seemed annoyed by the vivid flashes of lightning; and, just as he had crept nearer to my feet, some one entered the room, followed by puss, who walked in with a disturbed air, and mewing with all her might. She came to Pincher, rubbed her face against his cheek, touched him gently with her paw, walked to the door, stopped, looked back, and mewed—all of which said, as plainly as words could have done, 'Come with me, Pincher,' but the dog was too much alarmed himself to give any consolation to her, and took no notice of the invitation.

The cat then returned, and renewed her application with increased energy; but the dog was immovable, though it was evident that he understood her meaning, for he turned away his head with a half-conscious look, and crept closer to me, and puss soon left the room. Not long after this the mewing became so piteous that I could no longer resist going to see what was the matter. I met the cat at the top of the stairs, close by the door of my chamber. She ran to me, rubbed herself against me, and then went into the room, and crept under the wardrobe. I then heard two voices, and discovered that she had brought down one of her kittens, and lodged it there for safety, but her fears and cares being so divided between the kitten above and this little one below, I suppose she wanted Pincher to watch by this one while she went for the other, for, having confided it to my protection, she hastened upstairs. Not, however, wishing to have charge of the young family, I followed her up, taking the kitten with me, placed it beside her, and moved the little bed farther from the window, through which the lightning flashed so vividly as to alarm poor puss for the safety of her progeny. I then remained in the garret till the storm had passed away.

On the following morning, much to my surprise, I found puss waiting for me at the door of my apartment. She accompanied me down to breakfast, sat by me, and caressed me in every possible way. She had always been in the habit of going down to breakfast with the lady of the house; but on this morning she had resisted all her coaxing to leave my door, and would not move a step till I had made my appearance. She had never done this before, and never did it again. She had shown her gratitude to me for the care of her little ones, and her duty was done.

### About Saving.

Children who have a little money ought to practise saving something. Many boys of to-day hardly know a higher use for any money that comes into their hands than spending it for some foolish thing as quickly as possible. To such, a lesson of self-denial and economy is important. As go the

boy's pennies and dimes, so, very likely, will go the man's dollars and hundreds, by and by. Without having the spirit of a miser, the person accustomed to save has more pleasure in laying up than the spendthrift ever knows.

The way to keep money is to earn it fairly and honestly. Money so obtained is pretty certain to abide with its possessor. But money that is inherited, or that in any way comes in without a fair and just equivalent, is almost certain to go as it came. The young man who begins by saving a few dollars a month, and thriftily increases his store—every coin being a representative of solid work, honestly and manfully done—stands a better chance to spend the last days of his life in affluence than he who, in his haste to become rich, obtains money by dashing speculations by the devious means which abound in the foggy regions which lie between fair dealing and fraud. Let the young make a note of this.

### Bruno.

He was only a little lad,  
Barefoot and brown,  
With large eyes wistful and sad,  
And dark hair waving down.  
Over the vine-clad hills,  
From the golden Tuscan land,  
By olive groves, and by singing rills,  
With a lute in his little hand.  
He sang; but his heart was sad  
At the heedless, hurrying town;  
He was only a little lad,  
Barefoot and brown!

There were tears in his little voice,  
He sang and played.  
No mother had ever heard  
The sad sweet songs he made.  
But only in dreams to him,  
On the vine-clad hills, she sung,  
And ever sweetest when day grew dim,  
And the bells at vespers rang.  
None knew the dreams he had,  
In the friendless, pitiless town;  
He was only a little lad,  
Barefoot and brown!

*F. E. Weatherly.*

### The Secret of Genius.

"They talk," said Tom Marshall, of Pennsylvania, the brilliant lawyer and orator, "of my astonishing bursts of eloquence, and doubtless imagine it is my genius bubbling over. It is nothing of the sort. I'll tell you how I do it. I select a subject and study it from the ground up. When I master it fully I write a speech on it. Then I take a walk and come back and revise and correct. In a few days I subject it to another pruning and then recopy it. Next I add the finishing touches, round it off with graceful periods, and commit it to memory. Then I speak it in the field, on my father's lawn and before my mirror, until gesture and delivery are perfect. It sometimes takes me six weeks or two months to get up a speech. When I have one prepared I come to town. I generally select my own subject. I speak my piece. It astonishes the people, as I intend it shall, and they go away marvelling at my power of oratory. They call it genius, but it is the hardest kind of work."

The finer the nature, the more flaws will it show through the clearness of it. The best things are seldomest seen in their best form. The wild grass grows well and strongly one year with another; but the wheat is, by reason of its greater nobleness, liable to a bitter blight.—*Ruskin.*

The actions of the boy or girl show what the actions of the man or woman will be and no matter what age a person is they should try to improve on their habits and by continually weeding out bad traits they may look forward to a time when their lives will be a clear field for the enjoyment of such luxuries of manhood or womanhood as only pure, moral development can cause them to appreciate.