

OUR GEM CASKET.

"But words are things, and a small drop of ink
Falling like dew upon a thought produces
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think."

Gratitude is the fairest blossom that springs from the soul.

The energy that wins success begins to develop very early in life.

To the blessed eternity itself there is no other handle than this instant.

The least error should humble, but we should never permit even the greatest to discourage us.

That was a good prescription given by a physician to a patient, "Do something for somebody."

The power of a man's virtue should not be measured by his special efforts, but by his ordinary doing.

There is fellowship among the virtues by which one great, generous passion stimulates another.

The darkest chapter in the nature of man is the tendency to pull down the reputation of his fellow men.

Good breeding consists in having no particular mark of any profession, but a general elegance of manners.

Be courageous and noble-minded; our own heart, and not other men's opinions of us, forms our true honor.

No man is more nobly born than another unless he is born with better abilities and a more amiable disposition.

Every one of us, whatever our speculative opinions, knows better than he practices, and recognizes a better law than he obeys.

Any coward can fight a battle when he is sure of winning it; but give me the man who has the pluck to fight when he is not sure of winning.

Many a small man never ceases talking about the small sacrifices he makes; but he is a great man who can sacrifice everything and say nothing.

A moderate self-confidence is the foundation of true manliness of character, and the source whence have issued most of the noblest enterprises in the world's history.

Poverty is hard, but debt is horrible; a man might as well have a smoky house and scolding wife, which are said to be the two worst evils of our life.—*Spurgeon*.

Be not diverted from your duty by any idle reflections the silly world may make upon you, for their censures are not in your power and consequently should not be any part of your concern.

It is common to talk about the work of the school in making good citizens. The school can aid in this work, but the homes of a country, far more than its schools, determine the character of its citizens. It is in the home that the foundations of character are laid.—*Geo. McDonald*.

Hope and daring will not accomplish a great deal unless toil is their handmaid. Duties and toil may not be sought; they are always near at hand, if our eyes will only see them. Well directed toil will insure success in every walk of life, high or low.

What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul. The philosopher, the saint and the hero, the wise, the good and the great man, very often lie hid and concealed in a plebeian, which a proper education might have disinterred and brought to light.

We mortals, men and women, devour many a disappointment between breakfast and dinner time, keep back the tears and look a little pale about the lips, and in answer to inquiries say, "Oh, nothing!" Pride helps us; and pride is not a bad thing when it urges us to hide our own hurts—not to hurt others.—*George Eliot*.

Talent is power; tact is skill. Talent is weight; tact is momentum. Talent knows what to do; tact knows how to do it. Talent makes a man respectable; tact will make him respected. Talent is wealth; tact is ready money. For all the practical purposes of life tact carries it against talent in the proportion of ten to one.

CURIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC.

Plaster-of-Paris is made hard enough for a mould for metal castings by the use of ten per cent. of alum in the water used for mixing the plaster.

A marine and mechanical exhibition will be opened in London next July, and it will contain practical examples of gas, hydraulic, and the electric engineering.

Paris is having so much trouble burying its dead, owing to the crowded condition of its cemeteries, that the government proposes to legalize cremation as the only practicable solution of the problem.

The body heat of birds is greater than that of any other class of animals, ranging from 106 to 112 degrees Fahrenheit. Among the mammalia it is from 65 to 105 degrees, varying in adult man from 98 to 100 degrees.

London fogs are dangerous as well as disagreeable. According to official statistics, no fewer than six hundred and thirty-seven people died in the week ending Dec. 16, from diseases of the respiratory organs, under the influence of the almost continual fog.

Near Tabiana, Italy, the remains of a fossil elephant have been found. The tusks measure 3.2 metres in length and 0.28 metres where they are narrowest. The find has caused quite a sensation, and there will likely be a careful excavation made when the winter is over.

Sir Rutherford Alcock, an eminent medical authority, asserts, on the authority of the Registrar-General's returns, that nearly one-fifth of the mortality in large towns is due to diseases which it is in our power, by the adoption of proper sanitation measures, almost to eliminate.

Mr. Routledge held lately at a scientific meeting that the paper trade was probably the one which turned to immediate use the most waste, utilized cotton, flax, hemp and jute waste and old ropes and canvas-rags. In fact, the paper manufacturer could turn to profitable purpose any vegetable fibre.

In a recent paper, Prof. Willis de Hass stated that all the mines of the Lake Superior region give evidence of having been worked by a prehistoric race, and that a greater amount of labor had been performed by those ancient miners in a space of not less than two thousand acres than two thousand men could do in twenty years in our time.

The startling discovery has been made by M. Pasteur that the saliva of a person fasting is venomous, as it contains parasites which will inoculate. Breaking the fast deprives the saliva of its poisonous quality, as the parasites are taken into the stomach with the food. The eminent biologist gives for the present only the fact, and makes no attempt at explanation.

The *London Lancet* believes that naked electric lights are injurious to the eye, and suggests that some mode of mitigating their intensity be devised. It says the light is too hard and needs to be softened. The waves of motion are too short, and the outstroke, so to say, joins the instroke at too acute an angle.

The following compound for general use as a grease eradiator, is recommended by the *Chemist and Druggist*: Castile soap, in shavings, four ounces; carbonate of sodium, two ounces, borax, one ounce; liquid ammonia, seven ounces; alcohol, three ounces; sulphuric ether, two ounces. Soft water enough to make one gallon. Boil the soap in the water until it is dissolved, and then add the other ingredients.

Our finger-nails grow about three times a year. They should be trimmed with the scissors once a week, not so close as to leave no room for the dirt to gather, for then they do not protect the ends of the fingers, as was designed by nature; beside, if trimmed too close at the corners there is danger of their growing into the flesh, causing inconvenience and sometimes great pain. The collections from under the ends of the nails should not be removed by anything harder than a brush or a soft piece of wood, nor should the nails be scraped with a penknife or other metallic substance, as it destroys the delicacy of their structure, and will at length give them an unnatural thickness.