

The dreadful disease of ennui, of life weariness comes upon all who have no positive aim. The wine of life must be the sense of progress. Margaret Fuller remarked that the object of life was to grow, to develop. She is cited as a very remarkable example of rapid development. As another example of that perseverance which brought its reward of rapid growth, we may consider the character of Milton. He determined in early life to write a work which the world would not willingly let die. Although we cannot all be Miltons or Margaret Fullers, we can well mature the germ within us, that it may come forth under its brightest light.

It is often heard among the maddening crowd of men that that man or that woman gains success upon cushions of ease, he or she was born in the lap of luxury. Was Columbus sent to discover America in an elegant French steamer? Did the great reformers of the past lay their heads on pillows of down? Far from it, they were pillowed on hardship; taught by poverty, they were not worked into success. There is no royal road to learning.

As the intellect expands and we are enabled to receive more and more of the philosophy of life, we are given those mystical keys which unlock door after door in unknown labyrinths of thought.

If the hope of progress or growth is taken out of life, existence becomes undesirable, almost unendurable. With a sense of development, even in the lowest nature the interest in life revives. With hope in the breast of man he can suffer and be still, take away that hope, and the heart dies before the body.

Self development may not be a mere selfish aim, it may and can aid society, and what ever is to benefit ourselves and the outside world, ought never to be classed under the head of selfishness.

Development or growth has its mystery, it is especially mysterious how the mind

can expand to meet the ever advancing thought.

We grow only as we endeavor to cultivate our truest selves, the selves that we were made to be. We are sent here each one of us to fill a particular place and each to do our own work which no one can ever do in our stead.

If we are faithful to this magnificent trust, if we fail not to cultivate our separate individualities, we shall certainly grow.

The palm tree springs erect to heaven and grows like a palm, the creeping vine spreads itself along the earth and pours its fragrance on the refreshing breeze. The true soul that develops the brightest and the best, finds with glad surprise, that unconscious quiet growth has conveyed it to the garden of genuine plants of use and beauty.

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SOME THOUGHTS ON FIRST-DAY SCHOOL WORK.

As the First-day School Conference is drawing near, and to be held in Canada for the first time, it awakens in us an interest in regard to some of the subjects that are likely to be discussed; one especially has claimed a good many thoughts, that is, the right work for First-day schools. While I think "Friends' Lesson Leaves" are good and have been a great help to us, they do not wholly supply the want in the younger classes, they need more Bible history, questions bearing directly on the Scripture lesson read. I would suggest for the consideration of Friends who are engaged in First-day School work, if it would not be better to have the questions prepared similar to the International Lesson Leaves? Any thoughtful teacher can often point out a similitude between our daily lives, and the history of many of the events recorded in the Bible. While I do not