

SELF-CULTURE.

"Every person has two educations: one which he receives from others, and one, more important, which he gives to himself."

It is astonishing how much may be accomplished in self-culture by the energetic and persevering, who are careful to avail themselves of opportunities and use up the fragments of spare time which the idle permit to run to waste. Thus Ferguson learned astronomy from the heavens while tending sheep on the highland hills; Stone learned mathematics while working as a journeyman gardener; Drew studied the highest philosophy in the intervals of cobbling shoes, and Hugh Miller taught himself geology while working as a day laborer in a quarry. By bringing their minds to bear upon knowledge in its various aspects, and carefully using up the very odds and ends of their time, men such as these reached the highest culture and acquired honorable distinction among their fellow men.

Sir Joshua Reynolds was an earnest believer in the power of industry and held that all men might achieve excel-

lence if they would but exercise the power of assiduous and patient working. He held that drudgery was on the road to genius and that there were hardly any limits to the proficiency of an artist except the limits of his own painstaking. He would not believe in continual inspiration, but mostly in study and labor.

"Excellence," he said, "is seldom granted to a man but as the reward of labor. Whether you have great or moderate abilities, industry will improve them." Sir Foxwell Buxton, who labored in a different field, was an equal believer in the power of study, and placed his greatest confidence in extraordinary application. And it is unquestionably true that the men of the highest genius have invariably been found to be among the most plodding, hard working and intent men—their chief characteristic apparently consisting simply in their power of laboring more intently and efficiently than others.

SAMUEL SMILES.

SERMONS IN STONES.

The Power of Interest:

Interest is the necessary warmth of mind to make a subject attractive. It will cause a person to go to the bottom of a purposed undertaking in order to get at the elements of strength and weakness that are inherent therein. In this manner success can often be foreseen or failure averted, and in either case the investigator is far safer because of his interest.

The Power of Appearance:

Many a young man has been "turned down" by his superiors in business on account of his appearance. Perhaps his attire was careless, his manners somewhat uncouth or his speech uncultured.

First impressions are generally lasting. Shrewd business men take a hasty first glance of inquiry at the applicant for a position and make up their minds upon some of the points we have just enumerated. It is afterward very difficult to get them to take up the matter again, because they are not interested in revising their first opinions. In

view of this it certainly stands young men or women well in hand to smooth themselves up. They should give the matter of dress more careful attention; they should study the art of meeting men and women in business; they should study the art of expression far more than they generally do, so as to "hit the nail on the head" the first time in an interview. First impressions of others will often make or mar a life, and we commend the subject very warmly to our young readers.

The Power of Effort:

Genius has been appropriately defined to be "Capacity for Hard Work," and the motto of successful business men is, "Keep everlastingly at it." The law of labor is that no one can get anything out of life that he does not put into it. It is only a question of form. A moment of mental energy of the highest form may result in the production of a ton of gold of the lower form, and so on throughout all the efforts and rewards of life.