

our children in habits of industry. It is not enough to talk earnestly against idleness; we must see that they are actually not idle. For the sake of health, let them never contract habits of indolence. A child should be taught the necessity of employing every part of his nature diligently and in earnest. "Nine tenths of the miseries and vices of manhood proceed," says Carlyle, "from idleness." This is a strong statement, but I believe it to be true. What more wretched than the feeling that one has absolutely nothing to do? "When I rise in the morning," observes some old writer, "if I can think of anything to do, if it is but the plucking of a rose, I am happy." Labor should be represented to the young as a blessing, and constant, useful occupation should be shown, both by precept and example, to be the truest happiness.

Idleness is a prolific parent of the vices. Nothing is more dangerous to the character of children than to allow them to remain unemployed. If they are not doing good, they will certainly do evil; if their thoughts are not directed to profitable topics, they will roam upon all that is ensnaring and corrupt. Leave them to themselves, and you are sowing those seeds which spring up in vanity and folly, if haply they do not yield a fearful harvest at the haunts of dissipation, intemperance, gambling, shame, and ruin. Teach, as far as possible, useful occupations; but, rather than permit your son to be idle, set him to removing a pile of stones from one end to the other of your garden. Keep your daughter employed, — always excepting a liberal allowance of time for recreation, — keep her busy. Better knit what you know must be all unravelled, better any thing that is harmless, than that she form the habit of sitting, hour after hour, perfectly idle. I would