

"JUST AS GOOD."

In the markets of the world all manner of wares, good, bad and different, are exposed for sale. The demand for cheap goods is constant. Hence many "imitation" articles are manufactured, which are represented, or rather misrepresented, as being "just as good" as the genuine merchandise for which they are offered as substitutes. Under these circumstances shopping is no easy thing. Comparatively few persons are discriminating buyers. Many go about their purchases like children with a few dimes in their pockets, who buy the first thing offered them which happens to strike their fancy. But it will not do in this world to take up with the first thing that comes along. Counterfeits must be guarded against. Pretences must be discerned. It will prove a poor policy to rest content with things that are "just as good" when only the very best will answer the real purposes of life.

Pupils at school for example, often think that their own method of solving a problem, writing an essay or declaiming a piece is "just as good" as that recommended by their teacher, but the latter really knows more about the matter than they do; and scholars who disregard the best rules of rhetoric and the established standards of science, cannot hope to really succeed in life. So boys possessed of their first set of tools often set to work in a heedless fashion to cut or hammer out all sorts of queer things, and are meanwhile impatient of all advice from their watchful father. "Oh, that will do just as well!" is the exclamation of many a lad who mistakenly thinks that he is taking a short cut to a fine result in carpentry when he employs a method which the experience of his elders condemns as next to useless. So also does the young girl who thinks that she is an accomplished seamstress just because she can run a few stitches through a bit of soft cloth, and declares that a hasty, coarse style of sewing will do "just as well" as the painstaking, fine stitching that is her mother's pride, show her lack of good sense and in experience in the ways of life generally.

"Just as good" is a poor motto. "Just as good" has ruined many who have thought pretence to be the equal of true heart-religion. "Just as good" has proved the undoing of many a young business man, who has failed to act upon the principle that nothing is safe to be done that is not exactly the true thing to do under the circumstances, and who has ruined his reputation by a habit of being satisfied with "half right" or "almost correct." Whether it be amid the struggles of the commercial and professional worlds, or in the Christian life itself, nothing is "just as good" that is not just as good as the best.

BUSY YOUNG PEOPLE.

They should always be busy—always stirring about and always doing something. "Work while the day lasts," is a Bible command. Nights are the time in which to sleep, dream and rest. The bright, glad day with its golden sunlight, is the time for ceaseless action.

Everything in Nature is busy. The wild flowers in the woods are always growing and blooming. Not a daisy among the millions in the bright summer-time, that is not busy. If it can do nothing else, it is forever holding its heart of gold toward the great sun, or nodding in the soft breezes of summer. The robin, the wren, the lark, and in fact the whole feathered creation, are busy, and the seasons, too, are busy, as they drop their riches upon the earth and then go. Every cloud that floats through the blue expanse of the sky, is forever going onward. In short, Nature is the busiest teacher in all the world. It never dreams, except when covered with the shadows of the night.

Yes, the young should be busy—busy in the work that God places before them. Then the tempter dares not assail them, for it is generally the idle dreamer whom he leads astray. Then they will grow up into busy men and women.

The idler is the clog to the wheel of progress, the obstacle to right, and the enemy of God. Be busy, then, young worker in the Master's vineyard. Plough, sow, watch or reap—anything that is His work. Keep busy, and reward shall surely come.

SUCCESSFUL AT LAST.

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ARE WE CAREFUL?

"Does God really hear every discontented word I ever speak? Does He hear when I grumble about the weather, about the hard winter, about the late spring, about the dry summer, about the wet harvest, about the grub-worm and the grasshopper? Does He hear when I grumble about the frosts, about the drought, about the high winds and the storms? Does He hear when I scold about my circumstances, about the hardness of my lot, about my losses and disappointments?"

If we could get into our hearts and keep there continually the consciousness that every word we speak is heard up in heaven, would we murmur so much as we now do? We are very careful of our speech before men. We are always on our guard when we think anyone is within hearing, and speak only proper words. Are we as careful of what we say in the hearing of Heaven? We are careful, too, never to speak words which would give pain to the hearts of those we love. Are we as careful not to say anything that will grieve our heavenly Father?

—If the Christian course had been meant for a path of roses, would the life of the Author of Christianity have been a path strewn with thorns?

A FRIEND DEFINED.

A London paper some time ago, offered a prize for the best definition of a friend. The prize was awarded to the person who sent in this: "The first person who comes in when the whole world has gone out." This is an excellent definition, and the prize in our opinion, was worthily bestowed. It would be difficult to compress the description of a real friend into fewer words. Who has not known the time when such friends were needed and such friends came?—the time when the whole world has gone out and gone by, cold, unheeding and indifferent, and left one to struggle alone with some great sorrow, disappointment or loss, until the friend came in, the cheery, happy hearted friend, bringing the word or the deed that tipped the balance of life and brought it back again to the side of faith and hope and strong assurance in the goodness and love of a never-failing heavenly Father. Such friends are rare, and when found they are more to be prized than all the jewels of Golconda or the gold of the Klondike.

YOUTH'S SPECIAL SEASONS.

Life seems to have special seasons for labor, rest and recompense.

There are times when the arms are stronger, the feet swifter to go, and the eyes clearer to see. These are in the glad days of early life that are touched all along with hope and promise. This is the season in which to build the "sure foundation" for all the great future. It is the time to prepare for any and all emergencies that may afterward arise. If youth is really made the grand "stepping-stone" of the great afterward, each day may become a golden link to bind joy, peace, and happiness to the human soul.

Then when the after-years come with the infirmities of old age, there is the "eternal temple" in which the tired one may sweetly rest. Age may bow the form, leave the whiteness of the snow upon the hair and wrinkle the once fair face, but the peace and joy are ever the same. The same helpful Friend lingers in the "Temple of old Age" that watched over the young builder in Life's fair morning.

Oh, how many responsibilities cling to the days of youth, and how full of possibilities they are! They

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