

Now!

How great import is contained in this short Anglo-Saxon word. It narrows down the boundaries of time, even to a moment, and there is nothing indefinite in its signification. When this word is employed in reference to time, we are compelled, as it were, to lay aside both past and future, and to confine ourselves to the present.

It seems to be the constitution of many natures, to be constantly reviewing the past, and, on looking upon their mistakes and failures alone, to complain with a mournful sigh, saying: "It might have been."

Others are continually looking far ahead, building air castles, making grand speculations and theories, and have in their minds a vague prospect of "a good time coming." Now, we should take a retrospective or a prospective view of life, only so far as it will assist us in governing our present course of action. When we review our previous history, and see how, by certain false steps or erroneous ideas, we failed to reach a desired end, we are led by these lessons to shun doubtful methods, and to take better precautions in our more immediate duties. Again, if we place before our minds some object to be gained, or end to be realized, this very looking ahead gives us zeal and inspiration in our present employments.

But life is too short, and time too precious, to be spent in lamenting past errors, or in making resolves for the future. Now is the only time given to us to use, and it is the imperative duty of each individual to improve the opportunities of the present. Every person, in his occupation, has certain engagements to meet and duties to perform; and if he attends to these at once, he is relieved of a considerable weight of responsibility, and is better fitted to grapple with other and harder obligations. Some persons keep continually putting off attending to the duties incumbent upon them, until, as they suppose, a more convenient season. But this convenient time never comes to them, and they are ever negligent of their own interests. Obligations which may be comparatively small now, if laid aside, will, in some future time, loom up before us like grim spectres, and will have assumed such

proportions that we shall neither be willing nor competent to overcome them. The brazier, if dissatisfied with a piece of work, may throw the metal into the furnace and have it recast. But not so can we re-fashion our actions, when once they are past, but they remain as though engraved in adamant. Now is the time for action! "Be wise to-day." Tardiness in fulfilling the commands of the general has often been the cause of a battle being lost. Neglecting to meet engagements at the proper time has led to the failure of many merchants. The student who omits to master a few points here and there, because they are difficult or do not suit his taste, will find many of these matters brought to his notice in the "Grand Review," and then it will be too late to attend to them. Everything around us appears to say, "*Tempus fugit.*" It seems but a short time since the earth was being divested of its snowy mantle, and commenced to assume its livery of green. Spring, Summer and Autumn have hastened, one after the other, in rapid succession; and now the falling leaves, the mournfully sighing wind, and the stillness at times that may almost be felt, foretell once more the approach of Winter.

The boy, full of ambition and youthful aspirations, longs eagerly for the time to come, when he shall become a man, and be his own master and provider. But the time rushes on and he is surprised to find that life is very short; and when old, he will acknowledge that life, which appeared to be so long to him entering upon it, now seems to be only a dream.

"Time and tide wait for no man." Therefore let us improve the moments, and take up the duties lying in our several paths. Have we any aim in life? Do we set before our minds an ideal which we wish to imitate? Do we desire to accomplish some great undertaking? Then, we must commence now, and faithfully employ the means which are necessary for attaining these ends. The family motto of Doddridge was "*Dum vivimus vivamus,*" "let us live while we live," and this should be our motto. By employing the present to the best advantage, we will live the most happily. Persons young in years are apt to imagine that their way of living now is of little consequence, because they are only prepar-