

Never to ridicule sacred things, or what others may esteem such, however absurd they may appear to be.

Never to show levity when the people are professedly engaged in worship.

Never to resent a supposed injury till I know the views and motives of it. Nor on any account to retaliate.

Never to judge a person's character by personal appearance.

Always to take the part of an absent person who is censured in company, so far as truth and propriety will allow.

Never to think the worse of another on account of his differing with me in political or religious opinion.

5. SOMETHING FOR YOUNG MEN TO READ.

If every boy and young man would sit down and carefully read and candidly consider the following suggestions of the *Philadelphia Ledger*, he would get a lesson, the want of which has been the ruin of thousands:—"There can be no more certain assurance to a young man of a disastrous business life, than the incurring of debts during his minority. And the term minority may be considered to include the years which he remains in the position of clerk or pupil, even though his years extend beyond 'one and twenty,' which to many a heedless youth is the date of confirmed pecuniary slavery or freedom. Expensive habits among clerks, apprentices, the undergraduates in colleges, and the students of professions, lead to pecuniary embarrassments of the very worst descriptions, for it is not seldom the case that the parents of their young men are put to great cost, and frequently have to exercise the most rigid economy, to provide and continue the means for their support. The calculation of expenses has been based upon the necessary outlay only. Many of the fondest parents would not decline to mortgage their property, or to obtain money at interest, or to wrong their other children, in order to give to the favourite son, money to expend in amusements, over-dressing, or dissipation in any form. The young man himself would not dare to ask this in plain terms, and yet not a few incur expenses, and appeal through a mother, or a self-denying sister, for the funds to obtain release from difficulty or to avert disgrace. This is virtually the form of the highwayman reversed to suit the case: "Your money or my life." The parental instinct and the family pride thus appealed to, the applicant is successful, while any power of satisfaction to the demand is left; and the household at home pinch themselves that the graceless son may flourish abroad.

"But appetite grows on what it feeds on, and all that can be raised at home is not sufficient. Habits of duplicity are created, and the fond parents are deceived into thinking that they had quenched the fire, when they have only, in reality, been supplying fuel. The young spendthrift is more involved than ever—more extravagant and more reckless. The evil habit of indulgence to escape thought follows, and from the first sad mistake of outrunning the income, a life of mistakes is dated. The small leak sinks the ship, and a sad wreck, mental, moral and pecuniary, is the result. Parental affection sent forth the bark fully equipped, and hoped to see it return fully freighted. But the result is, everything lost, not excepting honour."

6. PICKING UP THOUGHTS.

Boys, you have heard of blacksmiths who became mayors and magistrates of towns and cities, and men of great wealth and influence. What was the secret of their success? Why, they picked up nails and pins in the street, and carried them home in the pockets of their waistcoats. Now, you must pick up thoughts in the same way, and fill your mind with them; and they will grow into other thoughts, almost while you are asleep. The world is full of thoughts, and you will find them strewn everywhere in your path.—*Elihu Burritt*.

7. THE TRIUMPHS OF OLD AGE.

Physiologists tell us that, with a greater prevalence of a knowledge of the laws of health, the world may expect an increase of the average duration of human life. Perhaps this time is already dawning. At any rate here are a few "health" considerations for those above fifty. All churches that have pastors of seventy years of age and upward, are requested to draw comfort from these considerations of *The Methodist*: Von Moltke, quite juvenile at seventy, plans and executes such a campaign as modern ages have never witnessed; his sovereign, tough as oak at seventy-four, roughs it on the field as jauntily as a young lieutenant. Von Roon, the Prussian War Minister, older than either general or king, directs from Berlin the marshalling of hosts and gathering of supplies. Nor are these wonders confined to the German side of the contro-

versy. Thiers, at seventy-five, flits with the vivacity of a boy from one camp to the other, is a negotiator of peace and the executive head of the French Government. Of his associates, Dufaure, the Minister of Justice, is seventy three. Guizot, King Louis Philippe's ex-Minister, though past eighty, writes books with as much precision and force as when he occupied a professor's chair.

In England, where men are reckoned young till they are past fifty, splendid examples of vigorous old age have not been wanting. Palmerston, Lyndhurst and Brougham, octogenarians all of them, led public opinion in Great Britain to the end of their days, and died in harness. It is said of the first of the three, that after a field night in the House of Commons, he would be seen at daylight walking home at a pace which a young man could hardly equal. Thomas Carlyle, over seventy, abates nothing of his intellectual vigor; while Lord John Russell, though creeping towards eighty, still attends the Upper House of Parliament. Our own country, too, furnishes as striking instances of hearty old age. Stewart, Drew and Vanderbilt, the money-kings of this city, are old men, as the years are counted; but still hold firmly in their grasp, the great interests which they control. Bryant, editor and poet, at seventy-four translates Homer, and, judging by his numerous public addresses, must be as busy as ever. The grave has just closed over Dr. Skinner, who nearly half a century ago was famous as a preacher, and of whom it may be said, that to the last "his eye waxed not dim, nor did his strength abate."

8. SELF-TAUGHT MEN.

Many men are said to be self-taught. No man was ever taught in any other way. Do you suppose a man is a bucket, to be hung on the well of knowledge and pumped full? Man is a creature that learns by the exertion of his own faculties. There are aids to learning, of various kinds; but, no matter how many of these aids a man may be surrounded by, after all, the learning is that which he himself acquires. And, whether he be in college or out of college, in school or out of school, every man must educate himself. And in our times and our community every man has the means of doing it.—*H. W. Beecher*.

9. OBSTINACY OVERCOME.

A gentleman related in my presence a little incident which I give as I heard it. A waggon was passing heavily laden with slates; the horse stopped, refusing to be urged or cajoled into starting. Of course, I expected, as usual, to see the driver use his whip, or perhaps his heavy boots, with an accompaniment of shouts and oaths, to remind the animal of his neglect of duty; he went to the waggon, and commenced fumbling in its depths. Now, thought I, that poor horse will receive a most tremendous beating; and I waited the issue with bated breath. But instead of the heavy stake which I anticipated, he drew out an old wooden bucket, the outside covered with meal, the remains of former lunches; ran along the road for some distance before the horse, and set it down. The animal, true to his instincts, forgetting his former obstinacy and whims, hurried towards the well-remembered receptacle of former enjoyments, and the battle was won by a little quiet management, saving pain and trouble for both man and beast. Now, thought I, as I went on my way rejoicing, here is a lesson for educators. Don't drive and push, and swear and scold, but accomplish your object, whether it be with child or "dumb animal," by means of some incentive to the performance of duty, which shall recall pleasures past, or be an earnest of joys to come.—"Teacher," in *Our Dumb Animals*.

10. OF WHAT PROFIT IS KNOWLEDGE?

Dr. Guthrie says:—"A man may know all about the rocks, and his heart remain as hard as granite or adamant; he may know all about the winds, their courses and their currents, and be the sport of passions as turbulent and fierce as they; he may know all about the stars, and his fate be the meteor's, that blazes for a little while, and is then lost, quenched in eternal night; he may know all about the sea, and be a stranger to the peace of God; his soul may resemble the troubled waters, which, lashed by storms and ruffled by every breath of wind, cannot rest, but throws up mire and dirt; he may know how to rule the spirit of the elements, but not know how to rule his own; he may know how to turn aside the deadly thunderbolt, but not the wrath of an angry God; you may know all, in short, that man's genius has discovered or his skill invented, but if you do not know Jesus Christ, if your eyes have never been opened to a saving knowledge of the truth, what will that avail you when they are fixed in the sockets, glazed by the hand of death? Equally by the death-bed of the greatest philosopher, as of the