

## Heartsease.

Ever since the earliest childhood of the world, the great All-Father has kept the thought of responsibility before His children.

It has been a potent factor in the world's development, and nothing can ever take its place in true education.

Even quite a little child is taught to be responsible for the use it makes of things,—gradually is interwoven the idea of responsibility for its influence over others, while all the time it is learning by degrees the very hardest lesson of all, responsibility for itself, its advantages, pleasures, privileges, duties, all that goes to make up its own individual life.

At school responsibility for the use we make of time, and opportunities of learning, is taught now-a-days chiefly by means of examinations.

There are few who do not know what preparation for an examination means, and who among us has not experienced the dread sense of being set down alone, either in the presence of the examiner, or with a blank paper before us which he will scrutinize later on? Every avenue of escape carefully guarded, with nothing but our own past to fall back upon—no way now of making up for carelessness, neglect, idleness, and the like—no chance of looking out the word or date we ought to have made sure of last week—no opportunity of going over that difficult passage just once again, there we are, ourselves, as we have made ourselves, our opportunities and advantages behind us, and the real state of our knowledge or ignorance laid ruthlessly bare to the unprejudiced eye of justice, and the strictures of unbiassed criticism.

Perhaps the uneasiness many of us feel at such times is not all due to our sense of the importance of that particular test, but to an underlying, unexpressed feeling that this is but typical of what death will bring to every one of us.

In that great examination of our life-work—the end of our responsibility here, how shall we acquit ourselves?

Will our success be such as shall do credit to our Master, the Lord Christ? and do honor to our school—His church?

If it is to be so, let us pray that we may realize in time that it is not only by nerving ourselves for some great future effort, though we may and should keep that thought ever in mind, but by patiently and thoroughly mastering the lessons each day brings us, and never despising "Drudgery, the grey angel of success," that the result, humanly speaking, will depend.