

A Page for the Young.

STRIVE early for the truth and right
Forego the cross to win the crown,—
That crown of peace forever bright
And one above the earth's renown.
Above all others, truly those
Who wield the power of self-control,
And wiser far who've early chose
The life that satisfies the soul.

LUCKY ACCIDENTS.

Some of our most valuable discoveries and inventions have sprung from mere accidents, just such as transpire about us every day; but few are quick enough to notice them, and take advantage of them. Perhaps you are all familiar with the fact that the swaying chandelier in a cathedral suggested to Galileo the application of the pendulum.

"For the method of refining sugar with wet clay, we are indebted to a hen! Having just returned from a walk over a moist clay bank, she stepped into a ladle of brown sugar, and wherever her tracks were found, the sugar was thoroughly whitened."

This seemingly trifling accident did not happen among blind people, or there would have been no good result.

"While holding a pair of spectacle glasses between his thumb and finger, a watch-maker's apprentice was surprised at the enlarged appearance of a church spire, and thus was discovered the power of lenses as applied to telescopes, opera-glasses, etc."

"The art of lithographing was discovered through a suggestion made by accident. A musician's poverty induced him to try the experiment of etching music upon stone instead of copper. Just as he had his slab prepared for the trial, his mother asked him to make a memorandum of such clothes as he wished sent away to be washed. Pen, ink and paper being inconvenient; he wrote the list upon the stone with the etching preparation, intending to copy it at his leisure. When about to clean the stone, a few days later, he was suddenly seized with the desire to try the effect of aqua fortis upon it, and lo! in a few moments the writing stood in bold relief. The next step necessary was to ink the stone, and take off the impression."

"The art of etching upon glass was discovered by a Nuremberg glass-cutter. He accidentally dropped a few drops of aqua fortis upon his eye-glasses, and noticed that they became corroded and softened thereby. He began to study, and the result was the drawing of a set of figures upon glass, with varnish, afterward applying the corroding fluid, and cutting away the glass around the drawing. When the varnish was removed, the figures appeared raised upon a dark ground."

"A paper-maker one day strolled through a field, and thoughtlessly plucked a few straws,

and put them into his mouth, where, to his surprise, they were soon reduced to a pulpy mass, closely resembling the substance from which paper is made. He set to work to try the experiment in his mill, and, after great perseverance, paper was manufactured out of straw."

Don't walk about with your eyes shut, boys; there may be something remaining for you to discover.

ABOUT POSTAGE STAMPS.

Making postage stamps is an elaborate piece of work. In printing, steel plates are used, on which 200 stamps are engraved. Two men are kept hard at work covering them with colored inks, and passing them to a man and girl, who are equally busy printing them with large rolling hand presses. Three of these little squads are employed all the time. After the small sheets of paper upon which the 200 stamps are engraved are dried enough, they are sent to another room and gummed. The gum used for this purpose is a peculiar composition, made of the powder of dried potatoes and other vegetables mixed with water. After having been again dried, this time on the little racks which are fanned by steam power for about an hour, they are put in between sheets of pasteboard and pressed in hydraulic presses capable of applying a weight of 2,000 tons. The next thing is to cut the sheet in half; each sheet, of course, when cut contains 100 stamps. This is done by a girl, with a large pair of shears, cutting by hand being preferred to that of machinery, which method would destroy too many stamps. They are then passed to other squads who perforate the paper between the stamps. Next they are pressed once, and then packed and labeled, and stowed away for despatching, to fulfil orders. If a single stamp is torn or in any way mutilated, the whole sheet of 100 is burned. 500,000 are burned every week from this cause. During the process of manufacture the sheets are counted eleven times.

FRUITS, MEET FOR REPENTANCE.

One day a Kaffir girl in South Africa went to a missionary and dropped four sixpences into his hand, saying, "That is your money."

"You don't owe me anything," replied the teacher.

"I do," she answered, "and I will tell you how. At the public examination you promised a sixpence to anyone in the class I was in who would write the best specimen on a slate. I gave in my slate and got the sixpence; but you did not know then that another person wrote that specimen for me. Yesterday you were reading in the church about Zaccheus, who said, 'If I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.' I took from you one sixpence, and I bring you back four."