

which gave such bright promises when launched upon life's journey under favouring breezes.

What responsibilities devolve upon us! Do we know them, realize them, feel them—and feeling, act; “Act in the living present”?

If mankind would awake to an examination of self; if we could throw off that sauntering humor, which as a habit lets a great part of each day, of each life, run carelessly away without either business or recreation, we might acquire much skill in many things and ways, quite apart from our proper business or vocation.

Without much knowledge of Natural Science, and without any of its technicalities, much can be done by any one, by encouraging observations and affording or presenting opportunities for the observance of many facts and phenomena, that can be easily and simply explained. The wonders of Nature are ever with us—in all seasons—in all lands, and not only delight and gratify the senses, but lead us up “through nature to Nature's God in worshipful humility, to feel the boundless power and wisdom of our Creator.” The rich coats of animals, their graceful forms and movements; the beautiful variegated plumage of birds, and their sweet songs, all delight the senses; but the elevation of the intellect must follow when their wonderful construction, their uses and the part each plays in Nature's great drama, are observed and comprehended. It can never be too strongly impressed upon minds anxious for the acquisition of knowledge that the commonest surrounding objects are worthy of minute and careful attention. That man has been studying them from earliest times, and recording his interpretations of the Creator's plans, only serve to show how little has been done by comparison with what has yet to be accomplished.

Sleep, the pulsations of our heart, and such puzzling mysteries of our existence are not yet satisfactorily solved, and these problems of paramount importance to nobly endowed man, the crowning work of God on earth (standing at the top of the animal creation), have engrossed man's attention for centuries, and will continue to do so. Then think of thousands of creatures of which little is known, but that they exist, and see what a field of work is before those who may devote themselves exclusively to the fascinating employment of determining their