

Self-Reliance is a Good Teacher.

We often find that boys who have educated themselves in the country, almost without schooling or teachers, make the most vigorous thinkers. They may not be quite as polished or cultivated, in some ways, but they have something better than polish, and that is mental vigor, originality of method and independence. They do not lean upon their schooling, or depend upon their diplomas; necessity has been their teacher, and they have been forced to act for themselves and be practical; they know little of theories, but they know what will work. They have gained power by solving their own problems. Such self-educated, self-made men carry weight in their communities because they are men of power and think vigorously and strongly; they have learned to concentrate the mind.

Self-help is the only help that will make strong, vigorous lives. Self-reliance is a great educator and early poverty a good teacher. Necessity has ever been the priceless spur which has called man out of himself and spurred him on to his goal.

Grit is more than a match for almost any handicap. It overcomes obstacles and abolishes difficulties. It is the man who makes an opportunity and does not wait for it—the man who helps himself and does not wait to be helped,—that makes the strong thinker and vigorous operator.

It is he who dares to be himself and to work by his own programme, without imitating others, who wins.—*Success.*

People who would recoil from ordinary thieving or burglary are often flagrant offenders in a form of dishonesty closely akin. We joke about our own poor handwriting, and groan over our friends'. But how many hours of precious time were stolen yesterday, do you suppose, out of the life of persons who spent from twice to five times as long over the deciphering of letters as would have been necessary if their writers had been honestly careful instead of carelessly dishonest? Few persons look at the matter thus seriously, but that fact in no way lessens the moral responsibility of the offenders. A man who would not tolerate wasting another man's time will write him a letter that, from its illegible handwriting, destroys time and temper alike. Every one not a paralytic can, no matter how old, learn to write clearly. Every one has a simple duty to write clearly. If it is a question of my time or my neighbor's, whose should be spent? Verily, it would not seem irreverent to say that for every illegible word that men shall write, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.—*Sunday School Times.*

Autumn Programme.

Long before Thanksgiving Day, all the beautiful autumn leaves have faded away, and the various fruit, vegetables, etc., which the children have collected, and cherished with a Thanksgiving spirit, have decayed; and by Thanksgiving you have very little left with which to decorate your room.

Why not, about the third or fourth week in October, when Jack Frost's paint brushes have given the world its most beautiful coloring, and the fruit and vegetables are so profuse, have an autumn programme. Not a Thanksgiving programme. But a simple little autumn programme. I have tried it several years to the infinite delight of both the children and parents. I arrange to have the room a mass of autumn glory; autumn leaves, goldenrod, asters, fruit and vegetables; autumn songs, short autumn memory gems; acting of some autumn story, as the Ants and the Grasshopper, The Wee Wee Man, Flight of the Birds, The Squirrels in the Tree.

Let each child wear a bunch of bitter sweet berries or mountain ash berries; and have some little ones, stationed at the doors to present the guests with an autumn bouquet and a pin.

With your hektograph print your invitations on Manila paper. Sketch a big oak leaf or maple leaf and on it write the invitation. If you live where you can secure birch bark, nothing could be prettier to write the invitations on than the bark.

Have the programme *very short and very good.* The parents will be sure to come again. When parents do not visit your school, something is the matter. This is one way to get into touch with them, so they will want to come to see your regular work. Try it.—*School Education.*

Block City.

What are you able to build with your blocks?
Castles and palaces, temples and docks.
Rain may keep raining, and others go roam,
But I can be happy and building at home.

Let the sofa be mountains, the carpet be sea,
There I'll establish a city for me;
A kirk and a mill, and a palace beside,
And a harbor as well, where my vessels may ride.

Great is the palace with pillar and wall,
A sort of a tower on top of it all;
And steps coming down in an orderly way
To where my toy vessels lay safe in the bay.

This one is sailing and that one is moored—
Hark to the song of the sailors on board;
And see on the steps of my palace the kings,
Coming and going with presents and things.

—Robert Louis Stevenson.