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Looking Forward.

With every rising of the sun
Think of your life as just begun.

The past has shriveled and buried deep
All yesterdays. There let them sleep.

Nor seek to summon back one ghost
Of that innumerable host.

Concern yourself with but to-day,
Woo it, and teach it to obey

Your will and wish. Since time began,
To-day has been the friend of man;

But in his blindness and his sorrow
He looks to yesterday and to-morrow.

You and to-day! a soul sublime,
And the great pregnant hour of time!

With God himself to bind the twain!
Go forth, I say attain! attain!

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

The Same Religion.—A secular vocation is as truly a call to integrity as the ministry is to sacredness. In secular duties there need not be the secular spirit. The religion of the family altar should be the religion of the saleroom. He who will not carry his religion into his business has little to carry anywhere.

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A Smile.—The *Southwestern Presbyterian* thus characterizes a smile: "What a wonderful thing is a smile! How it lights up the countenance! How it turns a plain face into one almost of beauty! It is as it were the very soul, the life, coming into the features, glorifying them and making them more than merely physical. It seems to come up from the depths of the heart that lies back of the face, and moves itself as well into the heart of the beholder. Why begrudge or be chary of such grace!"

✧

They went to Sunday-school.—When the Rev. F. B. Meyer had been staying with the Prince and Princess Bernadotte, of Sweden, at their home, he recalls that their last words to him on Saturday night were: "Will you excuse us if we have breakfast an hour earlier on Sunday morning? because it is our custom to go with our children to our Sunday-school, which is always preceded by a prayer meeting for half an hour, and that we never miss." It has been a beautiful thing to see the Prince and Princess and their four children depart early in the morning to attend these services. If fathers and mothers generally would copy this example and go with

their children to Sunday-school it would be an untold blessing to all concerned. In this country, we have made the mistake of looking upon the Sunday-school as solely a children's institution.

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Partisanship Run Mad.—The secular papers tell of an old man in Indiana who killed himself because his son voted for the candidates of a political party to which he was bitterly opposed. It had always been this old man's boast that he and all his sons had been life-long supporters of a certain political party, and the defection of his one boy preyed on his mind till he came to the act of suicide. Surely it would be hard to find a more remarkable example of partisanship run mad. The picture is pathetic.

✧

Badly Handicapped.—The *Michigan Presbyterian* strikes the nail on the head when it says: "A church that has to expend a large part of its energies in raising a debt or in keeping out of debt by a narrow margin, cannot fulfil its whole duty to a community. It is like a piece of machinery that wastes most of its power in counteracting friction. It is the surplus of power over and above the mere running of the engine that counts for useful service. A church that is hampered financially is handicapped in its efforts."

✧

Great Human Books.—Some interesting things were said on the subject of books and reading by Mr. John Morley in opening the new library at Somerville College, Oxford, a short time ago. Mr. Morley said: "In a well-constituted library a right-minded man or woman would, on entering, feel surrounded by an atmosphere which was truly religious. . . . As to the spirit in which a library should be used, libraries were places in which to think, and not to dream. . . . They should also remember not to leave out of account, in reading the great human books that taught them their lessons of pity, kindness and strenuous love, and prepared them for the great battle of life."

✧

A Good Place.—Rev. Dr. Spencer, in the *Central Christian Advocate*, writes thus of the Epworth Hotel at St. Louis: "Having recommended this place, we were a little sensitive that it should be all and more than we said. It is. It is a permanent brick structure, ample, cool, modern, with expert service and, as we found, a fine table not particularly expensive. Fire apparatus is through the

building. The roof has a big roof-garden commanding a panorama of the Fair and of the city and of Delmar Garden, and there is an auditorium for Sunday and other meetings. The street cars stop at the platform of the hotel. What concerned this writer also was its accessibility to the Fair grounds. The hotel is 1,500 feet from the grounds; the hotel has put down a sidewalk, or the street cars run to the gates."

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Burned Up His Home.—"That man lives in a rented house because he burned up his home." When asked to expound his parable, the village pastor said: "He smoked four cigars a day for ten years. Each day his cigars cost him 20 cents. Twenty cents a day means \$73 per year. \$73 per year, with compound interest at 5 per cent., for ten years, means over \$975. \$975 will buy the comfortable house and lot where he now lives, and which might have been his if it had not gone up in smoke."

✧

Biggest Ship Afloat.—The "Baltic" of the White Star Line, which was launched recently, is, in respect to displacement, without a rival among ships now in actual service on the sea, although the two freight steamers built at New London for use on the Pacific may possibly carry as much freight when put into service. The length of the "Celtic" and "Cedric" of the White Star Line is 700 feet, that of the "Oceanic," 704 feet, that of the "Kaiser Wilhelm II." (which just now enjoys the reputation of being the swiftest of all the ocean liners), 706½ feet, and the "Baltic," 725 feet. No attempt has been made to obtain speed with the "Baltic," which is not expected to make more than about 17 knots an hour; but to many travellers this consideration is not important, while the increased steadiness of so huge a vessel will prove a strong attraction. Low speed also means to the owners a great saving in the cost of fuel consumption. The engines of the "Kaiser Wilhelm II." develop about 40,000 horse power, and those of the "Oceanic" about 27,000, while the engines of the "Baltic" are rated only at 13,000. The amount of coal burned bears a fixed proportion to the power developed.

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Most Impressive.—One of the Filipino commission, when asked what had most impressed him in the United States, said: "Your public libraries, which furnish books for all the people without money and without price."