

Then the croaking frog off yonder
drones his part.
By and by the moon appears,
As the midnight hour nears,
And smiles dispel the lowering mist
and fog;
Then the mirth is at its height,
And they glorify the night—
The katydid, the cricket, and the frog.

BEST LESSONS.

"Oh, there's that Ruth Knolls and her brother again. Do you know, Miss Merton, she is just awfully dull in school, and we girls laugh at her so much. She hasn't a particle of brilliancy."

Viva chattered this speech out as she walked along the street beside Miss Merton.

"She has something far better than brilliancy," said Miss Merton.

"What?" said Viva, her cheeks flushing uncomfortably; for she felt that she had made a mistake, and she was very anxious to stand well in Miss Merton's opinion.

"She has a courteous manner. That is a grace that is very great, but far too rare. I know Ruth quite well, and her kindness and courtesy are un-failing in company or at home. She is going to grow into a lovely womanhood."

"I am sorry I spoke so," said Viva. "I really don't know anything about her except that she stumbles so dreadfully in her lessons."

"No doubt she is very sorry about it, and I am sure she works faithfully. It is a fine gift to be quick and bright in understanding things. But you know, my dear, that it is far more important to be kind-hearted and gentle. When you girls go out in the world, no one will ever ask or know whether you got good grades in Algebra or Latin. If you have done your best, it is wrought into you, whether your best is very good or only mediocre. But be sure of this: Every one who meets you will know without putting you through an examination whether you are a gentlewoman or not. It isn't practical to quote Greek or discuss psychology or read Shakespeare with everyone you meet; but you can always speak kindly and listen courteously, and quietly look for the opportunity to do the little deeds of kindness that make our lives so much more worth living."

TIME LOSERS.

"I always seem to allow myself plenty of time, and yet I am always late," moaned a young girl.

"Do you want me to tell you the reason why?" Aunt Agnes said.

"When you commence getting ready there is a searching for mislaid articles, a scrambling after this and that, until you upset the balance of the whole house."

"Why, Aunt Agnes!"
Yes, dear girl, it is really so. For instance, this morning you spent ten minutes searching for your gloves, five for your hat, and another five for your purse. In that way you lost twenty minutes by actual count."

"You lose more time than you can estimate. You are careful and par-

ticular about some things, but you do not realize what these lost hours mean when they are summed up together."

"I want to tell you, dear," continued Aunt Agnes, "of a bit of my own early history which may convey a message. When I was quite young, I was disposed to be careless about many things, but I called them trifles and did not trouble my head about them. One day I received a letter from your Uncle Edward saying he would call at the house at three o'clock, and if I would be ready so as not to detain him a moment, he would take me for a long drive with him. I was delighted, as I was specially fond of Uncle Edward, and to have him to myself several hours behind his beautiful pair of horses was a treat indeed."

"Usually, when there was anything on hand, mother would say, 'Now, Agnes, do hurry dear, you will be late,' but I remembered later she left me entirely to myself on this day. She told me later I had vexed her and tried her so often she resolved to allow me to suffer the consequences of my own carelessness."

"Well, dear, when your Uncle Edward called, I was not ready, had not, in fact, commenced to get ready, and when the maid announced him, I was sure he had made a mistake in the hour. It was not so, however. I was the one who had lost the time."

"And when Uncle Edward said, 'No, Agnes, I cannot wait for you, you should have been ready, you are a time loser,' I thought my heart would break, as I valued highly your uncle's opinion."

"A time loser! what an odd way of expressing it, Auntie."

"By and by, when you are older, you will perhaps realize something of the value of time. And I do not like to see you idly squandering that for which you render an account before God."

The face of the girl flushed, and tears dimmed her eyes.

"I was late at school this morning, Auntie, because I could not find my

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Latin, I had forgotten where I laid it."

"What excuse, Miss Lee," said Miss Adams. And when I told her she said, "A poor excuse, and one which marks you as of careless habits."

"Well, dear, there is no need that it should be so. Begin now by guarding the moments, look upon them as something which if idly spent can never be restored. You will find if you cultivate the habit of carefulness in little things, and take care of the flying hours, you will be ready for the work which awaits you."—Sara V. Du Bois.

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