

The best, most simple, and most practicable way to protect poultry manure against loss is to have a floor of loose earth in the roosting-house, under the perches, and to spade in the droppings every few days. This will entirely prevent the escape of the fertilizing gases, as well as of all offensive effluvia, and the whole depth of the spaded earth will become as rich, in time, as the droppings themselves.

In the great majority of things habit is a greater plague than ever afflicted Egypt; in religious character it is a grand felicity.

Health, beauty, vigor, riches, and all the other things called "goods," operate equally as evils to the vicious as they do as benefits to the just.

Independent is he who has no wants which he cannot gratify without the least risk of being overtaken by debt or tempted to dishonor; a man ten times richer, but with twenty times more wants, is, in reality, twice as poor.

Every good principle is more strengthened by its exercise, and every good affection is more strengthened by its indulgence than before. Acts of virtue ripen into habits, and the goodly and permanent result is the formation or establishment of a virtuous character.

The hasty reproof, given simply because of some personal annoyance, the unjust blame thoughtlessly visited on innocent heads, the unkind sarcasm or taunt, the bitter invective, the exaggerated condemnation of small though troublesome offences, poison happiness and quench affection without adding one iota to the general stock of virtue or good conduct.

Girls whose parents can afford to keep servants get the impression sometimes that it is "quite out of the question" to engage in any kind of household work, some even leaving the care of their own room to the charge of hired help. Such girls are the embodiment of laziness. There is no reason why every girl should not understand the running of the household machinery, so that, if at any time her mother were sick and unable to oversee the usual arrangements, she might be able to take her place and manage satisfactorily.

PRAISE AND BLAME AS MORAL EDUCATORS.—No one need fear bestowing praise with too liberal a hand, if he but observe two precautions—first, that he is perfectly sincere, and expresses only the degree of pleasure or admiration that he really feels; and, second, that he praises only what is truly good and worthy of being reproduced. Blame may be far more sparingly dealt out, for it is a less effective agent, and generally succeeds best in the hands of those who use it the least; but both are valuable moral educators when used with faithful sincerity and guided by an intelligent desire to promote the good and diminish the evil that we see around us.

SELF-DENIAL.—The value of self-denial does not reside in itself as an end, but only as a means to a higher state in which it is no longer needed. For example, a greedy child needs careful training in habits requiring constant self-denial; but years pass, the habit of restraint is acquired, reason dominates, and in maturity he no longer finds the need of self-denial in this direction, for a more intelligent self-love prefers the possession of health to the indulgence of the palate. The right-doing that was once so painful has become pleasant. So the child who selfishly snatches the property of his playmate away presently learns by teaching and experience the far higher enjoyment of justice and sympathy, and when he is a man it costs him no pain to refrain from snatching his neighbors' purse, although his desire for money may be stronger than his childish desire for the coveted plaything.

Obedience is a habit, and must be learned, like other habits, rather by practice than by theory, by being orderly, not by talking about order.

To think we are able is almost to be so; to determine upon attainment is, frequently, attainment itself. Thus earnest resolution has often seemed to have about it almost a savor of omnipotence.

Man can never come up to his ideal standard; it is the nature of the immortal spirit to raise that standard higher and higher, as it goes from strength to strength still upward or onward. Accordingly the wisest and greatest men are ever the most modest.