



MELROSE ABBEY: Great South Window and Door.
 "The Crown of Thorns" Window is seen
 through the larger window.

Opportunity Is No Laggard.

There is a gray-bearded maxim, honored on account of its venerable age, which runs thus: "Opportunity knocks once at each man's door." John J. Ingalls once went a-sonnetting around this proverb, and some say he wrote the finest sonnet every written by an American. I am inclined to think this is so; and if it is, it proves for us that truth is one thing and poetry is another.

The actual fact is that in this day Opportunity not only knocks at your door, but is playing an anvil chorus on every man's door, and lays for the owner round the corner with a club. The world is in sore need of men who can do things. Indeed, cases can easily be recalled by everyone where Opportunity actually smashed in the door and collared her candidate and dragged him forth to success. These cases are exceptional; usually you have to meet Opportunity half way. But the only way you can get away from Opportunity is to lie down

and die. Opportunity does not trouble dead men, nor dead ones who flatter themselves that they are alive.

The reason more men do not hear Opportunity when she knocks is because they themselves are knocking at the same time. Let no man repine on account of lack of early advantages. Rare-ripes run away from advantages—they can not digest them. "If I had my say I would set all young folks to work and send the old ones to school," said Socrates, 420 B.C.

What Socrates meant was that after you have battled a bit with actual life and begun to feel your need for education, you are, for the first time, ready to take advantage of your opportunities and learn.

Education is a matter of desire. An education can not be imparted. It has to be won and you win by working.

And this fact also holds: The best educated men are those who get their brain development out of their daily work, or at the time they are doing the work. It takes work to get an education; it takes work to use it and it takes work to keep it.

The great blunder of the colleges is that they have lifted men out of life in order to educate them for life. All educated college men know this and acknowledge it.

In his last annual report, President Eliot, of Harvard, made a strong appeal to parents to get their children into the practical world of life as soon as possible, and not expect a college degree to insure success.

Those who want to grow and evolve should not give too much time to the latest novel and daily paper. Don't spread yourself out thin. Concentrate on a few things—the very best educated men do not know everything.—Elbert Hubbard.