

How careful then we should be before setting out in any of the many paths of life, to discover what prospects it holds forth as an inducement to our proceeding in it, for we may rest assured that if we continue diligent in any course, we will at last acquire all the benefits or injuries such a course has at its disposal.

If we glance at the pages of modern history, we will there observe the names of certain men standing prominently forward; names that will never be forgotten by their fellow men owing to the blessings they have conferred on the world. The love of study, cherished by these men, and the diligence with which they have pursued their studies in spite of the many obstacles that surrounded them, were the means of finally dispelling the dark clouds of heathenism and superstition which had settled over the continent of Europe, threatening to extinguish every remnant of civilization. The many useful discoveries in the field of science which have been the means of opening up new industries and adding untold wealth to the civilized world, may be traced to the diligence of a Bacon, a Newton, or a Galileo.

There are many people ready to assert that the more useful an object is, the more difficult it is to acquire. But we may rest assured that the hearts of these individuals are not turned in the right direction; their thoughts are running on the wrong track. The time spent by a small boy in acquiring the sharp sayings and current slang of his seniors, would give him a good start in a foreign language. If the same efforts were given by the gambler or burglar to the acquiring of some honest trade, which they give to the study of their wicked works, what a number of skilled mechanics there would be. If the diligence we bestow in watching the actions of our fellow-creatures and in criticising their every movement was bestowed in uprooting our selfish propensities and in subduing our evil natures, how much better would we be qualified for performing our duties as citizens in a free country, as Christians in an enlightened age.

INDUSTRY ITS OWN REWARD.—Anything we make up our minds to do we can do. There is nothing impossible to be done by determined, persevering effort, and nothing of importance can be accomplished without it. It was labor that built the pyramids; by labor the arts and sciences were brought to their present state of perfection; and labor is necessary for the health and happiness of all. Industry is the law of our being, and we are so constituted that when the law is fully recognized it brings its own reward. Bodily labor is not the only kind that is necessary—mind and body should be exercised. In this way cheerfulness and contentment are promoted, and we are prepared to fill with honor any station assigned us by Providence. We often regard the doom pronounced on man, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," a curse; but it is really a blessing, for we find that all rational enjoyment follows in the train of industrious labor, whether physical or mental.

GUARD AGAINST VULGAR LANGUAGE.—There is as much connection between the words and thoughts as there is between the thoughts and the words; the latter are not only the expressions of the former, but they have a power to react upon the soul, and leave the stain of their corruption there. A young man who allows himself to use one vulgar or profane word has not only shown that there is a foul spot on his mind, but by the utterance of that word he extends that spot and inflames it, till, by indulgence, it will pollute and ruin the whole soul. Be careful of your words as well as your thoughts. If you can control the tongue, that no improper words are pronounced by it, you will soon be able also to control the mind, and save that from corruption. You extinguish the fire by smothering it, or by preventing bad thoughts bursting out in language. Never utter a word anywhere which you would be ashamed to speak in presence of the most refined female, or the most religious man. Try this practice a little while, and you will soon have command of yourself.