

whose souls are yet fresh with the dew of baptism, keep, oh, keep your innocency ! Keep it, youths and children, who wear the chorister's white robe ! Keep innocency, young men and maidens, full of heart and hope ; keep this one pearl, I pray you, for there is no joy without it ! And you, men and women of mature years, strong to labor and bowed with toils and cares innumerable—you who, in the hurry of life's hot noon, have scarce time to think of heaven, with its white robes and peace, yet see that you keep innocency through all ! And you, standing amid the long golden light of life's evening, aged men and women who wear the honored crown of white hairs, watch still, and see that you guard your priceless treasure to the last. Keep innocency I conjure you for that shall bring a man peace at the last ! Peace, peace, peace ! ”



BE KIND TO-DAY

Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving cheering words while their ears can hear them, and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier by them ; the kind things you mean to say when they are gone, say before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their coffins send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave them. If my friends have alabaster boxes laid away, full of fragrant perfumes of sympathy and affection, which they intend to break over my dead body, I would rather they would bring them out in my weary and troubled hours, and open them, that I may be refreshed and cheered by them while I need them. I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without an eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand for their burial. Post-mortem kindness does not cheer the burdened spirit. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary way.
