

A Few Minutes' Reflection and Recreation.

Poverty is the test of civility and the touchstone of friendship.—Huxley.

A duty is no sooner divined than from that moment it becomes binding upon us.—Amiel.

If there is any person to whom you feel dislike, that is the person of whom you ought never to speak.—Cecil.

Look within. Within is the fountain of good; and it will ever bubble up, if thou wilt dig.—Marcus Aurelius.

Discretion does not only make a man the master of his own parts, but also those of other men's.—Joseph Addison.

There is no beautifier of complexion, or form of behavior, like the wish to scatter joy and not pain around us.—Emerson.

Try to do to others as you would have them do to you, and do not be discouraged if they fail sometimes.—Charles Dickens.

He that defers his charity until he is dead is, if a man weighs it rightly, rather liberal of another man's goods than his own.—Bacon.

There is in every true woman's heart a spark of heavenly fire which lies dormant in the broad daylight of prosperity, but which kindles up and

beams and blazes in the dark hour of adversity.—Washington Irving.

Happy the man to whom heaven has given a morsel of bread without laying him under the obligation of thanking any other for it than heaven itself.—Cervantes.

It is certain that either wise bearing or ignorant carriage is caught as men take diseases one of another; therefore let men take heed of their company.—Shakespeare.

Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things in which smiles and kindnesses, and small obligations, given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart.—Sir Humphrey Davy.

There is a solemn choice in life. Life and death, light and darkness, truth and lies, are set before us. At every instant the cry comes for us to choose one or the other, and the choice of one involves the rejection of the other. And we must choose. That is one of the certainties of life.—Stopford Brooke.

There are two little words in our language which I always admired—"try" and "trust." You know not what you can or cannot effect until you try; and if you make your trials in the exercise of trust in God, most of the imaginary difficulties will vanish as you approach them, and facilities will be afforded which you never anticipated.—Samuel Smiles.

the school for an hour, while the boys who had been most active in helping Bill to go through the force had to march in pairs before and behind the perplexed-looking ass.

The other scholars were permitted to stand as spectators of the grotesque procession. Meantime, seated within his pulpit-like desk, Carlyle surveyed Bill and his company with a strange mixture of mirth, scorn and fury.

TRIPLING WITH AN IMPULSE.

Mark Twain declares that when a man makes an appeal for charity it is a great mistake to get everybody ready to give money and then not pass the hat. "Some years ago in Hartford," he said the other day, "we all went to church on a hot, sweltering night, to hear the annual report of Mr. Hawley, a city missionary who went around finding the people who needed help and didn't want to ask for it. He told of the life in the cellars, where poverty resided; he gave instances of the heroism and devotion of the poor. The poor are always good to each other. When a man with millions gives me a great deal of money, it's noise in the wrong place, for it's the widow's mite that counts. Well, Hawley worked me up to a great state. I couldn't wait for him to get through. I had four hundred dollars in my pocket. I wanted to give that and borrow more to give to the poor. But he didn't pass the plate and it grew hotter and we slept. My enthusiasm went down, down, down—one hundred dollars at a time, till finally, when the plate came round, I had ten cents out of it. So you see a neglect like this may lead to crime."

SELF-RESTRAINT OR CULTURE.

It is impossible to learn the true use of self-restraint without also learning its limitations. At every stage the mind that has been duly trained will say, with the poet Clough,

"This that I see is not all, and this for the true teacher will take suitable means to impress upon his pupil the immensity of knowledge, and will not allow him to be puffed up with the idea that he knows it all, or even all that is worth knowing. A certain modesty, moreover, will be naturally developed in the mind of one in whose education the object of enabling him to find his true place in the world, and in that place to do his duty, has been steadily kept in view. As to beauty, the child will be taught that it is not a thing to go cackling into ecstasies over, but rather something to be set before him as a light and a guide, something to be absorbed into, that it may in due time shine through his own nature. However it is to be acquired, self-restraint is a quality which is essential to which in relation to culture can hardly be overrated. It is not at war with naturalness, because it merely implies that the point to be reached is one which cannot properly be reached under given circumstances, or, in other words, a power of selection in regard to one's own actions and modes of self-expression."

PLAIN LIVING AND HIGH THINKING.

We devoutly wish that the above title might be the motto of our new twentieth century. To do away with luxuries and superfluities of every kind, and to keep the standard of life higher and better ways of thinking and living. So long as our minds are bent only on the accumulation of riches we cannot look forward to any great intellectual advancement. The great intellectual advancement of our bodies, but surely these should be subordinate to mental improvement and development. Luxurious living always tends to mental deterioration and enfeeblement. It brings about decay to the body, and saps the best attributes of the soul. But living more for the sake of the soul than the body, life soon takes on a newness, a freshness and beauty only to be appreciated by those who have found true ways of spending their lives. But the majority of mankind find a delight in the pursuit of riches. Though comparatively few win the prize, yet most are engaged in the chase. Riches have ever stood in the way of the intellectual and spiritual improvement of our race. Some day, and perhaps not so very far distant, a more rational pursuit will engender a more noble and better for entering into its competition. God grant that day may come; then happiness, perchance, will hover over every household and many of the hates and jealousies of the present time will be a thing of the past. Life can never be a failure if rightly lived and enjoyed. It is our bounden duty to ameliorate the hard portion of our brothers where we may. Then we can enjoy the true luxury of "doing good." We have listened intently may we not hear prophetic voices heralding the approach of such a longed-for future? Then would the words of Wordsworth, often so appropriate now, be obsolete in their meaning.

"The wealthiest man among us is the best;
No grandeur now in nature or in book
Delights us,
Plain living and high thinking are no more."

LETTER WRITING.

Anyone reading a letter written 30 or 40 years ago, and comparing it with the average epistle of the present day, cannot but be struck by the contrast between the two. The former, although written without the so-called educational advantages of today, is correctly punctuated, and if somewhat stilted in phraseology is not only interesting, but also instructive, while as a rule the modern letter from one friend to another is a curious mixture of ideas expressed in a slovenly way, with very little regard to grammar, sense, or punctuation. Happily there are exceptions, and here and there we come across a letter which is a pleasure and an education to read. How is it, therefore, that our boys and girls are so deficient? A few years ago no pupil was considered fit to leave school without having mastered the art of letter writing. If it cannot be taught in our schools, would it not be advisable for parents to superintend this branch themselves? The rules are simple. First, put the address and the date at the right hand top corner. After which commence, and say what you have to say in a free, concise manner, finishing one subject before beginning another. Endeavor to write as if you were speaking to the person to whom your letter is intended. Never use slang terms, and do not cross your letter, for paper is so cheap now that that economy is unnecessary. Keep your stationery as clean as possible, and sign your name clearly. Avoid the up-to-date custom, where you can do so, of sending a telegram instead of a letter to a friend

on the occasion of a birthday or any similar festive day. Telegrams are useful in business, and valuable in an emergency, but where it is a question of friendship and kind greetings do take the trouble to write.—Scottish American.

THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.

In the education of facts the great object is to make children observe and reflect; without this previous acquisition of facts are but matters of rote, well enough as a means, but worthless as an end. They may be brought into frequent contact with instructive plants, interesting plants, minerals, animals and the ordinary productions of human industry. The attention must not be distracted, or the memory fatigued, by too much variety; the great thing is to create a lively interest, and by judicious repetition and interrogation to secure the retention of what has been learned. It is infinitely better to bring things directly under the operations of the senses; description merely is a subsidiary process. The world around is full of wonders; every situation is replete with objects of interest. The metals which we use in the dwellings abound, their origin in the bowels of the earth, and their conversion by human skill into articles of ornament and utility; the transparent stones in the windows, the tiles on the roof, the varied stuffs, and stained glass, and the pitchy coal, that gives out light and heat, constitute a fund of copious instruction. Why not make a child acquainted with the

names, the uses and structures of everything that he sees; how contributions have been levied on all the kingdoms of nature, and how the Diet, through his infinite wisdom, goodness and power has furnished so many appliances for the promotion of human comfort and human happiness?

RESOLUTIONS.

Some interesting New Year resolutions by distinguished American men of letters have been published. Mr. John Burrows resolves "to rise about the little things." Mr. Thomas Nelson Page resolves "to answer, however briefly, all letters I receive." Mr. Frank R. Stockton's contribution is the most suggestive. "For many years my motto, by which I endeavor to guide the ordinary actions of life, consists of one word, which is 'Stop.' It is generally before the very easy to go on, but to stop when the right time comes to stop is so difficult that I endeavor to keep continually in my mind the importance of so doing." The grave Helen Keller, who was born deaf, dumb and blind, writes: "I have, like other people, made many resolutions that I have broken, or only kept, but the one which I send you, and which was in my mind long before it took the form of a resolution, is the keynote of my life. It is this—always to regard as mere impediments the obstacles which stand in my way, and which I have broken, or only kept, but the one which I send you, and which was in my mind long before it took the form of a resolution, is the keynote of my life. It is this—always to regard as mere impediments the obstacles which stand in my way, and which I have broken, or only kept, but the one which I send you, and which was in my mind long before it took the form of a resolution, is the keynote of my life. It is this—always to regard as mere impediments the obstacles which stand in my way, and which I have broken, or only kept, but the one which I send you, and which was in my mind long before it took the form of a resolution, is the keynote of my life. 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